Administrator's Actions

- **Needed by December 1**: **Administrator's signature requested (OAR & OP):** Proposed Rule: National Perchloroethylene Air Emission Standards for Dry Cleaning Facilities Technology Review: This action is being taken in response to a 2019 consent decree with the Our Children's Earth Foundation agreeing to set reasonable deadlines for EPA to review emissions standards for seven source categories. The consent decree requires EPA to perform a review of developments in work practices, processes and/or control technologies, and propose amendments to the Perc Dry Cleaning National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants (NESHAP) by **December 1.** (OAR POC: Mike Koerber, koerber.mike@epa.gov, 919-450-6478) (OP POC: Bill Nickerson, Nickerson.William@epa.gov, 202-566-0326)
- **Needed by December 3: Administrator's signature requested (OAR):** Consideration of Negotiated Rulemaking for Petitions Granted or Partially Granted under Subsection (i) of the American Innovation and Manufacturing Act of 2020: The American Innovation and Manufacturing (AIM) Act's subsection (i) allows petitions requesting restrictions on hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) in sectors or subsectors where they are used, but the AIM Act also stipulates the agency must consider using a Negotiated Rulemaking process before beginning the rulemaking process. EPA is issuing a notice to inform the public the agency has decided not to use the negotiated rulemaking procedures for any rules responding to the 11 petitions granted (or partially granted) by the agency on **October 7**. (OAR POC: Suzie Kocchi, kocchi.suzanne@epa.gov, 202-343-9387)
- **Needed by December 7: Administrator's signature requested (OMS & R5):** Region 5 Large Scale Award – Freedom of Information Act. (OMS POC: Cheri Hembrey, Hembrey.cheri@epa.gov, 202-564-6223)
- **Needed by December 7: Administrator's signature requested (OMS):** Delegation of Authority 2-93A, Vessel Sewage. (OMS POC: Deborah Ward-Beard, beard.deborah-ward@epa.gov, 513-569-7766)
- **Needed by December 10: Administrator's signature requested (OLEM):** Little Scioto River Superfund Site. This week OLEM will submit the package to request the Administrator's approval of the Explanation of Significant Differences for this site in R5. (OLEM POC: Silvina Fonseca, fonseca.silvina@epa.gov, 202-564-1955)
- **Needed by December 10: Administrator signature requested (OCSPP/OMS):** On **November 2,** OMS confirmed receipt of the OCSPP AA's request for a permanent EPA Delegation of Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) Section 14(d) authorities. As prescribed by the established Delegations process, OMS completed the final submission to OEX on **November 16** and is requesting the Administrator's signature by **December 10**. (OCSPP POC: Angela Hofmann, hofmann.angela@epa.gov, 202-564-0258) (OMS POC: Deborah Ward-Beard, beard.deborah-ward@epa.gov, 513-569-7766)
- **Needed by December 10: Administrator signature requested (OCSPP):** Requested during the week of **December 6**. Cyclic Aliphatic Bromide Cluster (HBCD); Draft Revision to TSCA Risk Determination; Notice of Availability and Request for Comment – Currently pending final review and sign-off by the OCSPP AA, this FR document will be submitted via OP as a non-ADP action, with targeted signature planned for this week. (OCSPP POC: Angela Hofmann, hofmann.angela@epa.gov, 202-564-0258)
- **Needed by December 14: Administrator's signature requested (OP):** (Signature requested **November 19**): National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants: Municipal Solid Waste Landfills Residual Risk and Technology Review; Correction (Final rule). In this action, EPA is finalizing technical revisions and clarifications for the national emission standards for hazardous

air pollutants (NESHAP) for MSW Landfills established in the **March 26, 2020**, final rule. (OP POC: Bill Nickerson, Nickerson.William@epa.gov, 202-566-0326)

- **Needed by December 14: Administrator's signature requested (OP):** On-Site Civil Inspection Procedures; Rescission (Final rule; rescission of regulations). In accordance with the Presidential Directive of **January 20**, "Revocation of Certain Executive Orders Concerning Federal Regulation," EPA is rescinding its **March 2, 2020**, final rule describing certain agency procedures for conducting on-site civil inspections. (OP POC: Bill Nickerson, Nickerson.William@epa.gov, 202-566-0326)

Region 1

Acting Regional Administrator Signature Items

- On **November 24**, R1 issued a Waiver of Permit Application and Signatory Requirements for a Municipal Satellite Sewage Collection System to the Town of Hopkinton, MA a co-permittee to the Westborough Wastewater Treatment Plant. (R1 POC: Ken Moraff, Moraff. Kenneth @epa. gov 617-918-1502)

Hot Topics

- On **November 22**, the Final NPDES Permit for the Chicopee, MA, Water Pollution Control Facility was issued.
- On **November 23**, the Public Notice period began for the Marlborough, MA, Easterly Waste Water Treatment Facility.
- On **November 24**, R1 met with Sunrise Wind, LLC to discuss air permitting and engine requirements for their proposed 1,300 MW outer continental shelf windfarm southwest of Martha's Vineyard, MA. EPA received a Notice of Intent to file an OCS permit application under 40 CFR part 55 from Sunrise Wind on **September 9**.
- On **December 2**, R1 will host a virtual public hearing on the revised draft permit for the South Fork Wind offshore windfarm. On **October 20**, R1 reopened the public comment period on the revised draft permit revision that removes the requirement to obtain emission offsets for construction emissions. The public comment period ends **December 6.**
- On **November 30**, EPA and MassDEP will offer a virtual resiliency workshop for water and wastewater utilities, focused on how to become less reliant on the electrical grid.
- On **December 7**, R1 will host its 2nd Annual New England Wood Smoke Summit. This is an opportunity to highlight activities in the region to mitigate wood-smoke pollution and to encourage collaboration between states, tribes, and R1.

Region 2

Hot Topics

- **Limetree Bay Refining:** ***Proposed Start by New Owner:*** The bankruptcy court deadline for Limetree Bay Refining to designate the winning bidder is now set for **November 30**; that bidder is

expected to be St. Croix Energy (SCE). On **November 23**, R2 sent a letter to SCE responding to that entity's proposal about starting the refinery and saying that it is not clear the proposal fully takes account of the matters identified in EPA's **September 24** letter to prospective bidders. We advised SCE that it will need to engage with us regarding environmental compliance and permitting issues prior to the start of any refinery operations. ***Consent Decree (CD) Modification:*** Separately, last week the federal judge with jurisdiction over the modification of the judicial CD applicable to the refinery scheduled an unusual evidentiary hearing for **December 21** concerning the government's motion for court entry of that modification. Ex. 5 Attorney Client (AC)

Ex. 5 Attorney Client (AC)

- **Consent Decree with NYC Dept. of Education Entered by Court:** On **November 24**, the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of New York entered our Consent Judgment under the Clean Air Act with the City of New York and the New York City Department of Education (NYCDOE), addressing the City's widespread failure to properly monitor and control harmful emissions from oil-fired boilers in New York City public schools. Many of NYCDOE's boilers are located at schools in disadvantaged communities, where residents are affected by disproportionately high pollution levels that result in adverse health and environmental impacts. The Consent Judgment requires NYCDOE to: (1) conduct regular boiler tune-ups to monitor, maintain and repair its boilers as required to control emissions of hazardous air pollutants; (2) reduce its overall boiler emissions by replacing seven of its largest and more polluting oil-fired boilers with cleaner natural gas boilers by **March 2023,** at an approximate up-front cost of $50 million; and (3) pay a civil penalty of $1 million to the United States. The conversion to natural gas will offset emissions from burning approximately 3.1 million excess gallons of No. 4 oil over the approximate 3-year period of noncompliance addressed by this settlement.
- **Meeting with Puerto Rico Department of Natural and Environmental Resources (DNER) and Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority (PREPA):** On **December 9**, the Secretary Rafael Machargo of the PR DNER and Director Josue Colon of PREPA will meet with RA Lisa Garcia and R2 senior leadership to discuss the status of the PR Sulfur Dioxide Non-Attainment State Implementation Plan. The non-attainment is due primarily to emissions from PREPA power plants. PREPA recently informed EPA that it will not be able "to retire or limit generation units at this time due to the power situation in Puerto Rico," and proposes the implementation of alternative measures to reduce SO_2 in non-attainment areas.

Miscellaneous

- **Camden Events:** On **November 23**, DRA Walter Mugdan gave remarks at the 2021 **Camden Environmental Summit**, promoting equity & inclusion in the environmental realm; participants included residents, non-profit organizations, community leaders, environmental advocates, businesses, and government officials. Topics included waste and recycling, open space, brownfields and more. On **November 30,** LCRD Director Ariel Iglesias gave remarks at a

Brownfields event at the Cramer Hill Waterfront Park in Camden, celebrating completion of a major park and recreational complex on a former solid waste landfill. EPA has supported this project with $1.8 million through multiple grants over several years. NJ Governor Murphy was the headline speaker.

Region 3

Regional Administrator Signature Items

- On **November 23**, the RA concurred on the Final Close Out Report for C&R Battery Co., Inc. Superfund Site., (R3 POC: Paul Leonard, Leonard.Paul@epa.gov, 215-814-3350)
- Chesapeake Bay EPA Expectations Letter for the **December 31** Amended PA Phase 3 WIP upon Headquarters review, (R3 POC: Michelle Price-Fay, Price-Fay.Michelle@epa.gov, 215-814-3397)

Hot Topics

- **Nanticoke Indian Association** – A Delaware State Recognized Tribe, took community ownership of 31 acres of ancestral land in Sussex County in October. The purpose of the EPA Region 3 State Recognized Tribal Program is to identify and be responsive to the environmental justice concerns of the nine state recognized tribes in the states of Delaware, Maryland, and Virginia.
- **Court grants EPA Motion for Protective Order and Denies Plaintiff Motion to Extend Discovery Motion in Indian Creek (PA) Nutrient TMDL Litigation: *Telford Borough Authority (Plaintiff) v. EPA*, Civil No. 2:12-cv-06548-CDJ (E.D. Pa)** – On **November 23**, the federal district court in this litigation denied Plaintiff's motion for an extension of the discovery deadline and granted Defendants' motion for a protective order against Plaintiff's discovery requests.
- **Maryland's Inaugural Brownfield Conference – A Great Success!** – On **November 16 - 17**, 2021, the Maryland Department of Planning (MDP) held the first statewide Brownfield Conference with assistance from MDE.
- **Field Services Branch (FSB) and the Office of Communities, Tribes & Environmental Assessment (OCTEA) Met with the Cheroenhaka (Nottoway) Indian Tribe** – On **November 17**, staff from R3 met with Chief Walt Brown of the Virginia State Recognized Cheroenhaka Indian Tribe to discuss tribal land resources.
- **EPA Administrator Signals Willingness to Chair Executive Council** – At his debut Principals' Staff Committee (PSC) meeting on **November 23**, Regional Administrator Adam Ortiz signaled EPA Administrator Michael Regan's interest in chairing the Chesapeake Executive Council (EC), replacing Virginia Governor Ralph Northam who will step down as he leaves public office in January.
- **CBP Principals' Staff Committee Accepts DEIJ Plan and Accountability Framework** – The CBP Principals' Staff Committee (PSC) accepted the partnership's final DEIJ Implementation Plan and Accountability Framework and agreed on the draft documents showing the commitments of the 2014 Watershed Agreement – in preparation of the EC's **December 15** meeting.

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Region 4

Regional Administrator Signature Items

- On **November 26,** the following Rules were signed: Final Rule for Montgomery County, TN Limited Maintenance Plan; Air Plan Approval for FL, GA, NC, and SC on interstate transport for 2015 8-Hr Ozone Standard; Final Rule for Mecklenburg County, NC SIP revisions; Proposed Rule for Mecklenburg County, NC for recordkeeping, monitoring, and reporting requirements; Proposed Rule for Emissions requirements for 2015 8-Hr Ozone Standard for the Atlanta Nonattainment Area; and Proposed Rule approving 2015 8-Hr Ozone Standard Nonattainment New Source Review requirements for the Atlanta area. (R4 POC: Caroline Freeman, freeman.caroline@epa.gov, 404-562-8976)

Hot Topics

- **New Indy Outreach:** Acting DRA Blevins traveled to Catawba, SC to participate in a meeting with the Catawba Indian Nation (CIN) Executive Council and a separate public meeting with tribal members on **November 30**. R4 will provide an update on New Indy and hear from the CIN community on their concerns regarding the facility.
- **R4 Agriculture Commissioners Meeting:** On **December 1**, RA Blackman, Acting DRA Blevins, and other R4 Senior Leaders will participate in the annual EPA R4 Agriculture Commissioners (virtual) meeting to discuss R4 issues in the morning session, and join with R7 and R8 for an afternoon session with Agriculture related discussions with HQ (AO, OW, and OCSPP).
- **Oak Ridge Reservation (USDOE), Oak Ridge, TN:** R4 participated in a discussion with HQ OLEM on **November 30**. TDEC officials plan to visit the TN congressional delegation, DOE's "EM-1" (Ike White) and Deputy Administrator McCabe (three separate meetings) on **November 30** and **December 1** in Washington D.C. R4 SEMD Director Monell will participate in person in the meetings with DOE and EPA. RA Blackman will virtually participate in the meeting with DA McCabe.
- **City of Jackson Technical Assistance:** R4 participated in a kickoff meeting on **November 22** with the EPA contractor leading a comprehensive performance evaluation (CPE) of Jackson's drinking water distribution system. The CPE event is projected for Spring 2022. R4 has also identified the City of Jackson as a target for American Rescue Plan Act funded drinking water technical assistance and has engaged with the North Carolina Environmental Finance Center to develop a Scope of Work to support Jackson's financial management needs.

Region 5

Regional Administrator Signature Items

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- On **November 23**, the RA approved the Red Lake Band of Chippewa's TAS application for the CWA 303(c)/401 water quality standards and certification programs. (R5 POC: Tera Fong, fong.tera@epa.gov, 312-886-6735)
- On **November 23**, the RA signed a *Federal Register* notice to propose authorizing a revision to Michigan's hazardous waste management program. (R5 POC: Ed Nam, nam.ed@epa.gov, 312-353-2192)
- On **November 23**, the RA signed a Federal Register notice correcting errors made in the codification of EPA's August 13 approval of Illinois's moderate VOC RACT requirements of the Clean Air Act for the 2008 Ozone NAAQS. (R5 POC: John Mooney, mooney.john@epa.gov, 312-886-6043)
- On **November 23**, the RA signed a *Federal Register* notice approving revisions to Wisconsin's Definition Rules, Minor Construction Permit Rules, and Operating Permit Rules. (R5 POC: John Mooney, mooney.john@epa.gov, 312-886-6043)
- On **November 30**, the RA signed a *Federal Register* notice for site-specific SO_2 revision for ArcelorMittal (Cleveland-Cliffs) Burns Harbor in Porter County, Indiana. (R5 POC: John Mooney, mooney.john@epa.gov, 312-886-6043)
- The RA is scheduled to sign an amendment to the GLLA project agreement between EPA and the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency for remediation and habitat restoration at the Ponds Behind Erie Pier site in the St. Louis River AOC in Duluth, Minnesota. (R5 POC: Chris Korleski, korleski.christopher@epa.gov, 312-353-8320)
- The RA is scheduled to sign a *Federal Register* notice for revisions to the Wisconsin state implementation plan. The proposed revision pertains to the Wisconsin portion of the Chicago nonattainment area for the 2008 ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard. (R5 POC: John Mooney, mooney.john@epa.gov, 312-886-6043)

Hot Topics

- The response to the drinking water crisis in Benton Harbor, Michigan, continues. As of **November 23,** 123 homes have been sampled with 128 homes remaining to be sampled as part of the agency's water study. The R5 lab has received more than 1,000 samples for processing thus far. The Region is in the process of sharing preliminary results with residents via phone calls and letters. Field staff continue to install filters within homes when residents request them.

Region 6

Acting Regional Administrator Signature Items

- By **December 1**, R6 will respond to correspondence from Congressman Mike Johnson regarding Sabine Parish Landfill methane regulations located in Leesville, LA. (R6 POC: David Gray, 214-789-2619)
- By **December 1**, R6 will respond to correspondence received from Congressman Randy Weber regarding air monitor concerns in Beaumont, TX. (R6 POC: David Gray, 214-789-2619)

Hot Topics

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- On **November 30**, R6 will meet with the Muscogee Tribe to consult on EPA's proposed approval of the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality (ODEQ)'s 2021 Annual Monitoring Network Plan and acknowledgement of the SO_2 annual report.
- By **November 30**, R6 will propose approval for reauthorization of Occidental Chemical to dispose of its onsite generated liquid PCBs in its F-1 Hex Furnace and to store onsite generated PCB liquid waste in three storage tanks prior to incineration.
- R6 provided technical support to the New Mexico Environment Department in the review of Kirtland Air Force Base's Soil Vapor Investigation Work Plans at the Bulk Fuels Facility.
- R6 sent Title V program fee evaluation report to the City of Albuquerque for its review. The final report for this effort will be completed in **December 2021**.
- R6 will meet Sac & Fox tribal leadership on **December 1** to discuss the proposed approval of the NESHAP Parts 61 and 63 delegation to the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality and respond to questions the tribe may have regarding the delegation and any interaction with SAFETEA.
- On **December 7**, EPA contractor Skeo will give a technical presentation at a Kashmere Gardens/Fifth Ward community meeting regarding Union Pacific Railroad.
- On **December 7**, R6 will hold a virtual meeting with the Concerned Citizens of Mossville to discuss technical ethylene oxide monitoring data from the Sasol facility.
- On **December 8**, R6 Border Office Director will join Ambassador Ken Salazar in Monterrey for a meeting with the governors of Nuevo Leon, Coahuila, Tamaulipas, and San Luis Potosi.
- On **December 9**, R6, in coordination with the New Mexico Environment Department, New Mexico Energy, Minerals, and Natural Resources Department, and Chevron Mining, Inc., intends to meet virtually with local officials from the Village of Questa and Taos County to update them on site cleanup work status.
- **December 2:** Regional Tribal Operations Committee Meeting
- **December 9:** Regional EJ Quarterly Stakeholders call

Region 7

Hot Topics

- On **December 1**, R7 and R8 will jointly host the annual State Department of Agriculture Meeting. These meetings serve as a forum for the EPA Regional Administrators and state agriculture commissioners, directors, and secretaries to share issues and topics of interest to both the agriculture community and EPA. Each year, EPA and states work together to develop an agenda of topics based on the needs of the states, and EPA senior leaders regularly attend and provide presentations and updates on policy issues and other requested topics, including renewable fuels, pesticides, water quality, regional priorities, and EPA agriculture updates. Acting R7 Administrator Ed Chu will participate and provide remarks, as will R8 Administrator KC Becker and Deputy Deb Thomas. EPA HQ leaders will also provide updates on key topics; participants include Rod Snyder, Tom Wall, Sylvia Quast, Russell Kaiser, and Ed Messina. R4 Agriculture Departments will also attend the afternoon virtual session.
- On **December 2 and 9,** R7 will participate in the Quad Cities Area Virtual Food Summit in Davenport and Bettendorf, Iowa, as well as Moline and Rock Island, Illinois. This collaborative event, hosted by the Wichita State University Environmental Finance Center through a cooperative agreement with EPA, will engage stakeholders to network and discuss the greater Quad Cities food

system. The goal of this event is to find feasible solutions that will reduce food loss and waste and increase access to healthy food for all.

- On **December 9,** R7 will host a Public Availability Session at the Syntex Superfund Site in Verona, Missouri. The purpose of this session is to update the public on the site and discuss the public's concerns regarding air emissions from BCP (the current owner). Increased public interest in the local community prompted R7 to hold this meeting. The agenda includes topics such as recent reports of ethylene oxide air emissions, BCP air emissions status, and request for information by the public on cancer cluster studies.

Region 8

Hot Topics

- **Request for Administrative Stay of EPA's Decision to Redesignate the Northern Portion of Weld County as Nonattainment for the 2015 Ozone NAAQS.** On **November 19**, Weld County provided the EPA with a request for an administrative stay of EPA's decision to redesignate the northern portion of Weld County as nonattainment for the 2015 8-hour ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS). Weld County intends to file a petition for review in the D.C. Circuit challenging the Redesignation Rule on the grounds it is "arbitrary, capricious, and contrary to law." The Administrator signed our final response to the D.C. Circuit remand for El Paso County, Texas and Weld County, Colorado for the 2015 ozone NAAQS on **November 17**. In this action, we expanded our initial designations for the Denver Metro/North Front Range, Colorado nonattainment area to include all of Weld County.
- **British Columbia (B.C.) Announces Draft Selenium Objectives for Lake Koocanusa.** B.C. announced its draft selenium objectives for Lake Koocanusa - 0.85 µg/L (water column) and 5.2 mg/kg (fish whole body) - and next steps for implementing the objectives on **November 18**. Next steps will include a public comment period for the draft objectives (winter 2022), reopening the Area Based Management Plan (ABMP) (two-year process), and amending Teck's discharge permits after the ABMP is finalized. B.C. would not commit to incorporating the draft objectives directly into Teck's permit but stated that objectives will be "considered."
- **EPA R7&8 State Department of Agriculture Director's Meeting on December 1.** EPA R7 and 8 are hosting a State Department of Agriculture Meeting for the 11th year. These meetings serve as a forum for the EPA Regional Administrators and state agriculture commissioners, directors, and secretaries to share issues and topics of interest to both the agriculture community and EPA. R8 Administrator KC Becker and Deputy Administrator Deb Thomas and R7 Administrator Ed Chu will participate and provide remarks. EPA HQ leaders will provide updates on key topics; participants include Rod Snyder, Tom Wall, Sylvia Quast, Russell Kaiser, and Ed Messina. R4 Agriculture Departments will also attend the afternoon virtual session.
- **EPA Office of Inspector General (OIG) Interview with R8 on Cybersecurity Risks under America's Water Infrastructure Act (AWIA).** EPA R8's Water Division and Enforcement Division will meet with OIG on **November 30** for an interview about R8's AWIA oversight and compliance, under a project titled "Addressing Cybersecurity Risks to Community Water Systems

under the America's Water Infrastructure Act of 2018" The objectives of the audit are to: assess the adequacy of the cybersecurity baseline information that EPA developed; determine how community water systems used this information and assess the adequacy of EPA's oversight to ensure that community water systems comply with AWIA Section 2013.

- **EPA R8's Safe Drinking Water Programs will meet Virtually with Wyoming Governor's Small Water System Task Force.** R8 will participate in a twice-yearly coordination meeting with various Wyoming state and local agencies via teleconference on **December 1**. Major topics on the agenda include: 2021 and 2022 EPA drinking water site visit updates; issues involving specific Wyoming drinking water systems; risk assessment and emergency response plan compliance update; upcoming EPA Groundwater Under the Direct Influence (GWUDI) Workshop meetings; COVID-19 updates and infrastructure bill funding for Wyoming. Region 8 directly implements the Safe Drinking Water Act in Wyoming.
- **2021 Wasatch Range Earthquake Rehearsal of Concepts Exercise.** R8 participated in a Rehearsal of Concepts (ROC) exercise for the Wasatch Range Earthquake Response Plan. The U.S. Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) hosted the exercise on **November 16 -18**, 2021 in Sandy, Utah. The Wasatch Range Earthquake Response Plan was developed in cooperation with the Utah Division of Emergency Management and provides an executable plan for the Federal government to coordinate in a unified command structure and respond immediately following a catastrophic earthquake along the Wasatch Fault in Utah. The ROC exercise brought together over 300 participants (in person and virtually), including federal, state, tribal, local, and industry partners to discuss the concepts of a coordinated response to the first 72 hours of an earthquake event.
- **Greeley Facility Response Plan Inspection and Unannounced Exercise.** R8 conducted an FRP compliance assistance and observed a spill response equipment deployment exercise at an EPA-regulated bulk petroleum storage facility in Commerce City, Colorado, on **November 18**. The inspection and exercise were conducted at the following facility: NuStar Logistics, L.P. – Denver Refined Products Terminal in Commerce City, Colorado. The facility was successful in meeting the exercise objectives using local spill response contractors. This will ensure a timelier oil spill response and better source control to reduce potential environmental impacts from a spill at this facility.

Region 9

Acting Regional Administrator Signature Items

Clean Air Act Federal Register Notice (AZ)

- The Acting RA intends to propose approval of the second limited maintenance plan for the 24-hour PM10 standard for the Bullhead City area in Arizona. (R9 POC: Matt Lakin, lakin.matthew@epa.gov, 415-972-3851)

Hot Topics

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Releases at Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility (HI)

- On **November 20**, 9,000 gallons of water and fuel were recovered from a release at the facility. While attributed to a crack in a fire suppression system valve, it is unknown how fuel got into a water/foam line. Hawaii Department of Health (DOH) issued a Notice of Interest to the Navy which requires response actions including locating and securing the release, groundwater and drinking water sampling, investigation, and remediation of the release.
- On **November 28 and 29**, there were reports of fuel odor from consumers of the Navy's Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam water system. The system's Red Hill Drinking Water Shaft is no longer being pumped. On **November 29**, DOH issued an advisory to water system users to avoid using the water. The Navy and DOH are investigating. DOH initial field sampling was below detection limits. Results of more sensitive analyses are expected by **December 2**.

DAA Waterhouse and U.S. Navy Visit to San Francisco, CA

- Next week, Deputy Assistant Administrator Waterhouse and senior management from the U.S. Navy will meet with City of San Francisco Supervisor Walton, representatives from the City's Department of Public Health and Office of Investment and Infrastructure, and state regulatory agencies. Discussions will include the radiological testing of buildings at the Hunters Point Naval Shipyard site and other key concerns including radiological retesting of soils, dust management at the site and community outreach.

On Farm Compost Working Group Permitting Tool Rollout (CA)

- Next week, along with the CA Department of Food and Agriculture, we will announce the recommendations of the On Farm Compost Working Group. The goal of this interagency collaboration between 15 federal, state, and local agencies is to improve the regulatory hurdles to on-farm composting. The rollout will include an interactive permitting tool that allows users to identify permitting requirements specific to a geographic area.

Los Angeles Stormwater Residual Designation Outreach Events

- On **December 7 and 16**, we are cohosting stakeholder meetings with the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board to introduce our proposed designation of certain unregulated commercial, institutional, and industrial sources of stormwater in the Alamitos Bay and Dominguez Channel watersheds as requiring NPDES permit coverage. These waterbodies are currently polluted by numerous chemicals, including copper and zinc, of which stormwater runoff from impervious surfaces are a significant source.

Region 10

Acting Regional Administrator Signature Items

- **November 29**: Final Response to Petition to Withdraw Washington's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit Program. (R10 POC: Lucy Edmondson Edmondson.Lucy@epa.gov, 206-735-5301)
- **November 30**: Federal Register Notice: FRL-9177-01-R10: Proposed approval of Alaska's excess emissions SIP. (R10 POC: Lucy Edmondson Edmondson.Lucy@epa.gov, 206-735-5301)
- **December 1**: Federal Register Notice: FRL-9211-01-R10: Yakima General Air Quality 400 Series Regulations. (R10 POC: Lucy Edmondson Edmondson.Lucy@epa.gov, 206-735-5301)

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Hot Topics

- **Portland Drinking Water Exceeds Lead Action Level (OR):** On **November 29**, the Portland Water Bureau informed R10 and the Oregon Health Authority that their annual fall round of lead testing in drinking water was going exceed the 15-ppb action level. The PWB plans to notify the public and the press on **November 30**. R10 will remain engaged to ensure appropriate public health protections are in-place.

Miscellaneous

- **Tribal Climate Change Adaptation and Preparedness Webinar (AK):** R10 staff recently presented a climate adaption webinar to Alaska tribes in conjunction with the Alaska Forum on the Environment. The webinar focused on EPA's climate work, toolkits, and resources, as well as a forum for tribes to present on their tribal adaptation plans and related climate work.
- **Sitka Sound Science Center Oil Spill (AK):** The U.S. Coast Guard has requested R10's assistance in investigating the source of an oil spill at the hatchery penstocks at the Sitka Sound Science Center. The oil is seeping into a pond of water diverted from Indian River which feeds the hatchery penstocks, no fish are currently present at the hatchery. Two On-Scene Coordinators and two START contractors have deployed to help.
- **Lummi Tribe Declares European Green Crab Disaster (WA):** On **November 23,** the Lummi Indian Nation declared the invasion of European Green Crab a disaster. More than 70,000 invasive crabs have been captured and removed from the Lummi Sea Pond. The EGC is an aggressive predator that consumes area shellfish and destroys salmon habitat. The resolution establishes a Lummi task force to lead the response to the invasion.

Office and Air and Radiation

Acting Assistant Administrator Signature Items

- By **December 3**, Principal Deputy Assistant Administrator Joseph Goffman will sign a Finding of Failure to Submit (FFS) for 12 states/local air pollution control districts that failed to submit State Implementation Plan (SIP) revisions in a timely manner to address EPA's 2015 findings of substantial inadequacy for provisions applying to excess emissions during periods of startup, shutdown, and malfunction (SSM). These areas include Rhode Island, the District of Columbia, Alabama, North Carolina – Forsyth, Tennessee – Shelby (Memphis), Illinois, Ohio, Arkansas, South Dakota, California – San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District, Washington – Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council, and Washington – Southwest Clean Air Agency.

Hot Topics

- **November 30 through December 2**, EPA will hold virtual public hearings each day to provide the public the opportunity to present comments and information on the Agency's proposed New Source Performance Standards and Emissions Guidelines for the oil and natural gas industry. The proposal

would expand and strengthen emissions reduction requirements that are currently on the books for new, modified, and reconstructed oil and natural gas sources, and would require states to reduce methane emissions from hundreds of thousands of existing sources nationwide for the first time. The hearings will be opened by Deputy Assistant Administrator Tomás Carbonell. There are currently 343 registered attendees, of which several are registered to speak.

- **On December 3**, EPA will hold a virtual public hearing on the Proposed Extension of Renewable Fuel Standard Compliance Deadlines. The action proposes to modify certain compliance dates under the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) program. There are currently 96 registered attendees, of which four are registered to speak.
- As early as the **week of December 6**, EPA plans to open a $20 million grant competition for eligible entities including state, Tribal and local air agencies, and community-based nonprofit organizations to conduct monitoring of air pollutants of greatest concern in communities with health outcome disparities from pollution and the COVID-19 pandemic. EPA encourages collaboration between communities and government agencies in these monitoring efforts. This program is part of the $100 million that EPA received as part of the American Rescue Plan.
- **On December 2**, Principal Deputy Assistant Administrator Joseph Goffman and Deputy Assistant Administrator Tomás Carbonell will participate in a webinar hosted by the US Chamber of Commerce titled "Energy Innovates: Methane - Tackling that Other Gas" and will give a short overview of EPA's recent oil and gas proposal (Standards of Performance for New, Reconstructed, and Modified Sources and Emissions Guidelines for Existing Sources: Oil and Natural Gas Sector Climate Review). This is an open registration event, so press could attend.

Office of the Chief Financial Officer

Chief Financial Officer Signature Items

- On **December 3**, the CFO anticipates transmitting the *Final Draft FY 2022-2026 EPA Strategic Plan* to the Strategic Plan Core Team for review and feedback by December 8 to meet the deadline for submission to OMB on **December 17.** (OCFO POC: Kathy O'Brien, obrien.kathy@epa.gov, 202-564-1167)

Hot Topics

- On **November 24**, the OIG transmitted its final Fall 2021 Semi-annual Report (SAR) to Congress and made it available to the public. The SAR summarizes the areas the OIG reviewed, the progress that the EPA has made, and the OIG's recommendations to help the agency improve for the period from **April 1** through **September 30**.
- The current FY 2022 Continuing Resolution (CR) that provides funding to federal agencies expires at midnight on **December 3**. On **November 30**, the House plans to introduce an extension of the CR through late January. The House intends to pass this legislation on **December 1** with the Senate likely passing prior to expiration of the current CR.
- On **December 3,** proposals for FY 2022 agencywide and regional measures are due to OCFO. Agencywide measures are those that require contributions from all programs and regions. Regional measures are programmatic measures that require contributions from each of the regions. The final set of agencywide measures will be approved by the CFO and Deputy Administrator.

- Although OMB has not communicated the FY 2023 Passback date, OCFO requested calendar holds for the Deputy Administrator and Administrator for **December 9** to review and provide input to and decisions on the agency's appeal to OMB. These holds will be adjusted once OMB communicates the actual Passback date to agencies.
- OCFO continues to work with key senior officials and program offices to implement the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) enacted on **November 15**. In addition to other support efforts underway, OCFO met with Continuous Improvement Program Managers (CIPM) from relevant offices to discuss how OCFO can work with the CIPMs to apply lean principles to the BIL. OCFO also participated in a meeting with the White House, Zealan Hoover, and OMS to discuss the draft strategy for data, analytics, and reporting related to performance management as part of BIL implementation.

Miscellaneous

- The next E-Enterprise for the Environment Bulletin is slated for release by **December 14**. OCFO provided a draft to OPA for editorial review targeted for completion on or about **December 1.** The draft Bulletin covers the EELC October meeting and various other E-Enterprise projects and activities.
- On **December 7** through **December 9,** OCFO will host its Continuous Improvement Virtual Summit geared towards the agency's lean community with plenary sessions featuring experts from EPA and the private sector. Breakout sessions will focus on the tools used for problem solving and, on the experiences, lessons learned, and successes of EPA offices.
- In advance of the three-day Summit, OCFO will host its first-ever State and Tribe Pre-Summit on **December 6**. Over 50 state representatives have registered along with over 30 tribal representatives. This half-day virtual event is an opportunity for EPA partners to connect and learn more about the lean management system to support those who have institutionalized lean principals within their organization and connect with those who are interested in doing so.

Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations

Hot Topics

- **December 2-State to Federal Climate Roundtable.** Leadership from EPA's Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs will participate in a State to Federal Climate Roundtable in partnership with the Department of Energy to complement existing state-to-federal coordination efforts by diving into the federal strategy for electric vehicles and transmission funding programs. The Roundtable will include state participants from Washington, Michigan, Massachusetts, and North Carolina.
- **December 3- Dialogue with Intergovernmental Associations on the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL).** EPA's Office of Water and Office of Intergovernmental Relations will have a call with Intergovernmental Associations to continue regular engagement on BIL.
- **December 2 (T)-** Technical Assistance call with House Energy and Commerce Committee staff re: H.R. 442 CERCLA land transfer provision

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Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention

Assistant Administrator Signature Items

- **Pending AA Signature in November or early December (OCSPP):** Internal memo to redelegate the authorities associated with issuance and management of individual Test Orders under TSCA Section 4 to the Deputy Office Director of OPPT. (OCSPP POC: Angela Hofmann, hofmann.angela@epa.gov, 202-564-0258)
- **Pending AA Signature in early December (OCSPP):** At the conclusion of the EO12866 review currently in process and the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) Scientific Advisory Panel approval, the OCSPP AA will sign a Federal Register document that notifies the public as required by FIFRA that the following draft regulatory document was forwarded to USDA for review under FIFRA: "Final Rule; Pesticides; Certification of Pesticide Applicators; Extension to Expiration Date of Certification Plans (RIN 2070-AL00)." This rule would extend the date by which certification plans, modified to comply with stronger federal standards for people who apply restricted use pesticides, must be approved, and allow existing plans to remain in place during this extension. The draft regulatory document is not available to the public until after it has been signed and made available by EPA, which is expected to occur later in December. At the same time, the OCSPP AA will sign letters to USDA and select Congressional Committees to transmit the draft regulatory action as required by FIFRA. (OCSPP POC: Peter J. Smith, smith.peterj@epa.gov; 202-564-0262)

Hot Topics

- EPA will issue the **final cancellation order for the uses of two pesticide products containing the active ingredient aldicarb** on oranges and grapefruit in the state of Florida. This order notifies the public that it is a violation of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act for any person to sell, distribute, or use existing stocks of aldicarb products for these uses. Because the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services never authorized the use of aldicarb on oranges and grapefruit in Florida, there are no existing stocks of aldicarb products with these uses in the State that require stock provisions. On **January 12**, EPA announced the registration of aldicarb for limited use on oranges and grapefruit in Florida as a tool against citrus greening. On **June 7,** the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia, in response to a suit brought against EPA by the Farmworker Association of Florida, et al., vacated EPA's registration of aldicarb for these uses on the basis that EPA did not make an Endangered Species Act (ESA) determination prior to approving that use of aldicarb, in violation of section 7(a)(2) of the ESA.
- EPA will announce the launch of the **"Companies Crushing Pollution" Video Challenge**. The Challenge invites students and others including people who live near industrial facilities, to create videos illustrating how businesses in the U.S. are reducing toxic chemical releases through innovative pollution prevention (P2) practices and having a positive impact on the environment and communities. The Challenge will promote P2 innovation and raise awareness of the potential for businesses to save money, reduce regulatory burden and have positive impacts on communities through P2. It will also increase knowledge of TRI reporting and analytical tools. Participants have a chance to win up to $5,000. All videos must be submitted by **March 1, 2022.**
- EPA will announce a **proposed crop group rule** based on petitions submitted to EPA by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Interregional Research Project Number 4. This is the sixth in an

ongoing series of revisions to the crop grouping regulations. Crop groups are established when residue data for certain representative crops are used to establish pesticide tolerances for a group of crops that are botanically or taxonomically related. EPA sets these tolerances, which are the maximum amount of a pesticide allowed to remain in or on a food, as part of the process of regulating pesticides that may leave residues in food. The proposed rule includes changes to the terminology in the names of Crop Groups 6, 7 and 16, and the addition of commodities and modifications that increase efficiencies in assessing the risks of pesticides used on crops grown in and outside of the United States.

Office of General Counsel

Hot Topics

- New Decision: *Natural Resources Defense Council v. EPA*, 20-422 (2nd Circuit) - On **November 29**, the Second Circuit issued a decision reversing the district court's ruling that certain EPA messaging records were not exempt from release under FOIA's Exemption 5 Deliberative Process Privilege. The Second Circuit concluded that "an agency exercises 'policy-oriented judgment' when deciding how to communicate its policies, and the deliberative process privilege therefore protects otherwise deliberative agency records that relate to and precede the agency's final communications decision. Additionally, an agency may invoke the deliberative process privilege by connecting a record either to a specific decision or to a specific decision-making process." The Second Circuit vacated the lower court's order that EPA release certain documents and remanded for EPA to provide supplementary Vaughn Index support for certain documents, considering the clarified standards set forth in the opinion.
- New Decision: *Telford Borough Authority v. EPA,* No. 2:12-cv-06548-CDJ *(E.D. Pa)* – On **November 23**, the Eastern District of Pennsylvania denied Plaintiff's Motion for an Extension of the Discovery Deadline and granted EPA's Motion for a Protective Order Against Plaintiff's Discovery Requests. Because the court found that Plaintiff had filed discovery late and had not timely filed for an extension of time, misread the court's August 2 Order, and made other procedural errors, the court ruled that Plaintiff is not entitled to discovery at this time. The parties are now free to resume filing of dispositive motions. This case challenges EPA established TMDLs for nutrients and sediment addressing aquatic life impairment of the Indian Creek Watershed in Southeast Pennsylvania.

Miscellaneous

- New Litigation: *Concerned Citizens of St. John v. Regan,* No. 21-3063 (D.D.C.) – On **November 18**, Earthjustice filed a complaint on behalf of its clients against the EPA in the District of Columbia District Court seeking declaratory and injunctive relief under CAA sections 112(d)(6) and 112(f)(2) (technology review and risk review) regarding Group I Polymers and Resins. Plaintiffs seek a declaration that EPA has violated the CAA and an order to compel action under CAA sections 112(d)(6) and 112(f)(2).

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Office of International and Tribal Affairs

Hot Topics

- On **December 2 and 3**, OITA AA Nishida will represent EPA at the bi-annual North America Development Bank (NADB) Board of Directors meeting. The United States and Mexico signed an agreement in November 1993, which created and charged the NADB with helping to improve the environmental conditions along the U.S.-Mexico border region. The Board, which consists of Treasury, State, EPA, and counterparts in Mexico, will be considering expansion of new sectors for investment. EPA will emphasize the importance of addressing water and wastewater infrastructure as a high priority sector, noting the extensive need for new infrastructure and maintenance in the Tijuana watershed.
- On **December 2**, EPA (OITA and R10) will be participating in the first meeting of the Arctic Executive Steering Committee (AESC) which oversees the efforts of the USG to implement the National Strategy for the Arctic Region and to work with state, local and Alaska Native tribal governments. EPA will be presenting on improving water and sanitation services to Arctic communities, particularly the 27 unserved and unfunded communities located in the Arctic Circle.
- From **November 30 to December 2**, EPA (OITA) is participating in the Senior Arctic Officials meeting hosted by Russia. The Department of State leads the U.S. delegation, with EPA participating as the chair for the Arctic Council Arctic Contaminants Action Program. The agenda includes the Arctic Council's work on black carbon and cooperation between the Arctic Council and the Arctic Economic Council.
- On **December 1–3**, EPA (OITA) is representing the USG at the Environmental Policy Committee of the Organization for Cooperation and Development (OECD). The meeting is an opportunity to provide input on the agenda items for the upcoming Environment Ministerial Meeting scheduled for **March 29 - 31, 2022**, and to review progress on OECD's current program of work in the environment.

Office of Land and Emergency Management

Hot Topics

- **Federal Facilities Leadership Council.** On **December 1**, Carlton Waterhouse will provide opening remarks at this group's fall meeting.
- **Underground Storage Tanks (USTs).** On **November 29**, Nevada became the 24th state program to be approved under the 2015 federal UST regulation.
- **Hunters Point.** OLEM is working with R9 on Carlton's potential trip next week to this site with representatives from the Department of Navy.
- **Risk Management Program (RMP) Retrospection Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM).** OLEM is preparing for options selection on **December 16**.
- **Non-Hazardous Secondary Materials (NHSM).** On **November 18**, OMB concluded its review of the NHSM Standards Petition Response. The package will come to the OLEM IO soon for approval to send to OP.
- **Clean Water Act Hazardous Substances Worst Case Discharge NPRM.** On **November 19,** OLEM briefed OMB on the rule and background. OMB has agreed to an expedited 45-day review.

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- **Designation of PFOA and PFOS as CERCLA Hazardous Substances NPRM.** OLEM anticipates the final agency review (FAR) package going to the workgroup soon; FAR is tentatively scheduled for **December 13**.
- **Coal Combustion Residuals (CCR)**.
    - The notice re-opening the comment period for 60 days for the CCR Beneficial Use and Waste Piles NODA was published in the Federal Register (FR) on **March 12**. The public comment period ended on **May 11**.
    - We are developing the first batch of responses to applications for extensions past the deadline to cease receipt of waste. The regulations toll the deadline until the Agency acts on the applications. We are working closely with OGC, OECA, affected regions, and others.
- **Ongoing major Federal Facilities and Superfund National Priorities List (NPL) sites.** We are working with R4 on Oak Ridge Reservation; R5 on Little Scioto River; R6 on Chevron/Questa; R7 on Big River Watershed; and R9 on Hunters Point Naval Shipyard.
- **National Brownfields Training Conference.** This conference has been postponed to **August 16 – 19, 2022**.

Office of Mission Support

Hot Topics

- In consultation with Office of the Federal Chief Information Officer, EPA has decided to sunset the FOIAonline Shared Service by the end of FY23. FOIAonline is a multi-agency web-application run through the EPA in the eDiscovery Division that enables the public to submit FOIA requests to participating agencies, track the progress of an agency's response to a request, and search for information previously made publicly available.
- Supervisors and employees will soon receive registration information for sessions-on the new policies for Telework, Remote Work and Work Schedules. Sessions will be held in December 2021 and January 2022 to review flexibilities in detail. Recordings of the sessions will be available for those who cannot attend.
    - Supervisory/Manager
        - 12/7, 10 AM – 12 PM
        - 12/9, 12 PM – 2 PM
        - 12/15, 12 PM – 2 PM
        - 1/12, 12 PM – 2 PM
    - Employee
        - 12/8, 10 AM – 12 PM
        - 12/14, 12 PM – 2 PM
        - 12/16, 12 PM – 2 PM
        - 1/11, 12 PM – 2 PM
        - 1/13, 12 PM – 2 PM

Office of Policy

Hot Topics

- **December 1 & 2 – Workshop to discuss draft Program and Regional Office priorities:** As part of the cross-EPA process for developing Climate Adaptation Implementation Plans, a workshop is being held during which all Programs and Regions will present their initial draft priorities. Ken Munis is giving a presentation on areas in which OP offices can contribute to the agency-wide priorities in the Climate Adaptation Action Plan and support climate adaptation work across the agency. The goals of the workshop are for Programs and Regions to: (1) learn what each is doing and possibly get ideas for additional priorities they might each undertake; (2) begin the process of ensuring consistency between NPM priorities and Regional Office priorities; and (3) allow for the possibility that several Regions might identify priorities they could jointly undertake.
- **December 9 – AIEO listening session with Tribes:** OITA's American Indian Environmental Office (AIEO) will be holding a listening session with Tribes on December 9th to inform the development of their portion of the OITA Climate Adaptation Implementation Plan.
- OMB has issued a request for the compilation of the **Fall 2021 Regulatory Plan and Unified Agenda of Federal Regulatory and Deregulatory Actions**. Interagency review of EPA's agenda is complete. The agenda will probably publish the week of **December 6**.

Office of Research and Development

Hot Topics

- Today the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (NAS) released the prepublication draft of their report on the external peer review of the ORD Staff Handbook for Developing **Integrated Risk Information System (IRIS)** Assessments, or IRIS Handbook. EPA announced via press release.
- The Draft **IRIS Assessment for Hexavalent Chromium** is scheduled to enter Agency Review (Step 2) for a 4-week review on **December 6**.
- **Updated NAM Work Plan**: This week EPA will post an updated New Approach Methods (NAMs) Work Plan as part of the Agency's continued support for developing, evaluating, and using new scientific methods, called NAMs, to reduce the use of vertebrate animals in testing chemicals for potential toxicity. The updates to the New Approach Methods Work Plan demonstrate EPA's strong commitment to developing and applying alternative approaches to test chemicals. The Work Plan, which is an update to the original 2020 version, includes five primary changes; Expanding the species covered in the Work Plan to include all vertebrate animals, consistent with the Toxic Substances Control Act; Revised timelines for anticipated Work Plan deliverables from now until the end of FY24; Updated scope of The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine report by adding a review of validation and scientific confidence frameworks for NAMs; Two new case studies for building confidence and demonstrating application of NAMs; and a pilot study to develop NAMs training courses and materials for a broad range of stakeholders.
- **The Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee (CASAC) Particulate Matter (PM) Review Panel** (December 1-2, 2021): The CASAC PM Review Panel met **November 17 - 19** to review EPA's Draft Supplement to the 2019 Integrated Science Assessment (ISA) for PM and will meet on December 1-2 to review the Draft PM Policy Assessment (PA). These documents were released on September 30, 2021. This effort is part of EPA's ongoing reconsideration of the primary (health-based) and secondary (welfare-based) National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for particulate matter.

- The **Board of Scientific Counselors (BOSC) Safe and Sustainable Water Resources Subcommittee** will meet December 1-2 from 12 p.m. to 5 p.m. (EDT) to discuss the SSWR research program on nutrients and harmful algal blooms.

Office of Water

Hot Topics

- **On December 2,** EPA will transmit a letter from Administrator Regan to all governors. The letter, which will be accompanied by FY22 Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) State Revolving Fund (SRF) allotments to the states. The letter articulates the Administration's aspirations for prioritizing BIL funding to disadvantaged communities and addressing lead and emerging contaminants. The release of the letter will be accompanied by a robust press and digital strategy, including engagements planned with governors' offices and relevant state water stakeholders.
- **On December 3,** EPA will announce that 43 new projects in 25 states are being invited to apply for approximately $6.7 billion in Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) loans. Additionally, EPA is inviting state agencies in Indiana and New Jersey to apply for WIFIA loans through EPA's state infrastructure financing authority WIFIA (SWIFIA) program.
- **On December 7,** at an event hosted by the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans, EPA Assistant Administrator for Water Radhika Fox will announce a $275 million Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) loan. This WIFIA financing will support a project to modernize aging and storm-damaged sewer pipelines to better protect historically underserved communities from the impacts of storm events and climate change while also helping to keep water rates affordable.

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