Region 1

Hot Topics

Maine Communities to Assess and Clean-up Brownfields - Wiscasset, ME
On May 24, RA Dunn met with local organizations along with the Maine Department of Environmental Protection, to celebrate EPA's 2018 Brownfields funding for assessment and cleanup projects in Maine communities. Maine received 12 grants, the most grants in New England. Grantee communities were in attendance along with the entire Maine congressional delegation.

PFAS Workshop Planning Continues for all New England States and Tribes
On the heels of the National Leadership Summit on per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), planning for the regional PFAS workshop in Portsmouth, NH continues. The region will coordinate with HQ drinking water and groundwater programs as well as community groups to help organize and lead the agenda. R1 has already begun responding to inquiries from congressional delegation about the event.

Approval for Sulfur Dioxide (SO_2) Nonattainment Area - Central NH
On May 23, RA Dunn signed a Final Rule to approve New Hampshire's plan for the Central NH Sulfur Dioxide (SO_2) Nonattainment Area. The State's plan includes SO_2 emission limits for Merrimack Station that provide for attainment of the 1-hour SO_2 NAAQS. EPA received a joint comment letter from Sierra Club and the Conservation Law Foundation regarding NH's longer-term average SO_2 emission limit. R1 worked closely with OAQPS and OGC on the final rule and response to comments.

EPA and DOD Coordinate Proactive PFAS Resolution - Fort Devens, MA
On May 18, RA Dunn sent a letter to the Office of the Secretary of Defense regarding supply wells that were shut down by the Devens and Ayer water suppliers. The letter stated that the wells need to come back on line and encouraged the Army's efforts towards a proactive resolution of the issue. Maureen Sullivan of DOD and RA Dunn will tour the Fort Devens site on June 15.

Tribal NPS Workshop a Success - Orono, ME
On May 15 - 17, R1 hosted a Tribal NPS Workshop in Orono, Maine. The three-day workshop, hosted by Penobscot Indian Nation, provided an opportunity for NE tribes to share stories of challenges and successes, attend sessions covering a variety of nonpoint source pollution issues, and network with other tribal NPS program managers. Six tribes were represented at the workshop.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

Fostering Positive Working Relationships with Public and Private Organizations
On May 30, RA Dunn will speak at the New England Council's Energy and Environment Committee meeting. The council is one of the largest and oldest industry groups in New England. The meeting will provide the opportunity to foster positive working relationships with businesses, academic and health institutions, and public and private organizations.

Region 1 will Meet with Neighborhood Residents Ahead of Superfund Construction - Stratford, CT
On June 6, EPA will host a neighborhood community meeting for residents closest to the Raymark Industries, Inc. Raybestos Memorial Ballfield to share project details, and answer questions ahead of the planned start of construction. Raymark is listed on the EPA Superfund Redevelopment Focus List.

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Region 2

Hot Topics

Negotiations with NYC Housing Authority (NYCHA) Confidential: A consent decree between the U.S. and NYCHA appears to be imminent. It will provide a framework for a comprehensive overhaul of NYCHA and its compliance programs, including compliance with EPA and HUD's lead paint rules, and the appointment of an independent monitor. We expect that the issue of whether the AA for OECA and a senior official of HUD will be signatories to the consent decree will be resolved very shortly.

Chemours Chambers Works, Deepwater, NJ: Chemours notified Region 2 that the laboratory performing the GenX analysis is back-logged; expected turn-around times for the sample results are not going to be met. The analyses will be a minimum 21-day turnaround due to over-capacity in que for PFAS analysis.

West Valley Demonstration Project: U.S. Department of Energy advised that it is delaying demolition of the main building at this site to allow for analysis of whether it is necessary/advisable to first remove some of the "source term" (radioactive material) within the facility. DOE will also re-evaluate the proposed open demolition to consider whether enclosures should be used for some areas. Demolition of some of the ancillary structures and the stack will continue.

American Cyanamid Superfund Site, Bridgewater, NJ: At a press event on 5/23 RA Pete Lopez announced the proposed cleanup plan for this site on the Administrator's Special Emphasis list. Reaction was very positive from local and state government, the public and press.

Quanta Superfund Site, Edgewater, NJ: RA Pete Lopez chaired an emotional public meeting on 5/22 to address public concerns about VOC emissions and odors from in-situ stabilization of contaminated sediments. In the meeting the announcement was made that the work will be ending for the summer while associated building demolition work is carried out. EPA will evaluate how best to minimize emissions and odors by pursuing smaller excavation footprint, more foam, tented enclosures and other strategies.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

Consent Order re: Gowanus Canal Superfund Site: The Region expects to announce May 29th an administrative consent order with National Grid that provides for $100 million in work on portions of this site where a manufactured gas plant was formerly located.

Meeting with Rep. Nydia Velazquez: On 5/30 RA Pete Lopez and staff will meet with Congresswoman Nydia Velazuez to discuss the Wolff-Alport Chemical Company Superfund site in the Ridgewood section of Queens, NYC. The site contaminants include radioactive wastes. Remediation requires relocation of a number of small businesses, one of the Congresswoman's areas of particular interest.

Meeting with NYS DEC: RA Lopez and Directors have been working hard to strengthen ties with its state partners. On 5/31 they will meet with NYS DEC to discuss issues of mutual concern. There will be a separate meeting to discuss the Hudson River.

Meeting with Commissioners: On 6/1 RA Lopez will meet with NYSDEC Commissioner Basil Seggos and Commissioner Richard Ball of the NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets to discuss the Chesapeake Bay Program. The RA will point out that the State has the flexibility to redirect some federal grant funding, to focus on technical assistance to farms to implement best management practices aimed at nitrogen reductions.

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Hurricane Irma/Maria: The Intergovernmental Personnel Act (IPA) agreement between EPA and the USVI Dep't. of Planning & Natural Resources, providing for an attorney from EPA's Office of General Counsel in HQ to do a 6-month detail with DPNR, has been signed by DPNR Commissioner Henry and is being processed in HQ. We expect the OGC attorney to begin work with DPNR within a few weeks.

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Region 3

Hot Topics

Training Held for Pittsburgh Water and Sewer Authority Staff
On May 16, 2018, the Drinking Water Branch and the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) conducted Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) training for Pittsburgh Water and Sewer Authority (PWSA) staff. Certified operators, managers and lab staff received comprehensive training about drinking water treatment processes, membrane plant monitoring parameters, distribution system variables which can impact water quality, and PADEP's disinfection residual rule, which was recently published in the Pennsylvania Bulletin. An additional area of focus was public notification, specifically identifying situations which require one-hour notification to PADEP and required elements of a public notification document. EPA and PADEP will continue to work with PWSA to satisfy additional SDWA training needs.

Lead Stabilization Meeting to be Held with Philly School District
Management and staff from LCD's Lead-Based Paint program will be meeting with the School District of Philadelphia to discuss the lead stabilization project, which is regulated under EPA's Renovation, Repair, and Painting (RRP) rule. EPA provided on the job compliance assistance at the two schools (Jackson and Nebinger) currently undergoing work on April 10, April 17, and May 2, 2018. The school district reinitiated this project in April and work is expected to continue to run through the end of the calendar year at several other elementary schools within the City. The meeting is scheduled for May 22, 2018.

APD Begins Title V Program Evaluation at PADEP's Southcentral Regional Office
On May 17, 2018 APD staff from the Office of Permits and State Programs (OPSP) met with PADEP permitting managers at the Southcentral Regional Office (SCRO) in Harrisburg, PA to begin a title V permitting program evaluation. Representatives included PADEP's Permits Division Chief, the SCRO Air Quality Program Manager, and the SCRO Facilities Permitting Section Chief. For PADEP evaluations, two of the six regional offices are examined in depth: for this year's report, OPSP is reviewing the Southcentral and Northwest Regional Offices. OPSP staff will meet with permitting managers at the Northwest Regional Office in June before preparing a draft report.

OECEJ holds a 2.5-day Basic Inspector Training
This week OECEJ will be holding Basic Inspector Training (May 22nd to 24th). The class is for local, state or federal inspectors with three or less years of inspector experience, and is free of charge. Attendees include mainly local (City of Philadelphia) or state (Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection) inspectors, rather than federal EPA inspectors. The class is mandatory for new federal inspectors, but there is an electronic version of it for inspectors who can't take the classroom version.

Site Assessment Performs Further Assessment in Minden, WV Based on Residents' Concerns
During the week of May 14, 2018, the Site Assessment and Community Involvement programs, as well as the West Virginia Congressional Liaison, held availability sessions for the public to document any remaining areas of concern in Minden, West Virginia, primarily relating to the former Shaffer Equipment Company property. A wetlands survey was also performed and sediment samples were collected from Arbuckle Creek. Also, a site reconnaissance was performed in preparation for a June 2018 sampling event, during which areas of concern will be sampled. Applicable information will be incorporated into a Hazard Ranking System package to evaluate the Shaffer Equipment/Arbuckle Creek Area site for potential addition to the National Priorities List.

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Washington Post, West Virginia Public Media Conduct Interviews on Minden
Reporter Whitney Shefte from the Washington Post did an on-camera interview with EPA Regional Administrator Cosmo Servidio, and reporter Roxy Todd from West Virginia Public Media conducted a telephone interview with remedial project manager Melissa Linden regarding EPA's past and ongoing work to address PCB contamination in Minden. The Post plans to publish the video online as a part of a major report on Minden. West Virginia Public Radio will also use its interview as part of a major feature on Minden sometime in June.

Inconsistency between TSCA and PA PCB Beneficial Use Permit and Clean Fill Policy
Pennsylvania's Beneficial Use General Permit and Clean Fill Policy allow the use of PCB-containing materials that exceed the TSCA PCB Use Authorization level of 2 ppm, resulting in violations by PCB generators and Pennsylvania permittees. Currently, the Commonwealth's Beneficial Use permit allows materials containing up to 484 ppm of PCBs to be used as construction material and their Clean Fill Policy allows materials containing up to 78 ppm of PCBs to be used in an unregulated manner. The Region has been working closely with Commonwealth on this issue for a number of months and this week formally requested that Pennsylvania revise both the Beneficial Use permit and Clean Fill Policy to comply with the TSCA PCB regulated level of less than 2 ppm. Additionally, we are asking the Commonwealth to formally advise permit holders that the materials they are handling may be subject to TSCA. EPA continues to engage the state to find a resolution that adequately protects human health and the environment and provides regulatory certainty to the regulated community.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

On May 29, 2018 Regional Administrator Cosmo Servidio will meet with the Baltimore Corps of Engineers and Baltimore Brownfields Grantees in Maryland.

Region 4

Hot Topics

Gastonia, NC Construction Grant
Key Message: Region 4 will move forward with resolving an open appeal related to a 1988 construction grant awarded to the City of Gastonia (City) for a regional wastewater treatment plant. At issue are costs identified by the Office of Inspector General, in 1997, as ineligible; and subsequently determined by the Region 4 grants Dispute Decision Official as due to EPA ($38,995). Although the funds were returned, the City requested Region 4 consider the funds as eligible costs. To date, the appeal remains open and is currently tracked as an unliquidated obligation.

Southside Chattanooga Lead Superfund Site
Key Message: During the week of May 28, 2018, Region 4 anticipates finalizing a letter acknowledging the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation's (TDEC) ability to address properties that may be included in the Southside Chattanooga Lead Superfund Site under their Brownfields Project Voluntary Cleanup, Oversight and Assistance Program.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

Decisions
Grenada – The Region's position based on the information and proposed remedy submitted by the PRP.

Events
Mississippi Compliance Assurance Meeting. On May 29, 2018, Region 4 Administrator Trey Glenn and regional senior leadership will meet with the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality (and Governor Bryant's office) to discuss general communication with the state as well as state specific compliance concerns. Jackson, MS. Closed Press.

Tour of Rockwell Wheel and Trim Proposed Superfund Site Facility and Meeting with Local Officials. On May 30, 2018, Region 4 Administrator Trey Glenn will tour the former Grenada Stamping facility to see the ongoing time critical removal action, as well as tour areas of the community with contamination. Following the tour, RA Glenn will meet with local officials and representatives from Senator Roger Wicker's and Congressman Bennie Thompson's offices.

Farm to Farm Announcement. On May 31, 2018, Region 4 Administrator Trey Glenn will participate in a press event announcing the award of two $1M grants to the B.F. Smith Foundation (Stoneville, MS) and the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship (Des Moines, IA). Clarksdale, MS. Open Press.

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Region 5

Hot Topics

EPA to Begin Sampling at Wolverine World Wide Site in Rockford, Michigan
Key Message: EPA will begin its study of the extent of contamination (other than PFAS) at the Wolverine site next week.

Sampling will begin on May 31 and will continue for several weeks. A soil gas survey will also be conducted at both sites. Interest from local media and community groups is anticipated.

General Iron Scrap Facility Tests Emissions as Required by EPA
Key Message: On Thursday and Friday, May 24 and 25, 2018, General Iron conducted air emissions tests to quantify metals, particulate matter, and volatile organic chemical emissions from its Chicago facility.

EPA issued an information request to the facility in November of 2017 requiring the testing to evaluate compliance with applicable emission limits. The facility is a large scrapyard and is in the "Lincoln Yards" area of Chicago, which has been floated as a possible location for the new Amazon headquarters. The facility, and specifically the testing, has been the subject of significant public and press interest. The company met with Region 5 on May 21, 2018, is seeking to have the testing postponed, but the region declined to do so.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

Region 5 to Brief Administrator Pruitt on USS Lead on May 30, 2018
Key Message: The region will be briefing Administrator Pruitt on the draft USS Lead Zone 1 Proposed Plan Record of Decision Amendment.

The USS Lead site is on the Administrator's Emphasis List and the completion of the Zone 1 Record of Decision Amendment is the completion milestone referenced for this site. Given the sensitivity of the issues within the community and the potential for the Amendment to be greater than $50 million, a briefing for the Administrator is required and is being coordinated with HQ.

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Region 6

Hot Topics

Bird Creek, Osage County, Oklahoma
The Respondents continue to assess their technical path forward and a technical call is scheduled for the week of [HYPERLINK "x-apple-data-detectors://1"]. The [HYPERLINK "x-apple-data-detectors://2"] deadline is being extended by 90-day to allow settlement to continue. The operators did not opposed to the 90-day stay.

Ozone Designation for the San Antonio Metropolitan Area
EPA received an additional comment letter from TX Governor Abbott (dated May 11, 2018) concerning the proposed ozone designation for the San Antonio area for the 2015 Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS). EPA intends to complete designations for this area by [HYPERLINK "x-apple-data-detectors://4"].

SPCC CLASS I CAFO, Redrock Energy, Inc., LaFourche Parish, Louisiana
Region 6 intends to send a Class I CAFO to Redrock Energy, Inc. for violations of 40 CFR part 112, documented during an Inspection of the Bully Camp Field, on March 22, 2018. Violations documented during the inspection included, but are not limited to, failure to provide appropriate containment and/or diversionary structures or equipment to prevent a discharge, failure to implement a regular schedule of inspection of field drainage systems and oil traps, sumps, or skimmers, and failure to provide adequately sized facility secondary containment to hold the capacity of the largest single container and sufficient freeboard for precipitation for all tank battery, separation, and treating facility installation.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

Texas Interstate Transport for 2012 PM2.5 NAAQS
Region 6 intends to approve this backlogged State Implementation Plan for the Texas Interstate Transport SIP for the 2012 PM2.5 NAAQS.

St. James Parish South Louisiana Methanol LP, Louisiana
Region 6 intends to issue a decision on the federal register notice announcing the Administrator's decision on the South Louisiana Methanol Title V Petition. The date, while intended for [HYPERLINK "x-apple-data-detectors://7"], is subject to change based on internal deliberations on the merits of the petition.

[HYPERLINK "x-apple-data-detectors://8"]	Tour of Port of Corpus Christi, Corpus Christi, Texas
[HYPERLINK "x-apple-data-detectors://9"]	Coastal Bend Bays Program Meeting, Corpus Christi, Texas
[HYPERLINK "x-apple-data-detectors://10"]	Tour of Oso Bay, Corpus Christi, Texas

Region 7

Hot Topics

West Lake Landfill (Bridgeton, MO)

Key Message: Region 7 is continuing to coordinate with the state and community on site activities and complete the work needed to issue a Record of Decision amendment.

- On Wednesday, May 23, Region 7 participated in the regularly scheduled biweekly coordination call with the Missouri Department of Natural Resources and scheduled a separate call with MDNR on May 30 to discuss the state's comments on the proposed plan. Region 7 has also reached out to MDNR to partner with EPA on engaging the Community Advisory Group in a discussion on air monitoring activities at the site. The discussion with the CAG is yet to be scheduled.
- Regional activities to issue an amendment to the 2008 Record of Decision continue. It is anticipated that all 4300-plus comments will be processed by the contractor within the next week and ready for redaction reviews and subsequent entry into the Superfund Enterprise Management System. The region has committed to making comments publicly available sometime in July.
- The region is working to complete an update of the site's Community Involvement Plan and included strategies for engaging local stakeholders to ensure their meaningful involvement in the Superfund clean-up process.

Big River Consent Decree (St. Francois County, MO)

Key Message: A significant Consent Decree with Doe Run became effective on May 22 and will result in the cleanup of over 4,000 lead-contaminated residential properties at the Big River Superfund site in Missouri.

- On May 22, the United States finalized a consent decree that requires the Doe Run Resources Corporation (Doe Run) to clean up approximately 4,100 lead-contaminated residential properties at the Big River Mine Tailings Superfund site, Operable Unit 1, in St. Francois County, MO.
- Historical mining activities in St. Francois County released hazardous heavy metals, including lead, cadmium, and zinc, onto residential properties. This settlement is a mixed funding arrangement where EPA will contribute up to $31.54 million toward the cleanup, which is estimated to cost a total of $111 million. EPA will oversee the cleanup action and assure compliance with the 2011 Record of Decision and the CD Statement of Work.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events:

Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy Event

Key Message: On May 29, Regional Administrator Jim Gulliford will travel to Boone, IA to attend an event recognizing the five-year anniversary of the Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy.

- The event will include a formal program, booths and demonstrations to highlight the work that has taken place since the strategy was finalized, and media availability.
- The Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy is a science and technology based approach to achieving a 45 percent reduction in nitrogen and phosphorus losses to waters.

Regional Tribal Operations Committee (RTOC) Bylaws and Charter Signing Ceremony

Key Message: On May 30, Regional Administrator Jim Gulliford and Deputy Regional Administrator Ed Chu will travel to Omaha, NE to participate in the Region 7 RTOC bylaws and charter signing ceremony.

Region 8

Hot Topics

PFAS Contamination Detected in Private Drinking Water Well at Fire District in Boulder County - The State of Colorado and Boulder County reported that a drinking water well that serves the Sugarloaf Fire Protection District tested high for PFAS contamination. Staff at the Fire District are no longer drinking the water; impacts to other private wells in the area are unknown. The State reported concentrations of approximately 950 ppt PFOS, 500 ppt PFHxS, and 79 ppt PFOA, which is about 15 times the EPA drinking water health advisory levels. The State is requesting EPA assistance for monitoring to help determine drinking water impacts and extent of the contamination.

Flooding along Clark Fork River in Montana threatens Smurfit-Stone Mill site near Missoula - R8 is monitoring the site and working with the site's potentially responsible parties to prevent damage to a berm separating the site from the river. Ponds on-site exhibit slightly elevated concentrations of arsenic and dioxin. R8 is providing periodic reports to Missoula County and congressional representatives. R8 has required the potentially responsible parties to develop a flood response plan. R8 deployed an OSC to the site on May 24.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

Andeavor Corporation Oil Spill Response Training Exercise Dickinson, North Dakota - R8's Emergency Response and Preparedness Program will be participating in a training and functional exercise for an oil spill response on May 15-17, 2018 with Andeavor Corporation. Other participants include North Dakota Department of Health, North Dakota Department of Emergency Services, Three Affiliated Tribes, Oliver County Department of Emergency Management, and contractors with Andeavor's Oil Spill Response Organization. Between 70-80 participants are expected to participate in the mock response of a worst-case discharge break in an oil pipeline. An after-action report and improvement plan will be developed for Andeavor and the other participants to improve the community response in the event of an oil spill.

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Region 9

Hot Topics

Hawaii volcanic activity: Regional Administrator Mike Stoker will meet with Governor Ige, with the FEMA IMAT and other State executives May 30, then tour key areas of EPA response on the Big Island May 31. He'll attend the daily 7 am operations briefing with Mayor Kim, FEMA and County executives, see the EPA air-monitoring and data-management support, the water-distribution operation and affected systems, and meet with the EPA team of OSCs, US Coast Guard, and EPA contractors. We have 20 staff and contractors supporting this response and fulfilling FEMA mission assignments in Honolulu and Hilo.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events:

CAA Approval: We're approving for Federal Register publication the Douglas (Arizona) Sulfur Dioxide Maintenance Plan, for the 1971 SO2 standards. The plan demonstrates maintenance of the standards through 2030 and fulfills the State's CAA planning obligations in this area.

RA Mike Stoker met with Guam Governor Calvo and CalEPA Secretary Matt Rodriquez.

Tribal drinking water: We hosted a tribal drinking water symposium in Reno for over 120 operators at 35 sessions, which will accelerate completion of their operator-certification credential.

Lead clean-up: We completed a CERCLA removal action in Oakland, removing lead-contaminated soils from 11 residences/gardens.

Arizona PPG: At the request of ADEQ Director Misael Cabrera, the EPA and ADEQ teams completed a Lean process to combine our Air, Water and hazardous waste program grants into one Performance Partnership Grant, which will be awarded and announced by RA Mike Stoker in Phoenix on June 7. We began Congressional notification of the $19 mil. two-year grant, with our initial $5 mil. award and local $9.5 mil. match.

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Region 10

Hot Topics

None to report this week.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

Region 10 Comments on Final EIS for Alaska's Donlin Mine: By Tuesday May 29, Region 10 will provide comments to the Alaska District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the proposed Donlin Gold mine. Our comments will address the compensatory mitigation plan which identifies how the project proponents intend to offset unavoidable aquatic resource impacts associated with the proposed mine. The Region's Clean Water Act Section 404 comment letter has been coordinated with the headquarters Office of Water, and will be consistent with the NEPA 309 letter which will be submitted concurrently.

Region 10 Regional Administrator Meets with Idaho Stakeholders: During the week of May 28th, RA Hladick will travel to Boise, Idaho for a series of meetings that include the State of Idaho to discuss its proposed human health water quality criteria package, consultation with the Nez Perce Tribe, a tour of the Gay Mine and a meeting with FMC Corporation and the Shoshone Bannock Tribes. Lee Forsgren will participate in the meetings with the Nez Perce and the State of Idaho.

Region 10 To Issue Clean Air Act Permits to Columbia Asphalt & Ready Mix in Yakima, WA: On May 25th, Region 10 plans to grant general Clean Air Action permit coverage as requested to Columbia Asphalt and Ready Mix. The company submitted a request to be covered by the general permits for hot mix asphalt plants and stone quarrying, crushing and screening facilities on March 30, 2018. The Yakama Nation expressed concerns about quarry's impact on the major landslide risk nearby and on air quality. Region 10 consulted with the Tribe and expected comments from the tribe by May 21st. Comments have not been received by the region as of May 24th and the Region plans to move forward with issuing the permit on Friday, May 25th.

U.S. Navy Works to Address PFAS/PFOA in Drinking Water on Whidbey Island in Washington: Region 10 recently learned that the Navy is planning to connect residents with PFOA and PFOS in drinking water wells above the health advisory to the City of Coupeville municipal water system. The contamination is believed to be coming from Naval Air Station Whidbey Island. The Navy plans to use its time-critical removal action authority to conduct this work. Previously the Navy supplied these residents with bottled water and has offered under sink filters to those that choose to have it. The Navy is not planning a formal public comment period on the decision to provide municipal hook ups and the region is currently in discussion with the Navy about its decision and the process.

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Office of Administration and Resources Management

Hot Topics

Weather and Safety

The statutory provisions for the U.S. Office of Personnel Management new regulations on the granting and recording of weather and safety leave for federal employees became effective May 10, 2018. Under the regulations, agencies may grant weather and safety leave only when it is determined that employees cannot safely travel to or from, or perform work at, their normal worksite, a telework site, or other approved location because of severe weather or another emergency. OARM will provide information to employees and senior management about this new type of leave, which includes frequently asked questions.

Early Employee Viewpoint Survey Results

As of May 22, 2018, EPA's agency-wide Employee Viewpoint Survey response rate was 30%, greater than the government-wide response rate of 22%. An agency-wide server outage on May 1 has minimally limited the survey distribution and OARM estimates approximately 79 eligible employees agency-wide have not received the survey link from OPM. OARM continues to work with the Office of Environmental Information to confirm that eligible employees receive the survey.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

None

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Office of Air and Radiation

Hot Topics

- **Tracking SIP Actions:**
  - Total Number of SIPs submitted to Regions in FY 2018: 176
  - Total Number of SIP Submittals with Final Action taken by the Regions in FY 2018: 144
  - Total Number of Pending SIPs: 754

- **Packages at OMB for Review:**
  - Oil and Natural Gas Sector: Emission Standards for New, Reconstructed, and Modified Sources Reconsideration (Proposed Rule)
  - NESHAP: Surface Coating of Large Appliances; Printing, Coating, and Dyeing of Fabrics and Other Textiles; and Surface Coating of Metal Furniture RTR (Proposed Rule)
  - Protection of Stratospheric Ozone: Revisions to the Refrigerant Management Program's Extension to Substitutes (Proposed Rule)
  - Renewable Fuel Standard Program: Standards for 2019 and Biomass-Based Diesel Volume for 2020 (Proposed Rule)

- **Packages that will move soon to OMB for Review:**
  - Repeal of Emission Requirements for Glider Vehicles, Glider Engines, and Glider Kits (Final Rule)

- **Packages that will move soon to Signature:**
  - Review of the Primary National Ambient Air Quality Standards for Sulfur Oxides (Proposed Rule) – **To be signed by Friday 5/25**
  - Motiva Enterprises Oport Arthur Refining (TX) (Title V) - Court ordered signature due by 6/1
  - South Louisiana Methanol (Title V)
  - Health and Environmental Protection Standards for Uranium and Thorium Mill Tailings (Withdrawal of Proposed Rule)

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

- **Don't Fry Day:** Friday, May 25th is the 10th anniversary of "Don't Fry Day," a day when the National Council on Skin Cancer Prevention and other public health organizations do public messaging to promote sun safety.

- **Port Everglades Case Study:** As early as May 29, 2018, EPA will issue a report that will provide a baseline and future year emission inventories at Broward County's Port Everglades which is then used to evaluate available technology and operational strategies and scenarios for emission reductions at seaports. This report documents methods and lessons learned from these efforts, and has practical examples that may be shared with other ports, related agencies, and other stakeholders to better understand and reduce port-related emissions.

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Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention

TSCA New Chemicals Determinations

Row	Determination Type	Pending on 5/22/2018	Determinations Completed[1] as 5/22/2018	Determinations Posted on the Website as of 5/22/2018[6]
1	# of "not likely" determinations	**1**	**122[4]**	**122[4]**
2	# of §5(e) Orders signed by both EPA and the submitter	-	**399**	**370**
3	# of §5(e) Orders signed by EPA and awaiting submitter signature	**42**	-	-
4	# of non-Order SNURs/"not likely" determinations	**0**	**0**	**0**
5	# of cases in post-FOCUS final determination development[5]	**318[3, 5]**	-	-
6	# of cases flagged for in-depth review	**44**	-	-
7	# of PMNs, SNUNs and MCANs awaiting FOCUS (within 90-day review)	**24**	-	-
8	# of LVE/LOREX exemption grants	-	**599**	**590**
9	# of LVE/LOREX exemption denials	-	**121**	**120**
10	**Total number of cases**	**429**	**1241**	-
11	Normal active workload for the New Chemicals Program	300	-	-
12	Number of cases undergoing testing or data development by submitter	74[3]	-	-
13	**Backlog[2]**	55	-	-

[1] "Determinations Completed" means that EPA has completed its reviews on these cases and that final determinations have been made by EPA under TSCA section 5(a)(3).

[2] (Total number of cases) – (Normal active workload for the New Chemicals Program) - (Number of cases undergoing testing or data development) = Backlog

[3] Of these cases, approximately 72 are "active" lung toxicity cases that are suspended while submitters either conduct or are deciding whether to conduct testing to develop data on pchem properties, exposures and toxicity.

[4] "Not Likely" determinations are not posted until the final signed determination document is prepared and has been shared with submitter.

[5] These cases are those for which Post-FOCUS work is underway to develop: not likely determinations; non-Order SNURS coupled with not likely determinations; or section 5(e) or 5(f) Orders. When the OPPT Office Director decides which of these regulatory paths to follow, the case is moved to: Row 3 when the section 5(e) or 5(f) Order is sent to the submitter for signature; Row 4 when the SNUR is published and the not likely determination document is signed; and Row 1 when the determination document is sent to the OPPT OD for signature.

[6] These are all only final determinations posted on the web: grants and denials.

Office of the Chief Financial Officer

Hot Topics

- Mission assignments totaling over $1.2 million related to the Lava Flows/Volcano Eruption in Hawaii have been received.
- OCFO briefed the COO and DA on development of focused FY 2020 budget planning efforts to prepare for the FY 2020 budget submission due to OMB in September. OMB is expected to issue budget targets guidance in late June.
- OCFO continues to coordinate with the agency to review responses to House FY 2019 budget hearings Questions for the Record (QFRs) and will also review responses for the SAC FY 2019 budget hearing transcript and QFRs once received.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

- OCFO engaged with NPMs to address minor OMB comments on EPA's draft FY 2018 second quarter Agency Priority Goal Action Plan updates. Review will be completed this week and revisions will be provided to OMB by the June 1 due date. The target date for posting second quarter updates on a publicly available website is June 14.
- OCFO submitted EPA's FY 2018 Strategic Review materials, including the summaries of findings, to OMB on 5/21. OMB is currently working with the DA's office to schedule the OMB/EPA Strategic Review meeting in late June/July.

Other

The House Appropriation committee mark-up of EPA's appropriation bill, which had been scheduled for May 22, has been postponed by the House until the week of June 5.

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Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations

Hot Topics

NONE

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events:

- **May 30** - Conference call w/ Senator Baldwin's staff re: PFAS/PFOS (R5, OW, OLEM)
- **May 31-June 1** – First Chartered SAB meeting
- **May 29** - The Local Government Advisory Committee (LGAC) will have an introductory conference call- Deputy Administrator Andrew Wheeler scheduled to speak with members.
- **June 6**- Quarterly Outreach meeting with Intergovernmental Associations will feature an introduction of new EPA Deputy Administrator Andrew Wheeler, and an opportunity for brief engagement with the representatives of attending Intergovernmental Associations. Part II of the meeting will focus on "The Federal Strategy to Reduce Childhood Lead Exposure." Dr. Hayley Hughes, EPA National Lead Coordinator, Office of the Administrator, will provide updates, and engage in dialogue with the group.
- **June 7** – House Energy and Commerce member briefing on PFAS four-step action plan w/OW, OLEM, OCSPP, ORD
- **June 7 –** House Energy and Commerce, Subcommittee on Energy hearing titled "Hydropower Licensing and Water Quality Certification under CWA 401." David Ross, AA, OW will be testifying with FERC, USACE, DOI/NMFS, DOI/FWS
- **June 8 -** US Conference of Mayors 86th Annual Meeting in Boston, MA
- **TBD** – Congressman. Peters (CA) TA regarding the Point Loma Waste Water Treatment Plant legislation w/OW, OGC, R9
- **TBD** – Senator Tester (MT) staff briefing on Elk River Watershed w/OW, R8
- **TBD** – Senator Isakson (GA) staff briefing on new chemicals process w/OCSPP
- **TBD** – Appropriations staff briefing on PRIA fees w/OCSPP, OCFO

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Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance

Hot Topics

EPA Resolves Clean Air Act Action with MFG Chemical, LLC
On May 21, 2018, EPA and DOJ lodged a Consent Decree to resolve Clean Air Act violations by MFG Chemical for its failure to identify hazards and design and maintain a safe facility. MFG will pay a civil penalty of $400,000 and implement $3 million in injunctive relief at all three of its Dalton, Georgia facilities, including hiring a qualified engineering firm to perform a hazard assessment and installing cooling towers.

Environmental Service Company, Owner, and Executive Sentenced for Illegal Discharges in Violation of the Clean Water Act
After pleading guilty to illegally discharging septic and portable toilet waste into municipal sewer systems, on May 23, 2018, Diamond Environmental was sentenced to serve five years on probation, ordered to pay a $2,640,000 criminal fine, and ordered to forfeit $2,200,000 in ill-gotten gains. Owner Arie Eric De Jong II was sentenced to serve five months of incarceration followed by three years supervised release, and ordered to pay a $15,000 criminal fine. Chief Executive Officer Warren Van Dam was sentenced to serve 250 hours of community service, serve five years of probation, and ordered to pay a $5,000 criminal fine. All three were ordered to pay $2,254,593.27 in restitution.

Montana Man and Trucking Company Found Guilty for Mislabeling and Falsifying Records
On May 22, 2018, Woody's Trucking and Donald E. Wood, Jr. were found guilty after an 8-day jury trial in Billings, Montana. Both defendants were charged with conspiracy, wire fraud, mail fraud, and obstruction of justice. In 2012, Woody's Trucking began taking natural gas condensate, a flammable hazardous material, from eastern North Dakota to Custom Carbon Processing, an oil processing plant outside Wibaux, Montana. The company did not update its Nebraska-based insurance company that it had begun transporting hazardous materials. The company continued shipping the natural gas condensate to the oil processing plant throughout the year until an explosion at the facility on December 29, 2012 injured three workers who were installing insulation inside the building. Forfeiture in the case amounts to over $600,000.

Superfund Task Force: Stakeholder Listening Session
On May 22, 2018, OECA's Office of Site Remediation Enforcement hosted the first of eight listening sessions with the public to gather input on Superfund Task Force Recommendations from interested parties. OECA's efforts to provide a forum for the public is part of the ongoing efforts to implement Goal 5 of the Superfund Task Force (Engaging Partners and Stakeholders). For each listening session, agency staff from OECA and the Regions are providing brief background information on enforcement recommendations and progress to date on activities related to that recommendation.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

On May 31, 2018, OECA AA Susan Bodine, PDAA Larry Starfield, and DAA Patrick Traylor will travel to EPA Region 5 to meet with the RA/DRA and senior enforcement managers in Regions 5 to discuss enforcement and compliance priorities and issues.

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Office of Environmental Information

Hot Topics

None to report this week.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

None to report this week.

Office of General Counsel

Hot Topics:

- *Hall & Assoc. v. EPA*, No. 15-cv-1055 (D.D.C.). New development: On May 22, the court granted in part and denied in part EPA's Motion for Summary Judgment in a FOIA case involving documents related to EPA's approach to blending at publicly owned treatment works located outside of the Eighth Circuit, following the Eighth Circuit's decision in *Iowa League of Cities v. EPA* (8th Cir. 2013).

- *Envtl. Integrity Project and Sierra Club v. EPA*, No. 18-60384 (5th Cir.). New development: On May 22, NGOS challenged EPA's order denying their objections to Texas's title V operating permit for the ExxonMobil-Baytown Olefins Plant. This was the first order issued of five that are the subject of a D.D.C. deadline suit.

- *U.S. Right to Know et al. v. EPA*, No. 18-1189 (D.D.C.). New development: On May 21, plaintiffs filed a FOIA suit alleging failure to respond within the statutory time period to two FOIA requests seeking records concerning communications: (1) with FDA, USDA, or Monsanto about glyphosate food residue testing; and (2) between CropLife and 12 EPA employees.

- *Small Retailers Coal. v. EPA*, No. 17-121 (N.D. Tex.). New development: On May 21, the court dismissed, for lack of subject matter jurisdiction, a suit challenging EPA's alleged failure to: (1) comply with the Regulatory Flexibility Act in promulgating the 2017 RFS volume rule; and (2) annually reevaluate the point of obligation and perform periodic reviews of the RFS program.

- *Gadsden Indus. Park v. U.S.*, No. 10-757L (Fed. Cl.). New development: On May 18, in a case arising from Region 4's removal action at an abandoned landfill on a former steel mill site in Alabama, the court held that EPA's action resulted in a compensable Fifth Amendment taking of slag and awarded plaintiff $755,494 (out of $10M in claimed damages).

- *Genuine Parts Co. v. EPA*, No. 16-1416 (D.C. Cir.). New development: On May 18, the court vacated and remanded EPA's listing the West Vermont Drinking Water site (Indianapolis) on the National Priorities List. The court found that EPA had failed to consider evidence contradicting its conclusion that two aquifers were interconnected for purposes of the site's Hazard Ranking Score.

- *Idaho Conservation League, et al. v. Pruitt*, No. 18-1141 (D.C. Cir.). New development: On May 16, six NGOs challenged EPA's final action under CERCLA 108(b) that determined not to issue financial responsibility requirements for hard rock mining and mineral processing facilities, after having proposed such requirements on January 11, 2017.

- *Center for Biological Diversity, et al v. EPA*, No. 18-1139 (D.C. Cir.). New development: On May 15, seven NGOs filed a petition seeking review of EPA's April 13"Mid-Term Evaluation of Greenhouse Gas Emissions Standards for Model Year 2022-2025 Light-Duty Vehicles."

- *Demoruelle v. Pruitt*, No. 1:18-172 (D. Haw.). New development: On May 14, Sandra Lee Demoruelle filed a complaint *pro se* alleging: (1) EPA's entry into an administrative order on consent that approved work plans for two wastewater systems violated the APA and NEPA; and (2) EPA failed to comply with grant-related public participation requirements.

Office of International and Tribal Affairs

Hot Topics

World Health Assembly Meeting - The Department of Health and Human Services is representing the U.S. at the 71st World Health Assembly this week in Geneva. EPA provided inputs to the U.S. position documents that incorporate environmental health dimensions for three EPA's priority interests - air quality, mercury and lead. The World Health Assembly will be discussing the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases (including air quality), and a global strategy for women and children's health issues (including lead and mercury as neurotoxins affecting children).

Israel Bilateral Cooperation - OITA met with the Environment, Science, Technology, and Health (ESTH) Officer from U.S. Embassy- Israel to advance areas of bilateral cooperation as a follow up to the postponed Administrator trip to Israel. The discussion included organizing conference calls with Israeli counterparts on water security and water innovation issues, and exploring environmental topics for the U.S.-Israel Joint Economic Development Group meeting in the fall.

Upcoming Major Events and Decisions

UN Meeting to Discuss Marine Litter - EPA (OITA) will be part of the USG delegation to the first meeting of the Ad Hoc Open Ended Expert Group on Marine Litter in Nairobi on May 29-31. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss barriers to reduce marine litter and opportunities for global action.

North American Development Bank – OITA will be meeting with the North American Development Bank (NADB) on June 4 to discuss current activities and the upcoming Board of Directors meeting in Mexico.

Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency – Senior officials from the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency will meet with OP and OITA on June 6/7 to discuss the EIA process, including transboundary impacts and tribal engagement.

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Office of Land and Emergency Management

Hot Topics

- **Coal Combustion Residuals (CCR)**. (see below)

- **Clean Air Act 112(r) Risk Management Program (RMP) Reconsideration NPRM.** We anticipate publication of the proposed rule in the FR soon. A public hearing is scheduled for June 14.

- **Ongoing major Superfund NPL sites** (including Colorado Smelter, East Chicago, West Lake, Bonita Peak, Hudson River, Portland Harbor, Mississippi Phosphates, Oak Ridge, Edwards AFB, Berry's Creek, American Cyanamid).

- **CERCLA 108(b) Financial Assurance – Next Three Sectors**. We met with the Administrator and we are working with OGC, OP, and the AO to plan our approach to the next three sectors.

- **PFOA and PFAS.**
    - Working with OCIR, OW, and others, we are preparing for a briefing on PFAS with House Energy and Commerce members.
    - We are working with ORD and OW to develop groundwater cleanup recommendations for PFOA and PFOS.
    - OLEM will work closely with other offices on next steps, following up from the Summit this week, including the available statutory mechanisms for PFOA and PFOS to be "hazardous substances" under CERCLA.

- **Emergency Response.** Region 9 emergency response and the national Environmental Response Team are part of inter-governmental effort addressing volcano activity in Hawaii. Current staffing is 38.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

- **Definition of Solid Waste Vacatur.** On May 23, the Administrator signed a final rule implementing the March 2018 DSW court decision on the 2015 DSW final rule.

- **Coal Combustion Residuals**.
    - We are reviewing the comments. We are working to have the draft partial final to OP next week.
    - We are also reviewing comments on the proposal to approve Oklahoma's program.
    - Georgia submitted its CCR permit program application to EPA. It is undergoing review.

- **E-Manifest Launch.**

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Office of Policy

Upcoming Major Decisions or Events

EJCRC Meeting: On May 29, Brittany Bolen, Acting Associate Administrator of OP, will chair the first meeting of EPA's Environmental Justice and Community Revitalization Council (EJCRC).

Energy and Leadership Forum: On May 30, Joel Scheraga will discuss climate adaptation at the Southeast Energy and Leadership Forum in Atlanta, GA.

NEJAC Teleconference: On May 31, EPA's National Environmental Justice Advisory Council (NEJAC) will host a public teleconference meeting to focus primarily on the report from the Youth Perspectives on Climate Change Workgroup.

Number of Actions to OFR this Year:

- Signed by Regions:
  - Notices: 36
  - Proposed Rules: 110
  - Direct Final Rules: 8
  - Withdrawal of Proposed Rule: 1
  - Withdrawal of Direct Final: 3
  - Final Rules: 96
- Signed by HQ:
  - Notices: 193
  - Proposed Rules: 31
  - NPRM Extension: 1
  - Withdrawal of Direct Final: 1
  - Interim Final: 1
  - Final Rules: 59

Number of Actions to OFR this Week (May 18 – May 24):

- Signed by Regions:
  - Notices: 2
  - Proposed Rules:10
  - Direct Final Rules: 0
  - Withdrawal of Proposed Rule: 0
  - Withdrawal of Direct Final: 0
  - Final Rules: 10
- Signed by HQ:
  - Notices: 12
  - Proposed Rules: 1
  - NPRM Extension: 1
  - Withdrawal of Direct Final: 0
  - Interim Final: 1
  - Final Rules: 1

Documents Submitted to OFR from May 16 - 22, 2018		
FRL	**Title**	**Date Submitted to OFR**
9978-64-Region 5	Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Wisconsin; VOC Definition Update and Removal of Obsolete Gasoline Vapor Recovery Regulations	5/22/2018
9978-63-Region 5	Air Plan Approval; Wisconsin; Particulate Matter Standard	5/22/2018
9978-46-Region 6	Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Texas; Attainment Demonstration for the Houston-Galveston-Brazoria Ozone Nonattainment Area	5/22/2018
9978-43-Region 5	Air Plan Approval; Illinois; Nonattainment Plans for the Lemont and Pekin SO2 Nonattainment Areas; Correction	5/22/2018
9978-42-OCSPP	Letter Peer Reviews for Exposure and Use Assessment and Environmental and Human Health Summary for Five PBT Chemicals; Notice of Public Preparatory Meeting and Public Comment Period	5/22/2018
9978-52-Region 9	Public Water System Supervision Program; Supplemental Primary Enforcement Responsibility Approval for the Navajo Nation	5/22/2018
9978-51-Region 1	Ocean Disposal; Temporary Modification of an Ocean Dredged Material Disposal Site in Massachusetts Bay	5/22/2018
9978-31-ORD	Strengthening Transparency in Regulatory Science; Extension of Comment Period	5/22/2018
9978-65-Region 5	Air Plan Approval; Wisconsin; Modification of Greenhouse Gases Language	5/21/2018
9978-44-Region 6	Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Louisiana; 2008 8-hour Ozone Maintenance Plan Revision for Baton Rouge	5/21/2018
9978-30-Region 1	Air Plan Approval; Rhode Island; Enhanced Motor Vehicle Inspection and Maintenance Program	5/21/2018
9978-28-Region 1	Air Plan Approval; Connecticut; 1997 8-hour Ozone Attainment Demonstration	5/21/2018
9978-21-OCSPP	Advance Notice of Public Meeting; Technical Issues – Formaldehyde Emission Standards for Composite Wood Products	5/21/2018
9977-48-OCSPP	Certain New Chemical Substances; Receipt and Status Information for January 2018	5/21/2018
9976-84-OCSPP	Registration Review Proposed Interim Decisions for Several Pesticides; Notice of Availability	5/21/2018
9976-80-OCSPP	Registration Review; Draft Human Health and/or Ecological Risk Assessments for Several Pesticides; Notice of Availability	5/21/2018
9976-66-OCSPP	Pydiflumetofen; Pesticide Tolerances	5/21/2018
9977-87-Region 1	Air Plan Approval; Maine; Infrastructure Requirement for The 2010 Nitrogen Dioxide National Ambient Air Quality Standard	5/21/2018

9978-47-Region 10	Air Plan Approval; OR; Infrastructure Requirements for the 2010 Nitrogen Dioxide, 2010 Sulfur Dioxide, and 2012 Fine Particulate Matter Standards	5/18/2018
9978-45-Region 5	Air Plan Approval; Illinois; Volatile Organic Compounds Definition	5/18/2018
9977-86-Region 9	Approval of California Air Plan Revisions, Antelope Valley Air Quality Management District	5/18/2018
9975-20-OLEM	Accidental Release Prevention Requirements: Risk Management Programs Under the Clean Air Act; Reconsideration of Amendments	5/18/2018
9978-38-OP	ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENTS; NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY	5/17/2018
9978-39-Region 2	Approval of Air Quality Implementation Plans; New Jersey; Infrastructure SIP Requirements for the 2012 PM2.5 NAAQS; Interstate Transport Provisions	5/16/2018
9977-98-Region 6	Clean Air Act Operating Permit Program; Petitions for Objection to State Operating Permit for Pasadena Refining System, Pasadena Refinery, Harris County, Texas	5/16/2018
9978-24-Region 2	Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; New Jersey; Infrastructure Requirements for the 2008 Lead, 2008 Ozone, 2010 Nitrogen Dioxide, 2010 Sulfur Dioxide, 2011 Carbon Monoxide, 2006 PM10, 2012 PM2.5, 1997 Ozone, and the 1997 and 2006 PM2.5 National Ambient Air Quality Standards	5/16/2018
9972-08-OCSPP	Certain New Chemicals; Receipt and Status Information for November 2017	5/16/2018
9973-24-OCSPP	Certain New Chemicals; Receipt and Status Information for December 2017	5/16/2018
9976-69-Region 6	Clean Air Act Operating Permit Program; Petitions for Objection to State Operating Permit for Yuhuang Chemical Company, Inc. Methanol Plant, St James Parish Louisiana	5/16/2018
9977-91-OA	Proposed Information Collection Request; Comment Request; Focus Groups as used by EPA for Economics Projects (Renewal)	5/16/2018
9978-25-Region 10	National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan; National Priorities List: Deletion of the Frontier Hard Chrome, Inc. Superfund Site	5/16/2018
9978-04-Region 2	National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan; National Priorities List: Deletion of the Fulton Terminals Superfund Site	5/16/2018
9978-05-Region 2	National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan; National Priorities List: Deletion of the Fulton Terminals Superfund Site	5/16/2018

Active Interagency Reviews from OMB	
Title	**OMB Due Date**
DOI/FWS FRM: "Migratory Bird Hunting; Final Frameworks for Migratory Bird Hunting Regulations"	05/23/2018
CEQ ANPRM: "Update to the Regulations for Implementing the Procedural Provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act"	05/23/2018
DOC/NOAA FRM: "Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants: Final Rulemaking to Designate Critical Habitat for the Main Hawaiian Islands Insular False Killer Whale Distinct Population Segment"	05/24/2018
OPM NPRM: "General Schedule Locality Pay Areas"	05/29/2018
DOL/MSHA RFI: "Retrospective Study of Respirable Coal Mine Dust Rule"	05/30/2018

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Office of Research and Development

Hot Topics

Helping Health Officials Respond to Wildfires in the Western U.S.
This week, ORD presented at a webinar sponsored by the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) titled, 'Western Wildfires: Keeping Communities from Polluted Air.' Local public health officials from Multnomah County, Oregon, and Los Angeles, California, and a geography professor from the University of Colorado also joined to share what response actions worked best for them, which partnerships were most important, and what messaging worked best to reach people at risk of exposure to wildfire smoke. These webinars are one way that NACCHO helps public health professionals and others learn from each other to advance public health objectives.

EPA Researcher's Award Recognized by Rep. Mike Simpson of Idaho
Earlier this week, a staffer from Rep. Simpson's office in Idaho Falls presented ORD researcher Jeff Szabo with a copy of Mr. Simpson's announcement on the House Floor to recognize Jeff for his Arthur Flemming award as part of the Congressional record. Under Dr. Szabo's direction a Water Security Test Bed was designed and built at the Idaho National Laboratory. Dr. Szabo's research has increased the knowledge about decontaminating drinking water and wastewater, and has improved the water sector's ability to respond to chemical, biological, and radiological incidents. Dr. Szabo was one of 12 federal employees who received Flemming Awards, which are presented by the Arthur S. Flemming Commission in partnership with the George Washington University [HYPERLINK "http://tspppa.gwu.edu/"], in cooperation with the [HYPERLINK "http://www.napawash.org/"]. A ceremony honoring the award winners will take place June 4 at George Washington University in Washington, D.C. An EPA press release is planned for June 4 to announce this award. Rep. Simpson is interested in attending the award dinner.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events:

Participating in Session on Lead with the SAB
On June 11, ORD will present an overview of our lead science, focusing on seven success story examples, at the [HYPERLINK "https://yosemite.epa.gov/sab/sabproduct.nsf/7D239353BCECF85B852582600058B716/$File/draft+SAB+meeting+agenda_5_16_18.pdf"]. Other lead presentations at the meeting include an overview from the Office of the Administrator on the Federal Lead Strategy and overviews of lead efforts by Office of Water, Office of Land and Emergency Management, and Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention.

Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention Leadership Meeting with ORD in RTP, NC
On June 8, OCSPP leadership is scheduled to visit the EPA Research Triangle Park campus to discuss ORD data, methods, and tools being developed to support TSCA prioritization.

2017 P3 Phase II Award Announcement
On May 24, EPA announced 8 P3 Phase II grants. Interdisciplinary teams of college students from universities across the U.S. are receiving funds of up to $75,000 to further research, develop, and implement innovative projects that address real world challenges involving all areas of environmental protection and public health. These teams are previous P3 Phase I recipients of $15, 000 grants and showcased their initial research designs in the 2017 National Sustainable Design Expo. Projects address four topic areas including Energy, Built Environment, Materials and Chemicals, and Water

Office of Water

Hot Topics:

National Leadership Summit on Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS): This week, the EPA hosted a National Leadership Summit in Washington, D.C. to take action on Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) in the environment. At this meeting participants shared a wide range of perspectives regarding current and future PFAS management efforts, and discussed opportunities for collaboration among federal partners and co-regulators to address needs and challenges. This summit included presentations from EPA, states, DoD, ATSDR, NGO, and a utility, and included the use of an interactive software to share ideas and facilitate discussion. Over 200 attendees from across the country attended, including participants from: over 40 states, 2 tribal representatives, NMI, Guam, over 20 federal agencies, congressional staff, and dozens of associations, industry groups and non-governmental organizations.

WIFIA: This week, OW and OP coordinated with OMB on the interim final rule "Previously-incurred Costs for the WIFIA Program." The purpose of this rule is to clarify the process for, and conditions under which, a recipient of WIFIA credit assistance can include costs incurred prior to loan closing, including in-kind contributions, in the calculation of total eligible costs, and can be reimbursed for those costs by WIFIA loan proceeds. This rule adds regulatory text to clarify that costs incurred prior to loan closing are eligible for reimbursement.

Idaho NPDES Authorization: This week, OW concurred on Region 10's package to approve Idaho's application to take on NPDES wastewater permitting authorities under Section 402 of the Clean Water Act. Working with the Region, the Federal Register Notice of Approval is expected to be forwarded to the Administrator's Office next week for review and approval.

Waterkeeper II Steam Electric FOIA: This week, OGC and OW distributed the May interim release for senior management awareness review. This will be the largest number of files that have been released under this FOIA to date. The EPA is under court order to complete this FOIA by May 31st. However, earlier this week DOJ filed an unopposed motion with the court to extend that deadline by three weeks.

Lead Service Line Replacement Story Map: Last week, EPA [HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/leaders-lead-service-line-replacement"] that showcases leading efforts by states, public water systems, and communities to replace lead service lines. The map was developed with input from EPA regions.