To: Bennett, Tate[Bennett.Tate@epa.gov]; Lyons, Troy[lyons.troy@epa.gov]; Cory, Preston (Katherine)[Cory.Preston@epa.gov]
From: Ford, Hayley
Sent: Wed 12/13/2017 9:27:05 PM
Subject: FW:
image2017-12-13-162405.pdf

OCIR may have already received a copy of this. We received this the day we took this action, but just wanted to make sure you had a copy.

Hayley Ford

Deputy White House Liaison and Personal Aide to the Administrator

Environmental Protection Agency

ford.hayley@epa.gov

Phone: 202-564-2022

Cell: Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy

From: DC-WJCS-3000-M@epa.gov [mailto:DC-WJCS-3000-M@epa.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, December 13, 2017 4:24 PM
To: Ford, Hayley <ford.hayley@epa.gov>
Subject:

November 29, 2017

SENT VIA FEDEX (OVERNIGHT)

The Honorable Scott Pruitt, Administrator
United States Environmental Protection Agency
~~1747 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW~~ WJC NORTH
~~Suite 800~~ 1200 PENNSYLVANIA AVE, NW
Washington, DC ~~20006~~ 20004

Dear Administrator Pruitt:

As the chief legal officers of our respective states, we write today to urge the United States Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA") to publish a "no action" decision on the proposed rule entitled "Financial Responsibility Requirements Under CERCLA 108(b) for Classes of Facilities in the Hardrock Mining Industry," 82 Fed. Reg. § 3388 (Jan. 11, 2017) by the upcoming December 1, 2017 court ordered deadline. In short, the proposed rule amounts to unlawful executive overreach and is precisely the sort of unnecessary, duplicative, and punitive regulation that President Trump has committed to curtailing.

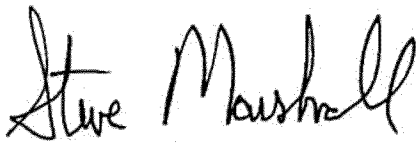
For many of the undersigned states, the mining sector is a key employer and revenue generator. However, all of the undersigned states care about federalism, the rule of law, and unnecessary economic burdens. According to EPA's own Regulatory Impact Analysis, this regulation, if adopted, would impose an estimated $7.1 billion in new financial obligations for affected facilities without creating any new or significant environmental protections. *See* 82 Fed. Reg. at 3392. Further, EPA's own figures suggest that facilities would incur annual costs of $171 million. *See* 82 Fed. Reg. at 3393. Numerous stakeholders have warned that such excessive cost burdens will serve to discourage domestic mineral production and industry investment. As a result, indirectly increasing the United States's reliance on metals and minerals from foreign countries and negatively impacting the local economies of our states, which depend on high-paying mining industry jobs and tax revenue that the sector garners.

Additionally, the process by which the regulation was proposed was fundamentally flawed and is yet another disturbing example of EPA's failure to engage in required consultation with states at the rule development phase, a scenario with which we have, unfortunately, become all too accustomed over the past eight years. There is overwhelming evidence in the administrative record that the regulation is unnecessary, duplicative, and potentially impermissibly preempts state regulatory programs, including state mine bonding programs, which already effectively protect against the environmental risks underlying the § 108(b) proposal. Stakeholders ranging from state governors to mining companies to land management

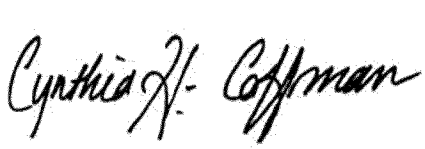
agencies emphasized that the EPA failed to adequately account for existing state and federal programs that have financial assurance components designed to ensure an operator's ability to cover the costs associated with releases or threatened releases of hazardous substances from their facilities at all phases of mining, including reclamation, closure, and post-closure.

The D.C. Circuit was clear in its consent decree that although final action on the financial assurance regulations must be taken by December 1, 2017, EPA may decide, based on the input of stakeholders during the comment period, not to issue a rule at all. *In re Idaho Conservation League*, 811 F.3d 502, 514 (D.C. Cir. 2016) ("[T]he proposed joint order 'does not require EPA to promulgate a new, stricter rule.' At most, it 'merely requires that EPA conduct a rulemaking and then decide whether to promulgate a new rule — the content of which is not in any way dictated by the [proposed order on consent] . . . .'" (alteration in original) (emphasis omitted) (citation omitted)). Based on the foregoing and in the face of overwhelming evidence that the mining industry does not warrant a CERCLA § 108(b) program, we reiterate our request that EPA publish a notice of final action withdrawing the proposed rule.

Sincerely,



Steve Marshall
Attorney General of Alabama



Cynthia H. Coffman
Attorney General of Colorado

Mark Brnovich
Attorney General of Arizona

Pam Bondi
Attorney General of Florida

Leslie Rutledge
Attorney General of Arkansas

Jeffrey M. Landry
Attorney General of Louisiana

Timothy C. Fox
Attorney General of Montana

Marty J. Jackley
Attorney General of South Dakota

Adam Paul Laxalt
Attorney General of Nevada

W. Kenneth Paxton, Jr.
Attorney General of Texas

R. Michael DeWine
Attorney General of Ohio

Sean D. Reyes
Attorney General of Utah

Mike Hunter
Attorney General of Oklahoma

Patrick J. Morrisey
Attorney General of West Virginia

Alan M. Wilson
Attorney General of South Carolina

Brad D. Schimel
Attorney General of Wisconsin

Peter K. Michael
Attorney General of Wyoming

Cc via US MAIL:

The Honorable Mick Mulvaney, Director
Office of Management and Budget
725 17th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20503

Ms. Neomi Rao, Administrator
Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs
C/o: Office of Management and Budget
725 17th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20503

To: Ferre, Helen A. EOP/WHO[Helen.A.Ferre@who.eop.gov]; Rateike, Bradley A. EOP/WHO[Bradley.A.Rateike@who.eop.gov]; Love, Kelly A. EOP/WHO[Kelly.A.Love@who.eop.gov]; Shah, Raj S. EOP/WHO[Raj.S.Shah@who.eop.gov]; Kennedy, Adam R. EOP/WHO[Adam.R.Kennedy@who.eop.gov]; Hogan.Gidley@who.eop.gov[Hogan.Gidley@who.eop.gov]
Cc: Bowman, Liz[Bowman.Liz@epa.gov]; Ferguson, Lincoln[ferguson.lincoln@epa.gov]; Abboud, Michael[abboud.michael@epa.gov]; Hewitt, James[hewitt.james@epa.gov]; Block, Molly[block.molly@epa.gov]; Daniell, Kelsi[daniell.kelsi@epa.gov]; Konkus, John[konkus.john@epa.gov]
From: Wilcox, Jahan
Sent: Fri 3/23/2018 4:11:43 PM
Subject: FW: EPA's Weekly Report for 3/23/18

Helen -

Below is our regional coverage which includes regional radio hits, regional print stories and a few front pages.

This link might be better if the pictures don't come through: **http://createsend.com/t/d-C308C12E222962D12540EF23F30FEDED.**

From: EPA Press Office [mailto:press=epa.gov@cmail19.com] **On Behalf Of** EPA Press Office
Sent: Friday, March 23, 2018 11:30 AM
To: Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>
Subject: EPA's Weekly Report for 3/23/18

No Images? Click here

EPA'S WEEKLY REPORT

This week Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Scott Pruitt sat down with more than a dozen reporters across all mediums to discuss the important work the Agency is doing to ensure regulatory certainty for America's farmers, ranchers, and businesses during National Agriculture Week. Pruitt also advanced the Trump Administration's infrastructure agenda with a push to eradicate lead from drinking water and convene a national leadership summit on PFAS to update America's crumbling water infrastructure.

NATIONAL NEWS ...

In an exclusive interview with the Daily Caller, EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt laid out his

plans to end the use of "secret science" to craft Agency regulations. "Pruitt will reverse long-standing EPA policy allowing regulators to rely on non-public scientific data in crafting rules. Such studies have been used to justify tens of billions of dollars worth of regulations. EPA regulators would only be allowed to consider scientific studies that make their data available for public scrutiny under Pruitt's new policy. Also, EPA-funded studies would need to make all their data public."

EPA Administrator Pruitt sat down with AgDay to talk about issues impacting farmers and ranchers including EPA's efforts to provide certainty by redefining "Waters of the U.S." According to Pruitt, a substitute or replacement definition will be issued sometime this year, a definition that will recognize private property ownership and the roles of states, and will answer the question of what exactly is a water of the United States. 'We're going to get that right going forward, and the definition is going to provide clarity, objective measurements by which we know where federal jurisdiction begins and ends,' he said."

OP-ED ...

In the Washington Times, EPA Administrator Pruitt outlined the Agency's efforts to overhaul the permitting process to "rebuild and revitalize our nation's crumbling infrastructure." "The president's ambitious proposal calls for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to play a leading role in the administration's efforts ... America's infrastructure was once the envy of the world. The president's proposal will restore our roads, bridges and waterways to greatness and create a safer, stronger America. Through regulatory reforms and targeted investments, EPA will spearhead the much-needed repairs to infrastructure in a way that provides tangible environmental benefits to all Americans."

REGIONAL NEWS ...

The Detroit News reported that eradicating lead from drinking water is one of EPA Administrator Pruitt's top priorities. "'I do think that what happened in Flint is something that could happen elsewhere. We just simply need to take steps to do all that we can to address it prospectively and proactively,' Pruitt said. Pruitt said President Donald Trump's $1.5 trillion plan to bolster the nation's infrastructure over the next decade would include investments in aging water infrastructure."

While speaking with the New York Post, Pruitt called for a local, state, and federal response to the lead crisis in New York City and across the country. "EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt called for a 'coordinated' response between New York State and City officials to address the ongoing lead crisis."

In an interview with Newark Star-Ledger, Pruitt discussed efforts to make cleaning up Superfund sites a priority to advance the Agency's core mission. "The Environmental Protection Agency plans to step up efforts to get companies who dumped toxic waste at New Jersey's Superfund sites to pay to clean them up, Administrator Scott Pruitt said. Pruitt on Monday blamed a lack of urgency... New Jersey has 114 designated Superfund sites, the most in the nation, included three of Pruitt's 21 highest-priority locations."

Pruitt reiterated his commitment to prioritizing the Superfund program to clean up America's most contaminated sites, including Tar Creek, in an interview with the Tulsa World. "Administrator Scott Pruitt of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency said his new push on the nation's Superfund program finally can provide clarity and accountability to the Tar Creek area, for decades one of the oldest, largest and most complex toxic sites in the nation. 'It is really unacceptable,' Pruitt said as he recalled the history of the Tar Creek area in far northeastern Oklahoma, whose Superfund legacy dates back to 1983, as well as the amount of money and time

deployed there."

At this week's regional roundtable, the Albuquerque Journal reported on progress the Trump Administration is making on claim stemming from the 2015 Gold King Mine spill.
"Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Scott Pruitt said Monday that the federal government is close to finishing its assessment of roughly 400 claims for financial damages stemming from the 2015 Gold King Mine spill, which dumped toxic chemicals into waters in New Mexico, Colorado and Utah, and final recommendations could be ready by the end of the month."

RADIO ...

This week, Administrator Pruitt joined WZFG 1100 AM The Flag – North Dakota to talk about his first year accomplishments, including repeal and replacement of both "Waters of the U.S." rule and Clean Power Plan.

Administrator Pruitt also joined the Lars Larson Show, based in Portland, Ore., and discussed how he's working to get the EPA back to basics and provide regulatory certainty for all Americans.

On the St. Louis, Missouri's own Mark Reardon Show, Administrator Pruitt talked a little about baseball and a lot about the good work the Agency is doing to improve environmental outcomes across the country.

Scott Voorhees on 1110 KFAF--Omaha had Administrator Pruitt on his show Wednesday to talk about what's to come at the EPA this year, including a continued focused on Superfund clean-up and regulatory transparency.

TWEETS ...

FRONT PAGES ...

http://usenvironmentalprotectionagency.cmail19.com/t/d-l-odyjlil-qdhhlzs-a/

Visit The EPA's Newsroom

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue Northwest
Washington, D.C. 20004

Unsubscribe

.

To: Bowman, Liz[Bowman.Liz@epa.gov]; Block, Molly[block.molly@epa.gov]
Cc: Ferguson, Lincoln[ferguson.lincoln@epa.gov]; Beach, Christopher[beach.christopher@epa.gov]; Daniell, Kelsi[daniell.kelsi@epa.gov]; Konkus, John[konkus.john@epa.gov]
From: Wilcox, Jahan
Sent: Fri 3/23/2018 2:37:38 PM
Subject: RE: FOR REVIEW: EPA's Weekly Report for 3/23/18 - Preview

This is awesome.

From: Bowman, Liz
Sent: Friday, March 23, 2018 10:34 AM
To: Block, Molly <block.molly@epa.gov>
Cc: Ferguson, Lincoln <ferguson.lincoln@epa.gov>; Beach, Christopher <beach.christopher@epa.gov>; Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>; Daniell, Kelsi <daniell.kelsi@epa.gov>; Konkus, John <konkus.john@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: FOR REVIEW: EPA's Weekly Report for 3/23/18 - Preview

This looks great? Just change "convene" to past tense in the intro

On Mar 23, 2018, at 10:31 AM, Block, Molly <block.molly@epa.gov> wrote:

No Images? Click here

EPA'S WEEKLY REPORT

This week Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Scott Pruitt sat down with more than a dozen reporters across all mediums to discuss the important work the Agency is doing to ensure regulatory certainty for America's farmers, ranchers, and businesses during National Agriculture Week. Pruitt also advanced the Trump Administration's infrastructure agenda with a push to eradicate lead from drinking water and convene a national leadership summit on PFAS to update America's crumbling water infrastructure.

NATIONAL NEWS ...

In an exclusive interview with the Daily Caller, EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt laid out his plans to end the use of "secret science" to craft Agency regulations. "Pruitt will reverse long-standing EPA policy allowing regulators to rely on non-public scientific data in crafting rules. Such studies have been used to justify tens of billions of dollars worth of regulations. EPA regulators

would only be allowed to consider scientific studies that make their data available for public scrutiny under Pruitt's new policy. Also, EPA-funded studies would need to make all their data public."

EPA Administrator Pruitt sat down with AgDay to talk about issues impacting farmers and ranchers including EPA's efforts to provide certainty by redefining "Waters of the U.S." According to Pruitt, a substitute or replacement definition will be issued sometime this year, a definition that will recognize private property ownership and the roles of states, and will answer the question of what exactly is a water of the United States. 'We're going to get that right going forward, and the definition is going to provide clarity, objective measurements by which we know where federal jurisdiction begins and ends,' he said."

OP-ED ...

In the Washington Times, EPA Administrator Pruitt outline the Agency's efforts to overhaul the permitting process to "rebuild and revitalize our nation's crumbling infrastructure. "The president's ambitious proposal calls for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to play a leading role in the administration's efforts ... America's infrastructure was once the envy of the world. The president's proposal will restore our roads, bridges and waterways to greatness and create a safer, stronger America. Through regulatory reforms and targeted investments, EPA will spearhead the much-needed repairs to infrastructure in a way that provides tangible environmental benefits to all Americans."

REGIONAL NEWS ...

The Detroit News reported that eradicating lead from drinking water is one of EPA Administrator Pruitt's top priorities. "'I do think that what happened in Flint is something that could happen elsewhere. We just simply need to take steps to do all that we can to address it prospectively and proactively,' Pruitt said. Pruitt said President Donald Trump's $1.5 trillion plan to bolster the nation's infrastructure over the next decade would include investments in aging water infrastructure."

While speaking with the New York Post, Pruitt called for a local, state, and federal response to the lead crisis in New York City and across the country. "EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt called for a 'coordinated' response between New York State and City officials to address the ongoing lead crisis."

In an interview with New Jersey Advance Media, Pruitt discussed efforts to make cleaning up Superfund sites a priority to advance the Agency's core mission. "The Environmental Protection Agency plans to step up efforts to get companies who dumped toxic waste at New Jersey's Superfund sites to pay to clean them up, Administrator Scott Pruitt said. Pruitt on Monday blamed a lack of urgency... New Jersey has 114 designated Superfund sites, the most in the nation, included three of Pruitt's 21 highest-priority locations.

Pruitt reiterated his commitment to prioritizing the Superfund program to clean up America's most contaminated sites, including Tar Creek, in an interview with the Tulsa World. "Administrator Scott Pruitt of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency said his new push on the nation's Superfund program finally can provide clarity and accountability to the Tar Creek area, for decades one of the oldest, largest and most complex toxic sites in the nation. 'It is really unacceptable,' Pruitt said as he recalled the history of the Tar Creek area in far northeastern Oklahoma, whose Superfund legacy dates back to 1983, as well as the amount of money and time deployed there."

At his week's regional roundtable, the Albuquerque Journal reported on progress the Trump Administration is making on claim stemming from the 2015 Gold King Mine spill.
"Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Scott Pruitt said Monday that the federal government is close to finishing its assessment of roughly 400 claims for financial damages stemming from the 2015 Gold King Mine spill, which dumped toxic chemicals into waters in New Mexico, Colorado and Utah, and final recommendations could be ready by the end of the month.

RADIO ...

This week, Administrator Pruitt joined WZFG 1100 AM The Flag – North Dakota to talk about his first year accomplishments, including repeal and replacement of both "Waters of the U.S." rule and Clean Power Plan.

Administrator Pruitt also joined the Lars Larson Show, based in Portland, Ore., and discussed how he's working to get the EPA back to basics and provide regulatory certainty for all Americans.

On the St. Louis, Missouri's own Mark Reardon Show, Administrator Pruitt talked a little about baseball and a lot about the good work the Agency is doing to improve environmental outcomes across the country.

Scott Voorhees on 1110 KFAF–Omaha had Administrator Pruitt on his show Wednesday to talk about what's to come at the EPA this year, including a continued focused on Superfund clean-up and regulatory transparency.

TWEETS ...

FRONT PAGES ...

<image001.png>

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue Northwest
Washington, D.C. 20004

Unsubscribe

.

To: Bowman, Liz[Bowman.Liz@epa.gov]; Beach, Christopher[beach.christopher@epa.gov]; Ferguson, Lincoln[ferguson.lincoln@epa.gov]; Wilcox, Jahan[wilcox.jahan@epa.gov]; Konkus, John[konkus.john@epa.gov]; Daniell, Kelsi[daniell.kelsi@epa.gov]; Hewitt, James[hewitt.james@epa.gov]; Abboud, Michael[abboud.michael@epa.gov]; Falvo, Nicholas[falvo.nicholas@epa.gov]; Darwin, Veronica[darwin.veronica@epa.gov]; Chancellor, Erin[chancellor.erin@epa.gov]
From: Block, Molly
Sent: Thur 5/3/2018 8:33:30 PM
Subject: Bloomberg: EPA Tailoring Superfund Agreements for Concerned Companies

FYI –

Today's interview/story:

EPA Tailoring Superfund Agreements for Concerned Companies

https://news.bloombergenvironment.com/environment-and-energy/epa-tailoring-superfund-agreements-for-concerned-companies

Third parties that want to take on Superfund site projects can expect more personalized attention and customized agreements from the EPA, as the agency moves to redevelop contaminated properties.

The Environmental Protection Agency is targeting companies' contamination liability concerns at the site level, pushing more tailored, site-specific agreements in addition to using agency-wide guidance, Cyndy Mackey, director of the agency's Office of Site Remediation Enforcement, told Bloomberg Environment May 3.

Those changes are enticing more private investors to step in, clean up, and redevelop the country's most contaminated sites, the agency said.

Those third parties are often environmental remediation companies and redevelopers that are willing to take on cleanup risks. The site-specific agreements address their concerns regarding their responsibilities at contaminated sites and the potential for future liabilities.

"We have seen an uptick in interest with those agreements," Mackey said.

Previously, third parties interested in Superfund sites had to rely on statutory protections to determine whether they are liable for contamination. The site-specific approach, which comes from the agency's Superfund task force, helps manage third parties' cleanup expectations and liability concerns, she said.

EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt's task force specifically focuses on making changes to the Superfund program that don't require legislation. In more than 40 recommendations, the task force details administrative ways the agency can ensure accountability, accelerate cleanup, and prepare sites for reuse.

Superfund sites are the most contaminated in the country, and include the Gowanus Canal in New York, Portland Harbor in Oregon, and Tar Creek in Oklahoma. Properties with the EPA's Superfund designation are eligible to receive federal funds for cleanup, though the agency aims to compel companies responsible for the sites, or third parties, to pay the cleanup bills.

The two types of site-specific agreements that the EPA seeks to promote are bona fide prospective purchaser agreements and prospective purchaser agreements. The EPA's headquarters office is encouraging regional offices to use them more frequently. Both require the approval of the Department of Justice.

The bona fide prospective purchaser provision in the 2002 brownfields act protects landowners from liability for cleanup costs. The agreement is valid only if they meet certain conditions. These include reviewing records and inspecting the site for the presence or possibility of contamination, demonstrating that the purchaser is not affiliated with any liable party, complying with land use restrictions, and cooperating with information requests.

Prospective purchaser agreements center on the EPA's promise not to sue a party that could buy contaminated property. Certain conditions also must be met for these agreements.

The agency also is reviewing the content of those agreements to determine whether their templates should be revised, the EPA noted in guidance signed April 17.

But third parties looking to take on contaminated sites may have another reason to hesitate, after an April 27 ruling from the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit.

In California Department of Toxic Substances Control v. Westside Delivery, the court ruled that a third party, Westside Delivery, was liable for the costs of cleanup the state performed at Westside's contaminated property in Los Angeles.

Westside acquired the property in a tax sale and didn't interact directly with the original owner, the Davis Chemical Co., which recycled spent solvents at the site. A 1992 EPA assessment of the site found significant spillage, according to court documents.

The defendant argued that it was protected from liability under Superfund law, but the court disagreed.

"This decision reinforces the golden rule of acquiring industrial property—look before

you leap," Peter Hsiao, partner at Morrison Foerster LLP in Los Angeles, told Bloomberg Environment in an email. Hsiao's practice includes Superfund litigation and other types of environmental law.

On the other hand, the case may not affect many third parties that are interested in buying contaminated sites, Bart Seitz, partner at Baker Botts LLP in Washington, told Bloomberg Environment.

"On the narrow facts of this case, I don't think it's that common," he said. Seitz represents companies involved in Superfund litigation.

The EPA is reviewing the court's decision and will determine whether any changes need to be made to site-specific agreements or guidance, Mackey said.

To: Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]; Bowman, Liz[Bowman.Liz@epa.gov]; Wilcox, Jahan[wilcox.jahan@epa.gov]; Ferguson, Lincoln[ferguson.lincoln@epa.gov]; Grantham, Nancy[Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov]
From: Kelly, Albert
Sent: Fri 4/6/2018 3:39:25 PM
Subject: Fwd: DRAFT - Pruitt's EPA Gets High Marks for Pushing Superfund Clean-Up

Comments

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: John Berrey <Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy>
Date: April 6, 2018 at 10:27:45 AM EDT
To: "Kelly, Albert" <kelly.albert@epa.gov>
Subject: Fwd: DRAFT - Pruitt's EPA Gets High Marks for Pushing Superfund Clean-Up

Kel, this is a draft of a press event. I've spoken to our delegation and we are requesting quotes from them. Have a great day

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: Sean Harrison <Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy>
Date: Fri, Apr 6, 2018 at 9:23 AM
Subject: DRAFT - Pruitt's EPA Gets High Marks for Pushing Superfund Clean-Up
To: John Berrey <Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy>, Tim L. Kent <Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy>, Craig Kreman <Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy>

Chairman, Tim and Craig — I wanted to show you my "start" on the EPA/Scott Pruitt news release, to make sure it is going in the right direction before I continue on it this morning. Please see below, and offer any suggestions you might have.

DRAFT – for internal review only
--

Pruitt's EPA Gets High Marks for Pushing Superfund Clean-Up

(QUAPAW, Okla.) — From this corner of Indian Country, opinion runs high of Administrator Scott Pruitt's tenure at the Environmental Protection Agency.

Pruitt has pushed through a remarkable improvement in the process and speed of cleaning up and reclaiming toxic former mining land in the Tar Creek district of northeast Oklahoma, an EPA superfund site previously mired in a generations-long stalemate.

"It's a dramatic change," said _____. "After decades wrought with administrative delays, lack of funding and neglect, we are now experiencing an efficient and well managed clean up of the Tar Creek Superfund site. It is amazing, the difference under Administrator Pruitt's leadership."

Where a few years ago enormous piles of lead- and zinc-poisoned mining waste stood, and where bleak, baron and useless land stretched for miles, there are now cattle grazing on a renewed landscape that hasn't seen green grass in ages. Some areas are ready for seeding row crops this spring. The Quapaw Tribe of Oklahoma, who has called this place home since about 1835 when its people were removed from Arkansas, is the local leader in the clean-up project.

The arrangement represents a government-to-government relationship that is serving as a model for what Pruitt had in mind when he took over the EPA — to empower the local stakeholders in the process of cleaning up prioritized superfund sites, because those are the people who will remain there afterward.

…

quote:
Under the current EPA management it is clear the focus on the mission of remediation at the Tar Creek Superfund has dramatically changed. Under the leadership of Administrator Scott Pruitt the changes at the site are palatable. More work at a lower cost has excellerated the environmental transformation from a moon scape to row crops. We are so proud of Scott's performance, it's the greatest government response we have ever seen at Tar Creek.

--
Sean Harrison
Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy
Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy
--
John L Berrey
Chairman
Quapaw Tribe BC, DDA

To: Ferguson, Lincoln[ferguson.lincoln@epa.gov]; Wilcox, Jahan[wilcox.jahan@epa.gov]; Bowman, Liz[Bowman.Liz@epa.gov]; Block, Molly[block.molly@epa.gov]; Daniell, Kelsi[daniell.kelsi@epa.gov]; Hewitt, James[hewitt.james@epa.gov]
From: Abboud, Michael
Sent: Mon 1/29/2018 7:45:40 PM
Subject: RE: FOX23 Request: Tar Creek

I'll handle.

From: Ferguson, Lincoln
Sent: Monday, January 29, 2018 2:42 PM
To: Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>; Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>; Abboud, Michael <abboud.michael@epa.gov>; Block, Molly <block.molly@epa.gov>; Daniell, Kelsi <daniell.kelsi@epa.gov>; Hewitt, James <hewitt.james@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: FOX23 Request: Tar Creek

From: Andes, Natalie (CMG-TulsaTV) [mailto: Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy]
Sent: Monday, January 29, 2018 2:40 PM
To: Ferguson, Lincoln <ferguson.lincoln@epa.gov>
Subject: FOX23 Request: Tar Creek

Hi Lincoln.

I ran across a Tulsa World report that says that the EPA is asking people in Picher about the Tar Creek Superfund site. Can you tell me if that's true? If so, what is being asked of the residents in the survey? When are the results due? What's the project this is related to? What is the goal of the survey?

Thank you,

Natalie

Natalie Andes | FOX23 Assignment Manager
Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy

This email (including any attachments) may contain material that is confidential and for the sole use of the intended recipient. Any review, reliance or distribution by others or forwarding without express permission is strictly prohibited. If you are not the intended recipient, please contact the sender and delete all copies.

To: Wilcox, Jahan[wilcox.jahan@epa.gov]; Bowman, Liz[Bowman.Liz@epa.gov]; Abboud, Michael[abboud.michael@epa.gov]; Block, Molly[block.molly@epa.gov]; Daniell, Kelsi[daniell.kelsi@epa.gov]; Hewitt, James[hewitt.james@epa.gov]
From: Ferguson, Lincoln
Sent: Mon 1/29/2018 7:42:18 PM
Subject: FW: FOX23 Request: Tar Creek

From: Andes, Natalie (CMG-TulsaTV) [mailto: Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy
Sent: Monday, January 29, 2018 2:40 PM
To: Ferguson, Lincoln <ferguson.lincoln@epa.gov>
Subject: FOX23 Request: Tar Creek

Hi Lincoln.

I ran across a Tulsa World report that says that the EPA is asking people in Picher about the Tar Creek Superfund site. Can you tell me if that's true? If so, what is being asked of the residents in the survey? When are the results due? What's the project this is related to? What is the goal of the survey?

Thank you,

Natalie

Natalie Andes | FOX23 Assignment Manager
Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy

This email (including any attachments) may contain material that is confidential and for the sole use of the intended recipient. Any review, reliance or distribution by others or forwarding without express permission is strictly prohibited. If you are not the intended recipient, please contact the sender and delete all copies.

From: Carignan, Sylvia
Sent: Thursday, July 13, 2017 12:57 PM
To: Press <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: Superfund megasites

Hi EPA,

I'd like to know more about EPA's data on Superfund megasites. For clarity, EPA has previously provided me with a definition of megasite, so that is the one I'm using:

"Generally, a site is considered a mega-site if the combined extramural, actual and planned, removal and remedial action costs incurred by Superfund or by potentially responsible parties are greater than $50 million."

If possible, I'd like to talk to OLEM staff by Wednesday COB about the following:

--How does EPA store removal and remedial action cost data for NPL sites? At HQ level? At the regional level?

--Are there any cases in which EPA internally uses the term "mega-site" or "megasite" to define a category of Superfund sites, or is this only a colloquial term?

--Is EPA seeking to create an official definition of megasite?

--Does EPA have a need for delineating megasites from other sites in its data?

--Does EPA anticipate a need for delineating megasites from other sites in its data?

--Is the $50 million mark still a meaningful measure for separating large, complicated sites from small sites? Would EPA consider raising this threshold?

Thanks,

Sylvia

Sylvia Carignan
Reporter, Superfund and Waste
Bloomberg BNA
1801 S Bell St, Arlington VA 22202
Direct Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy

To: Bowman, Liz[Bowman.Liz@epa.gov]
Cc: Grantham, Nancy[Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov]; Graham, Amy[graham.amy@epa.gov]
From: Kelly, Albert
Sent: Mon 7/24/2017 10:22:36 AM
Subject: FW: Inside EPA: Communities Ready Task Force To Resist Pruitt Superfund Reform Effort, 7/14/17

Liz, I didn't know if you have seen this or had time to read it. They have formed a People's Task Force which I suppose is ok but rather interesting. One of the points that was made but I think not answered in our preparation for tomorrow's rollout was that people that wanted to comment needed an address or email to send them to. I would really appreciate any comments just coming to my email. I would not respond without clearing with you but if we get response, I would like them coming to me. We are not dodging anyone.

Albert Kelly

Senior Advisor to the Administrator

1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW

Washington, DC 20460

Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy

From: Davis, Patrick
Sent: Friday, July 21, 2017 11:53 AM
To: Kelly, Albert <kelly.albert@epa.gov>; Falvo, Nicholas <falvo.nicholas@epa.gov>
Subject: Fwd: Inside EPA: Communities Ready Task Force To Resist Pruitt Superfund Reform Effort, 7/14/17

Patrick Davis

Environmental Protection Agency

Deputy Associate Administrator, Office of Land and Emergency Management

202-564-3103 office

Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy cell

Information sent to this email address may be subject to FOIA.

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Sorokin, Nicholas" <sorokin.nicholas@epa.gov>
Date: July 14, 2017 at 11:12:12 AM CDT
To: AO OPA OMR CLIPS <AO_OPA_OMR_CLIPS@epa.gov>
Subject: Inside EPA: Communities Ready Task Force To Resist Pruitt Superfund Reform Effort, 7/14/17

Inside EPA

https://insideepa.com/daily-news/communities-ready-task-force-resist-pruitt-superfund-reform-effort

Communities Ready Task Force To Resist Pruitt Superfund Reform Effort

By Suzanne Yohannan, 7/13/17

Grassroots community groups are forming a task force to help them push back against EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt's efforts to reform the Superfund program, arguing that his endeavor raises significant concerns about curtailing cleanup oversight and planning to come up with alternative approaches to offer the administrator.

Pruitt's May 22 memo creating an internal agency task force to reexamine Superfund and recommend revisions "raises major concerns about decreasing cleanup oversight, privileging corporate interests over public health, and a lack of community involvement," says a July 12 email to community groups from Lois Gibbs, the long-time Superfund activist and founder of The Center for Health, Environment & Justice (CHEJ), the group leading the effort.

"The focus of Superfund cleanup must place public health as a priority, when weighed

against private interests and money," the nascent task force says in a **draft memorandum**, signaling the task force plans to push for stricter cleanup requirements, limited flexibility for responsible parties and greater consultation with affected communities.

For example it is seeking to limit EPA's ability to avoid listing contaminated sites on the National Priorities List (NPL), limit the use of containment remedies, ensure public health remains a higher priority goal for cleanups than economic development, strengthen health studies at contaminated sites, and reinstate the expired Superfund taxes, among other measures.

While details of Pruitt's plans are not available, many of the groups' calls are at odds with approaches that Pruitt is expected to adopt.

In the email, Gibbs says that the Trump administration and Pruitt "claim to desire to return Superfund cleanups 'to their rightful place at the center of the EPA's core mission,' however their actions speak differently: their proposed budget includes a 30% cut in funding to the Superfund."

"We aren't going to let him get away with this," she writes in the email.

She says organizers from communities around Superfund sites have coalesced to create the People's Task Force "to advocate our recommendations on the future of Superfund, based on our years of on-the-ground experience."

The People's Task Force recommendations include 20 initial signatory groups, including Center for Public Environmental Oversight, Edison Wetlands Association, Maryland Environmental Health Network, Tri-Valley Cares and others.

Several of the groups are located adjacent to Superfund sites, including LEAD Agency, Inc., which seeks to address the Tar Creek Superfund Site in Picher, OK; Citizens Against Toxic Exposure, which advocates on the Escambia Treating Company site in Pensacola, FL; Food & Water Watch, which works on the Gowanus Canal Superfund Site in Brooklyn,

NY; and many others.

CHEJ is seeking additional signatures from environmental and political groups and local Superfund advocacy groups, the email says. The sign-on web page indicates CHEJ plans a media release soon, alluding to a possible news release on July 25.

CHEJ could not be reached at press time to respond to questions about the effort.

Pruitt's Reforms

The new task force is seeking to influence Pruitt as he works to overhaul aspects of the Superfund program.

In his May 22 memo, Pruitt notes complaints of Superfund cleanups taking too long to commence and complete, and assigned an internal task force, led by banker Albert Kelly, to produce recommendations within 30 days on streamlining the Superfund program.

The memo called on the internal task force to make recommendations on "how the agency can restructure the cleanup process, realign incentives of all involved parties to promote expeditious remediation, reduce the burden on cooperating parties, incentivize parties to remediate sites, encourage private investment in cleanups and sites and promote the revitalization of properties across the country."

The EPA task force completed its work and Pruitt was expected to be briefed in late June **on the recommendations**, an informed source says.

Details have not emerged of those recommendations, but an EPA spokeswoman said July 13 that the agency “will have more information to share on the Superfund task force’s report soon.”

While details of EPA's plans are not available, Sen. Steve Daines (R-MT), who faces home state concerns over slow cleanups due to planned budget cuts, recently released an outline of recommendations for improving the program's implementation, including limiting the use of the NPL, prioritizing the program for funding and revising metrics for determining cleanup success, that could be viewed as a model for how EPA will proceed.

But the People's Task Force's recommendations criticize aspects of Pruitt's May 22 memo and recent industry calls for certain Superfund changes.

For example, they take issue with the memo's proposal to lower administrative and overhead costs, with the groups noting that such spending mainly funds enforcement and community involvement. "We strongly caution that these are not corners to be cut -- without proper oversight and public accountability, the Superfund would lose much of its remaining efficacy," the groups say.

In their recommendations, the groups that comprise the People's Task Force also express concern over industry proponents' calls for developing "exit strategies," which usually include removing sites from the NPL. They say proponents of that approach concurrently push for containment-type cleanup strategies rather than full removal or complete remediation required by law.

With such "Band-Aid" methods, "exit strategies will not be possible, as the sites require continual maintenance and monitoring," the groups say.

Therefore, these two industry goals are not compatible, they say. "If Responsible Parties want their sites to be delisted from the NPL, they must either pursue complete cleanup or accept the necessary continual oversight to ensure that toxic hazards are under control," they say.

They also question any potential expansion of the Superfund Alternative Approach (SAA) -- the approach advocated by Daines that entails the same cleanup process and standards but avoids an NPL listing.

PRP Benefits

But the community groups say while the SAA offers benefits to potentially responsible parties (PRPs), it impedes citizen participation that the Superfund program ordinarily provides.

For instance, under the alternative approach, PRPs, rather than EPA -- a neutral party -- award technical assistance grants, when provided, to communities. The approach allows PRPs to avoid the stigma of NPL listings as well as declaring a Superfund liability on financial documents -- which the groups say can have a significant impact particularly if a company is sold. The alternative approach also raises concerns over decreased community input and EPA oversight, they say.

The groups also question the memo's failure to list communities among the stakeholders with which EPA wants to improve interactions. "These communities have the right to information and input on these decisions upon which their health and welfare hinges," the groups say. "Economic development, while important to community revitalization, can never supersede public health."

They also call for reinstating the "polluters pay" tax under Superfund -- a long-time issue that has failed to gain any traction in Congress in recent years -- if the agency, as Pruitt says, is committed to restoring Superfund cleanups "to their rightful place at the center of the agency's core mission."

Further, they take aim at Pruitt's advocacy for using private investment and "alternative funding mechanisms" for the program. These "can't come close to compensating for the Superfund budget cuts and the high volume of abandoned sites," the groups say.

The groups also argue EPA transparency is key to improving relations between EPA and stakeholders. "Cleanup goals must be set in an explicit and interactive manner, beginning with the disclosure of all site information as soon as it is available," the recommendations

say.

In her email on the task force, Gibbs notes that EPA under Pruitt "has been markedly secretive." She alleges, "unlike previous administrators, he has never made his schedule publicly available, ignores Freedom of Information Act requests, and has imposed silence upon the Administrative Office's phone line." He has also not disclosed details about the Superfund task force, such as who staffed it and its recommendations.

Nicholas Sorokin

Office of Media Relations Intern

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Telephone: (202) 564-5334

sorokin.nicholas@epa.gov

To: Bowman, Liz[Bowman.Liz@epa.gov]; Ferguson, Lincoln[ferguson.lincoln@epa.gov]
From: Mike Soraghan
Sent: Wed 1/17/2018 11:01:30 PM
Subject: Tar Creek audit lawsuit

Mr. Bowman, Mr. Ferguson,

Hi. The state auditor of Oklahoma has filed a response in the open records lawsuit seeking release of the Tar Creek audit. He is asking for a court order to release it. He also alleges that Mr. Pruitt had already released it to the LICRAT board. I cannot tell at this point if he is alleging that that release to the LICRAT board was improper.

Please let me know if EPA or Administrator Pruitt has any comment.

Thank you,

Mike Soraghan

E&E News reporter

Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy

Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy (office and mobile)

Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy

E&E NEWS

122 C Street NW 7th Floor Washington, DC 20001

www.eenews.net | @EENewsUpdates

Energywire, Climatewire, Greenwire, E&E Daily, E&E News PM

To: Hewitt, James[hewitt.james@epa.gov]; Bowman, Liz[Bowman.Liz@epa.gov]; Graham, Amy[graham.amy@epa.gov]; Ferguson, Lincoln[ferguson.lincoln@epa.gov]
From: Abboud, Michael
Sent: Thur 8/3/2017 12:13:17 AM
Subject: Re: FOR APPROVAL: EPA Evening News Highlights 8.2.17

Was this good to send out?

Sent from my iPhone

> On Aug 2, 2017, at 4:20 PM, Abboud, Michael <abboud.michael@epa.gov> wrote:
>
> EPA Evening News Highlights 8.2.17
>
> Utility Dive: EPA Grants Petitions Against Air Quality Permits For 2 Duke Coal Plants
> The Trump administration is busily rolling back environmental regulatory standards, but not all enforcement of Obama-era rules has stopped. On June 30, Pruitt signed two orders granting petitions against permits issued by North Carolina environmental agencies. The orders were published in the Federal Register on Wednesday.
>
> E&E News: Industry To EPA: We Want Rule 'Fixed, Not Just Gone'
> Industry has delivered a clear message to the Trump administration during a series of recent closed-door meetings: Don't completely gut the Obama-era Clean Power Plan. To be sure, leading industry associations are pushing White House and U.S. EPA officials to drastically roll back the landmark climate change rule. They're advocating a new approach that still limits power plants' emissions but is narrower than the one envisioned by President Obama's team.
> The heavy-hitting U.S. Chamber of Commerce and the National Association of Manufacturers advocated an "inside-the-fence" approach to power plant regulations during a July meeting with the Office of Management and Budget and EPA staff, they told E&E News. Critics of the Obama rule have argued that it overstepped by allowing emissions reductions "outside the fence line" of coal-fired power plants.
>
> Bloomberg: Refiners Argue EPA Can Cut Biofuel Quota Despite Defeat in Court
> Refiners told the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to cut biofuel quotas for 2018, arguing that a federal court decision against the agency shouldn’t prevent it from setting targets below levels enshrined in law. The administration of President Donald Trump still has the authority to waive congressional biofuel levels to avert economic or environmental harm, refiner Valero Energy Corp. and oil industry trade groups said at an EPA hearing on the issue Tuesday in Washington. Economic harm could result, industry groups said, if refiners are forced to blend more than 10 percent ethanol into the fuel supply, a level the oil industry dubs the blend wall.
>
> National Evening News Highlights 8.2.17
>
> The Washington Post: Trump Signs What He Calls ‘Seriously Flawed’ Bill Imposing New Sanctions On Russia
> President Trump on Wednesday signed a bill that imposes new sanctions on Russia, ending immediate hopes that he might be able to reset U.S. relations with the Kremlin as Congress overruled his opposition to the provisions' curb on his executive power. Trump's reluctant signing of the legislation came nearly a week after it was approved by an overwhelming, bipartisan majority in the Senate and after a similarly large majority in the House. The president issued two statements outlining his concerns with the bill, which he called “seriously flawed,” primarily because it limits his ability to negotiate sanctions without congressional approval.
>
> The New York Times: Trump Supports Bill That Would Cut Legal Immigration By Half
> President Trump embraced legislation on Wednesday that would cut legal immigration to the United States in half within a decade by sharply curtailing the ability of American citizens and legal residents to bring family members into the country. Arguing that the United States has taken in too many low-skilled

immigrants for too long, Mr. Trump invited two Republican senators to the White House to put his weight behind their bill that would judge applicants for legal residency on the basis of education, language ability and job abilities that would benefit the country.
>
> Oklahoma Evening News Highlights 8.2.17
>
> The Oklahoman: Oklahoma Lt. Gov. Lamb Leads In Fundraising In Governor's Race
> Lt. Gov. Todd Lamb raised more than $2 million in his bid to become the state's next governor, the most so far of the 13 candidates already in the 2018 race, their campaign reports show. Oklahoma City Mayor Mick Cornett reported raising $181,000. Lamb and Cornett are among six Republicans seeking the state's top elected position.
>
> TRUMP TWEETS
> Utility Dive
> http://www.utilitydive.com/news/epa-grants-petitions-against-air-quality-permits-for-2-duke-coal-plants/448446/
> EPA Grants Petitions Against Air Quality Permits For 2 Duke Coal Plants
> By Gavin Bade, 8/2/17
>
> The Trump administration is busily rolling back environmental regulatory standards, but not all enforcement of Obama-era rules has stopped.
>
> On June 30, Pruitt signed two orders granting petitions against permits issued by North Carolina environmental agencies. The orders were published in the Federal Register on Wednesday.
>
> In their petitions, the Sierra Club asserts that air quality permits issued by the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) for Roxboro and the Western North Carolina Regional Air Quality Agency (WNCRAQA) for the Asheville plant are incomplete and misdirected.
>
> North Carolina regulations require permits issued by state agencies to comply with the NAAQS to have specific accounting mechanisms for emissions, which the petitions argue both permits lack. And the permits, the Sierra Club says, only aim to attain the SO2 standards approved in the original NAAQS rules in 1971, not the updated standards finalized by the Obama administration in 2010.
>
> The difference is significant. The 2010 update tightened SO2 standards to 75 parts per billion (ppb) over a one-hour time period. The 1971 standard stood at 140 ppb over a 24-hour time period, almost double the current allowance.
>
> In their response to the petitions, WNCRAQA argued that because EPA is still reviewing compliance with the 2010 NAAQS standard, it cannot issue permits to comply with those updated standards. DEQ said that it has begun monitoring SO2 at the Roxboro plant to comply with the new standards.
>
> Those justifications aside, the EPA said the permits do not adequately explain when the 2010 standards will apply to the two coal plants and how they would be monitored. In granting the petitions, it directed the two agencies to better explain when the new standards apply in the permits and how they will be measured.
>
> Sierra Club staff attorney Bridget Lee said the EPA could have gone further by including more specific directions for the two state agencies on how to alter their permits. But she praised the agency for affirming that permits for NAAQS should reflect the most recent standards, even as compliance reviews of multiple jurisdictions are active.
>
> "To EPA's credit," she said, "they do say that argument doesn't hold water and these things operate in parallel."
>
> EPA did not respond to requests for comment.

>
> Duke spokesperson Danielle Peoples said the company appreciates "EPA's caution in granting the Sierra Club's petitions," and looks forward to reviewing the revised permits from each agency.
> "It should be noted," she wrote in an email, "that EPA did not direct either agency to open or revise Duke Energy's air permits, but directed the agencies to discuss when facility-specific SO2 emissions controls might need to be placed into a facility's permit to avoid an exceedance of the 2010 SO2 NAAQS."
>
> Duke has begun a three-year monitoring period for NAAQS, she said, "that will be used to confirm we can meet the 2010 standard."
> E&E News
> https://www.eenews.net/stories/1060058186
> Industry To EPA: We Want Rule 'Fixed, Not Just Gone'
> By Zach Coleman, 8/1/17
>
> Industry has delivered a clear message to the Trump administration during a series of recent closed-door meetings: Don't completely gut the Obama-era Clean Power Plan.
>
> To be sure, leading industry associations are pushing White House and U.S. EPA officials to drastically roll back the landmark climate change rule. They're advocating a new approach that still limits power plants' emissions but is narrower than the one envisioned by President Obama's team.
>
> The heavy-hitting U.S. Chamber of Commerce and the National Association of Manufacturers advocated an "inside-the-fence" approach to power plant regulations during a July meeting with the Office of Management and Budget and EPA staff, they told E&E News. Critics of the Obama rule have argued that it overstepped by allowing emissions reductions "outside the fence line" of coal-fired power plants.
>
> "We were trying to also lay the foundation for what we think would be an acceptable replacement rule because we want to see this rule fixed, not just gone forever," Ross Eisenberg, vice president of energy and natural resources policy with NAM, said in an interview.
>
> Matt Letourneau, spokesman for the Chamber's Institute for 21st Century Energy, said in an email: "It's safe to say we" pushed for inside-the-fence-line.
>
> In rescinding the rule, EPA chief Scott Pruitt plans to argue that the Obama administration went too far in setting carbon reduction goals by looking at what the broader power system could achieve instead of focusing solely on improvements at coal plants, an administration official told E&E News in June (Climatewire, June 12).
>
> The recently publicized meetings with industry hint of a nearing Trump administration decision on how and whether to regulate carbon emissions from power plants, though devising a formal rule could take several months. While OMB and EPA meet with a variety of interest and business groups affected by pending regulations, the Chamber and NAM carry considerable weight in the business community that President Trump has courted.
>
> The Trump administration is facing pressure from conservatives to trash EPA's endangerment finding, which gives the agency the authority to regulate greenhouse gas emissions. If the Trump administration adopts an inside-the-fence approach, it would mean those angling to challenge the endangerment finding have lost a key battle.
>
> The meetings came after recent reports that EPA was planning to pursue a legal strategy known as the "112 exclusion," which argued the agency couldn't regulate power plants under Section 111(d) of the Clean Air Act — as the Clean Power Plan proposed — because they were already hit with limits for mercury and air toxins under Section 112.
>
> Those pushing for a full Clean Power Plan repeal have acknowledged that a twin effort to scrub the

endangerment finding may be necessary to ward off lawsuits that EPA wasn't doing enough to address emissions. A move to develop any carbon rules for power plants, however, would amount to an implicit admission that greenhouse gas emissions deserve curbing.
>
> "If they had already decided that's what they wanted to do, then there would be no reason to develop this inside-the-fence-line approach," Jeff Holmstead, a partner at Bracewell LLP and former EPA air chief under President George W. Bush, said in an interview.
>
> The White House referred E&E News to EPA, which did not return a request for comment.
>
> 'Skepticism' about axing endangerment finding
>
> EPA officials under Obama argued the electricity system required regulation as an interconnected entity, thereby achieving emissions reductions beyond power plants' physical parameters. Opponents, though, said that view was too expansive — some have argued regulations must apply to power plants themselves, while others maintain EPA lacks authority to regulate power plant carbon emissions because it already caps mercury emissions.
>
> Utilities have pushed for the inside-the-fence-line approach rather than a full dismantling of the Clean Power Plan because they say it provides more certainty. They argue that something like requiring on-site efficiency improvements could prevent future presidents from pursuing ever-more aggressive rules. Detractors in the environmental community note, however, that emissions reductions under this scenario would be small.
>
> The Edison Electric Institute, a trade group representing investor-owned utilities, declined to say what it advocated for in its July 26 meeting — for which White House energy adviser Mike Catanzaro was present — though it has in the past advocated for an inside-the-fence tactic.
>
> An industry source who wasn't present for that meeting noted Catanzaro had expressed "skepticism" about the administration's ability to overturn the endangerment finding. The source said Catanzaro was concerned about getting into endless litigation, as the administration would need to compile anthologies of climate change science that refuted greenhouse gas emissions' effects on a warming planet — a heady if not impossible task.
>
> That said, the industry source wasn't ready to take bets on where the administration would end up on the Clean Power Plan.
>
> "There's wide agreement among the utility industry that inside-the-fence-line would make more sense," the source said. "But there's certainly other people pushing for a different approach, including people who have sway with this White House. I'd be very cautious saying anything definitive."
>
> An inside-the-fence-line plan is "ultimately not enough in the long term" when it comes to restricting regulation on energy, said Tom Pyle, president of the conservative Institute for Energy Research. Pyle said in an interview that he's "not surprised" the business community is lobbying for that approach, though.
>
> "Obviously wherever as aggressively EPA could go is where I'd be comfortable with," said Pyle, who also ran Trump's Energy Department transition team, stating his desire to whack the endangerment finding.
>
> Some haven't given up hope on the Section 112 exclusion and an ultimate challenging of the endangerment finding. Myron Ebell, director of the Competitive Enterprise Institute's Center for Energy and Environment, said in an email that the White House could ask for input on both the inside-the-fence-line approach and Section 112 exclusion in the public comment portion of the rulemaking process after rescinding the Clean Power Plan.
>

> To environmental groups, a move to regulate inside the fence line would signal that the administration is taking policy cues from industry rather than the far right. Utilities and manufacturers, after all, were chief advocates of such a plan when the Obama administration rolled out its regulation, which sought a 32 percent reduction of power plant emissions below 2005 levels by 2030. That largely relied on shifts from coal-fired power to natural gas and renewable energy.
>
> "An inside-the-fence-line approach with an argument in the alternative that industry lacks authority to regulate carbon emissions under Section 111 follows the industry talking points to a T," John Walke, senior attorney and clean air director with the Natural Resources Defense Council, said in an interview.
> Bloomberg
> https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2017-08-01/refiners-argue-epa-can-cut-biofuel-quota-despite-defeat-in-court
> Refiners Argue EPA Can Cut Biofuel Quota Despite Defeat in Court
> By Jennifer Dlouhy and Ari Natter, 8/1/17
>
> Refiners told the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to cut biofuel quotas for 2018, arguing that a federal court decision against the agency shouldn't prevent it from setting targets below levels enshrined in law.
>
> The administration of President Donald Trump still has the authority to waive congressional biofuel levels to avert economic or environmental harm, refiner Valero Energy Corp. and oil industry trade groups said at an EPA hearing on the issue Tuesday in Washington. Economic harm could result, industry groups said, if refiners are forced to blend more than 10 percent ethanol into the fuel supply, a level the oil industry dubs the blend wall.
>
> "The ethanol blend wall is a real constraint on today's fuel supply system that makes the statutory volumes unattainable and limits the use of ethanol," said Frank Macchiarola, a group director at the American Petroleum Institute, which represents oil companies such as Exxon Mobil Corp.
>
> Nothing in a ruling by a federal court in Washington last week "clips the wings of the EPA" to set lower biofuel quotas that avoid economic harm, said Scott Segal, a Bracewell LLP lobbyist representing Valero. "Severe harm can be established on a number of fronts."
>
> Biofuel producers such as Poet LLC, however, argued that ruling largely handcuffs the EPA, forcing the government to require the use of 15 billion gallons of ethanol and more next generation biofuel next year and for years to come.
>
> The dueling opinions illustrate the challenge facing Trump and EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt as they try to fulfill political promises to help corn farmers in the Midwest, appease oil companies eager to protect market share and live within the contours of a biofuel mandate created last decade when the U.S. was hooked on imports of Mideast crude.
>
> In a unanimous ruling Friday, a three-judge panel sided with ethanol producers in saying the EPA was wrong to justify setting lower quotas for 2016 based on constraints in demand, such as limited infrastructure to deliver the product to consumers or the availability of higher blended fuel mixes. For years, the oil industry has argued that the congressional target in the Renewable Fuel Standard push refiners past a 10 percent blend wall for ethanol in gasoline -- the amount that can be easily blended because it is acceptable in all cars and trucks. Ethanol producers argued that was the entire point of the law.
>
> Most gasoline sold in the U.S. is E10, or 10 percent ethanol. Higher ethanol blends, including E15 and E85, are not available at all filling stations and not all vehicles can use them, oil industry leaders said Tuesday.
>
> Trump's EPA has proposed requiring the use of 15 billion gallons of conventional renewable fuels in 2018 -- the maximum allowed for that category in law -- while lowering proposed quotas for advanced

alternatives that have been slow to commercialize, including cellulosic ethanol made from corn stalks and other non-edible materials. The agency is set to finalize the 2018 targets before the end of this year.
>
> The Side of Pessimism
>
> Biofuel groups complained that the reductions for advanced biofuel use will curtail growth in the market.
>
> "The agency has erred on the side of pessimism with regard to the potential for significant growth in cellulosic ethanol," said Bob Dinneen, head of the Renewable Fuels Association. The "spirit and intent" of the law was to "maximize the nation's use of these fuels, to drive marketplace innovation and investment in these new technologies, and to make the U.S. more energy diverse."
>
> Jan Koninckx, DuPont Co.'s global business director for advanced biofuels, said Trump's EPA used a flawed methodology to estimate potential cellulosic ethanol production and propose requiring 238 million gallons of it for 2018. That's down from 311 million gallons required this year.
>
> "EPA must revisit the process used in the current proposal for cellulosic ethanol and follow its own guidance and process used for the 2016 and 2017 cellulosic" quotas, Koninckx said.
>
> Higher advanced biofuel targets would help drive innovation and spur more production, said Pete Ricketts, the governor of Nebraska.
>
> Still, overall, EPA's "proposal is consistent with the president's statements of support for the corn ethanol industry," Ricketts said.
> The Washington Post
> https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/post-politics/wp/2017/08/02/trump-signs-bill-imposing-new-sanctions-on-russia-but-issues-a-statement-with-concerns/?hpid=hp_hp-top-table-main_trumprussia-1105a%3Ahomepage%2Fstory&utm_term=.0b1922766dca
> Trump Signs What He Calls 'Seriously Flawed' Bill Imposing New Sanctions On Russia
> By Abby Phillip, 8/2/17
>
> President Trump on Wednesday signed a bill that imposes new sanctions on Russia, ending immediate hopes that he might be able to reset U.S. relations with the Kremlin as Congress overruled his opposition to the provisions' curb on his executive power.
>
> Trump's reluctant signing of the legislation came nearly a week after it was approved by an overwhelming, bipartisan majority in the Senate and after a similarly large majority in the House. The president issued two statements outlining his concerns with the bill, which he called "seriously flawed," primarily because it limits his ability to negotiate sanctions without congressional approval.
>
> "By limiting the Executive's flexibility, this bill makes it harder for the United States to strike good deals for the American people, and will drive China, Russia, and North Korea much closer together," Trump said in a statement on Wednesday morning. "The Framers of our Constitution put foreign affairs in the hands of the President.
>
> "This bill will prove the wisdom of that choice," he added.
>
> The signing statement, long a controversial tool of president, expresses the president's concern with legislation but it does nothing to halt or amend it. The president had the ability to veto it, but it would likely have been overridden by majorities in Congress.
>
> Lawmakers' solidarity in tying Trump's hands on this issue reflects a deepening concern about the administration's posture toward Russia, which critics have characterized as naive. The new Russia sanctions expand on measures taken by the Obama administration to punish the Kremlin for its alleged efforts to interfere in the 2016 election. But Trump has continued to doubt that Russia was responsible and he has called the investigations in Congress and by the special counsel into Russian meddling a

“witch hunt.”
>
> The administration's lobbying of lawmakers in public and private to pull back the bill's requirement that Congress review any attempt by the president to amend sanctions against Moscow ultimately fell on deaf ears. The measure imposes a 30-day review period to give Congress a chance to vote down any of the president’s proposed changes to Russia sanctions before they can be implemented.
>
> Despite Trump's considerable objections, House Speaker Paul D. Ryan (R-Wis.) praised the bill becoming law.
>
> “Today, the United States sent a powerful message to our adversaries that they will be held accountable for their actions,” Ryan said. “These sanctions directly target the destructive and destabilizing activities of Iran, Russia, and North Korea.
>
> “We will continue to use every instrument of American power to defend this nation and the people we serve,” he added.
>
> Trump said that he signed the bill despite his reservations for the sake of “national unity.” In a second statement accompanying his signing of the legislation, Trump called some of the provisions in the legislation “clearly unconstitutional.”
>
> And in a pointed jab at lawmakers in his own party, he questioned Congress's ability to negotiate sanctions based on its inability to approve the Republicans' health-care legislation.
>
> “The bill remains seriously flawed — particularly because it encroaches on the executive branch’s authority to negotiate,” Trump said. “Congress could not even negotiate a healthcare bill after seven years of talking.”
>
> According to constitutional law experts, Congress rightfully asserted its own constitutional powers to serve as a check on the executive branch, even on matters of national security.
>
> Constitutional and national security expert Michael Glennon from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy said that Trump's statement was “gross misreading” of the case law he cited in his signing statement to bolster his claim that the congressional review provision had unconstitutionally robbed him of the power to negotiate.
>
> “That’s obviously a misguided interpretation of his constitutional authority,” Glennon said. “Congress has very broad authority over foreign commerce — it’s explicitly given the power to regulate commerce with foreign nations.
>
> “It could have, if it desired, imposed those sanctions without giving the president any waiver authority whatsoever,” he added.
>
> The measure also imposes sanctions against North Korea and Iran for those countries' weapons programs.
> Russia has already retaliated against the United States for the new sanctions, announcing that it would order the U.S. Embassy to reduce its staff by 755 people and seize U.S. diplomatic properties.
>
> Trump noted that he supported tough measures to punish the three regimes, and said that he will honor the review period prescribed in the bill.
>
> But in a potential warning to lawmakers that he might not observe those parts of the law, Trump added that he would “give careful and respectful consideration” to other provisions that direct the administration to undertake diplomatic initiatives and require the administration to deny entry to the United States of certain foreign individuals, without exceptions for diplomats.
>

> “My Administration will give careful and respectful consideration to the preferences expressed by the Congress in these various provisions and will implement them in a manner consistent with the President's constitutional authority to conduct foreign relations,” Trump said.
>
> For now, Trump's desire to reset relations with Russia has hit a major speed bump at around the same time that Americans are expressing growing support for an adversarial approach toward the country, according to a survey released Wednesday by the Chicago Council on Global Affairs.
>
> The poll found 53 percent support actively working to limit Russia’s power compared with 43 percent who favor friendly cooperation and engagement, a sharp reversal from last year when 58 percent favored cooperative efforts. Over 4 in 10 say Russian influence in U.S. elections represents a “critical threat” to the country.
>
> The poll finds mixed support for imposing additional sanctions, with 38 percent saying they should be increased and 41 percent saying they should be kept about the same. Far fewer, 17 percent, said the U.S. should decrease or eliminate sanctions on Russia, according to the survey of a random sample of 2,020 adults conducted June 27-July 19.
> In addition to concerns about the review component of the bill, the administration also said it was worried about the impact of the bill on U.S. businesses in Russia.
>
> In a statement late last week, the White House signaled that Trump would eventually sign the measure, and a White House official added that the administration had worked to renegotiate critical elements of it.
>
> Yet even as Putin moved quickly to retaliate against the United States, Trump has not issued any statement — written or otherwise — on the Kremlin's actions.
>
> Trump did argue, however, that he could negotiate deals on behalf of the American people far better than Congress.
>
> “I built a truly great company worth many billions of dollars,” Trump said. “That is a big part of the reason I was elected.
>
> “As President, I can make far better deals with foreign countries than Congress,” he added.
> The New York Times
> https://www.nytimes.com/2017/08/02/us/politics/trump-immigration.html
> Trump Supports Bill That Would Cut Legal Immigration By Half
> By Peter Baker, 8/2/17
>
> President Trump embraced legislation on Wednesday that would cut legal immigration to the United States in half within a decade by sharply curtailing the ability of American citizens and legal residents to bring family members into the country.
>
> Arguing that the United States has taken in too many low-skilled immigrants for too long, Mr. Trump invited two Republican senators to the White House to put his weight behind their bill that would judge applicants for legal residency on the basis of education, language ability and job abilities that would benefit the country.
>
> “This competitive application process will favor applicants who can speak English, financially support themselves and their families and demonstrate skills that will contribute to our economy,” Mr. Trump said.
>
> “This legislation,” he added, “will not only restore our competitive edge in the 21st century, but it will restore the sacred bonds of trust between America and its citizens. This legislation demonstrates our compassion for struggling American families who deserve an immigration system that puts their needs first and that puts America first.”
>
> The bill, sponsored by Senators Tom Cotton of Arkansas and David Perdue of Georgia, would reduce

overall legal immigration by 41 percent in its first year and by 50 percent by its 10th year, according to projections cited by its authors. The reductions would come almost entirely from those brought in through family ties. The number of immigrants granted legal residency on the basis of job skills, about 140,000, would remain roughly the same, though a much higher proportion of the reduced overall number.
>
> The proposal revives an idea that was included in broader immigration legislation supported by President George W. Bush in 2007 but that failed in Congress. Republican supporters argued that it would modernize immigration policy that had not been updated significantly in half a century, but critics in both parties contended it would harm the economy by keeping out workers who filled low-wage jobs that Americans did not want.
>
> Under the current system, most legal immigrants are admitted to the United States based on family ties. American citizens can sponsor spouses, parents and minor children for visas that are not subject to any numerical caps, while siblings and adult children get preferences for a limited number of visas available to them. Legal permanent residents holding green cards can also sponsor spouses and children.
>
> In 2014, 64 percent of more than one million immigrants admitted with legal residency were immediate relatives of American citizens or sponsored by family members. Just 15 percent entered on the basis of employment-based preferences, according to the Migration Policy Institute, an independent research organization. But that does not mean that those who came in on family ties were necessarily low skilled or uneducated.
>
> The projections cited by the sponsors said legal immigration would decrease to 637,960 after a year and to 539,958 after a decade.
>
> The legislation would establish a system of skills points based on education, English speaking ability, high-paying job offers, age, record of achievement and entrepreneurial initiative. But while it would still allow the spouses and minor children of Americans and legal residents to come in, it would eliminate preference for other relatives, like siblings and adult children. The bill would create a renewable temporary visa for elderly parents who come for caretaking purposes.
>
> The legislation would limit refugees offered permanent residency to 50,000 a year and eliminate a diversity visa lottery that the sponsors said does not promote diversity. The senators said their bill is meant to emulate “merit-based” systems in Canada and Australia.
>
> “Our current system does not work,” Mr. Perdue said. “It keeps America from being competitive.”
>
> Mr. Cotton rejected the notion that the current system was a symbol of American compassion. “It’s a symbol that we’re not committed to working-class Americans and we need to change that,” he said.
>
> But Senator Lindsey Graham, Republican of South Carolina, criticized the measure, noting that agriculture is his state’s No. 1 industry and tourism is No. 2. “If this proposal were to become law, it would be devastating to our state’s economy, which relies on this immigrant work force,” he said.
>
> “Hotels, restaurants, golf courses and farmers,” he added, “will tell you this proposal to cut legal immigration in half would put their business in peril.”
> The Oklahoman
> http://newsok.com/who-has-raised-the-most-so-far-in-2018-governors-race/article/5558535
> Oklahoma Lt. Gov. Lamb Leads In Fundraising In Governor's Race
> By Nolan Clay, 8/2/17
>
> Lt. Gov. Todd Lamb raised more than $2 million in his bid to become the state's next governor, the most so far of the 13 candidates already in the 2018 race, their campaign reports show.
>
> Oklahoma City Mayor Mick Cornett reported raising $181,000.
>

> Lamb and Cornett are among six Republicans seeking the state's top elected position.
>
> Drew Edmondson, a former state attorney general, is the top fundraiser among the four Democrats in the race, collecting $300,211 so far.
>
> The campaign reports — filed at the Oklahoma Ethics Commission — cover donations and expenses through June 30. The deadline to file them was Monday.
>
> Most of the candidates were filing their first reports in the race that could become the most expensive in state history.
>
> Lamb on Monday reported collecting $1,089,273 in direct and in-kind contributions since starting his gubernatorial campaign in April. He added $1,004,772 in June that was left over from his 2014 lieutenant governor campaign.
>
> Lamb said last month he is pleased and humbled by his strong support so far.
>
> He said Tuesday he now has well over 700 contributors to his campaign.
>
> “It's not just about raising money," he said. "It is about building the infrastructure and the campaign team that will not only help us win the election, but will be ready to rebuild and renew Oklahoma.”
>
> Tulsa attorney Gary Richardson was second in fundraising among the GOP candidates. He reported raising $185,729 through June 30, mostly from personal loans to his campaign.
>
> He also already has spent most of that money, including $33,110 for polling, his report shows. His campaign only had $5,757 on hand June 30, according to his report.
>
> "With the ongoing budget crisis these past months, I made a conscious decision to delay my fundraising efforts in order to focus on preventing the proposed tax increases in our state," Richardson said Tuesday.
>
> "I am confident that, between our fundraising efforts and what I will put into the campaign personally, we will have more than enough money to get our conservative message out to the people of Oklahoma and be victorious in 2018," he said.
>
> Richardson ran for governor once before — in 2002 as an independent. That time, he raised $2.7 million, mostly from his own pocket.
>
> Cornett, who has been mayor of Oklahoma City for more than 13 years, said, “I have been amazed by the outpouring of support we have received statewide during the first few days of our campaign."
>
> Another well-known Republican, Gary Jones, had a much more modest fundraising total. Jones, the state auditor and inspector, reported collecting only $22,585 in his bid for governor.
>
> "I've got a job to do," Jones said Tuesday. "I've been working on my job. I knew that I probably wouldn't have as much as a lot of people."
>
> Jones said his goal is to win on Election Day "not travel around the state and spend all my time gathering up campaign contributions."
>
> "As we've seen, money doesn't always win it," he said.
>
> Two other GOP candidates, former state Rep. Dan Fisher and mortgage banker Kevin Stitt, have just begun campaign efforts and did not have to file reports yet.
>
> The Democrats

>
> Edmondson has run for governor before, too, narrowly losing in 2010 in the Democratic primary election.
>
> He said Monday his strong fundraising so far "shows that people are frustrated with our state's current leadership."
>
> "They're ready for a governor who will fight for them instead of the billion-dollar corporations that dictate business as usual at the state Capitol," he said.
>
> Second in fundraising among the Democrats was state Rep. Scott Inman, the House minority leader. He reported raising $99,566, more than a third coming from funds left over from his last legislative race.
>
> "We've always known that we're not going to have the famous name or the big fat cats behind us but we are determined to work harder than anybody else in the race," Inman said. "We were very encouraged by the overwhelming support we received from donors all across the state."
>
> Inman, of Del City, said many of his more than 300 donors are "middle-class folks" who can only afford $50 or so.
>
> In third was former state Sen. Connie Johnson, of Oklahoma City. She reported raising $21,057 through June 30.
>
> In fourth was Norman Brown, a retired mechanic from Oklahoma City. He reported raising $1,421.
>
> The Libertarians
>
> Three Libertarian candidates are in the race.
>
> Big cat breeder Joseph Maldonado, also known as Joe Exotic, reported raising $3,012.
>
> Most of his total was a $2,635 in-kind donation from the Greater Wynnewood Exotic Animal Park for the "purchase of T-shirts to be given away."
>
> Chris Powell, of Bethany, reported raising $234. Rex Lawhorn, of Broken Arrow, just registered his campaign committee with the Ethics Commission in July and did not have to report any contributions yet
> TRUMP TWEETS
>
[cid:image001.jpg@01D30BAB.4959EE60]<https://twitter.com/realDonaldTrump/status/892741272259133441>[cid:image002.jpg@01D30BAB.4959EE60]<https://twitter.com/realDonaldTrump/status/892749228291874816>
>
[cid:image003.jpg@01D30BAB.4959EE60]<https://twitter.com/realDonaldTrump/status/892782712322437120>[cid:image004.jpg@01D30BAB.4959EE60]<https://twitter.com/realDonaldTrump/status/892814520942460928.>
>
>
> Michael Abboud
> U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
> Office of Public Affairs
> M: Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy
>
> <image001.jpg>
> <image002.jpg>
> <image003.jpg>
> <image004.jpg>

> <EPA Evening News Highlights 8.2.17.docx>

To: Lynn, Tricia[lynn.tricia@epa.gov]; Press[Press@epa.gov]
From: Block, Molly
Sent: Thur 5/3/2018 3:43:09 PM
Subject: RE: FOR REVIEW: BuzzFeed (John Templon) RE: Lead-Contaminated Sites. (5/4)

Ok. Please send on background.

From: Lynn, Tricia
Sent: Thursday, May 3, 2018 11:37 AM
To: Press <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: FOR REVIEW: BuzzFeed (John Templon) RE: Lead-Contaminated Sites. (5/4)

Background:

Reporter is asking about 13 lead-contaminated public housing sites EPA found following a 2016 data review with HUD. He's looking for the list of sites. John Templon (john.templon@buzzfeed.com), BuzzFeed.

Suggested Response:

Ex. 5 - Deliberative Process

Ex. 5 - Deliberative Process

From: John Templon [mailto:john.templon@buzzfeed.com]
Sent: Tuesday, May 01, 2018 1:59 PM
To: Lynn, Tricia <lynn.tricia@epa.gov>
Subject: Lead-Contaminated Sites

Dear Tricia,

I was reading a story on Bloomberg about 13 lead-contaminated public housing sites the EPA found following a 2016 data review with HUD. Three were mentioned specifically: Chicago, Indianapolis, Chattanooga, but would it be possible to get the full list?

Article for reference: https://www.bna.com/epa-widens-superfund-n73014462810/

Thanks,

-John

--

John Templon

Investigative Data Reporter, **BuzzFeed News**

@jtemplon

(o) Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy

(c) Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy

To: Press[Press@epa.gov]
From: Lynn, Tricia
Sent: Thur 5/3/2018 3:36:59 PM
Subject: FOR REVIEW: BuzzFeed (John Templon) RE: Lead-Contaminated Sites. (5/4)

Background:

Reporter is asking about 13 lead-contaminated public housing sites EPA found following a 2016 data review with HUD. He's looking for the list of sites. John Templon (john.templon@buzzfeed.com), BuzzFeed.

Suggested Response:

Ex. 5 - Deliberative Process

Ex. 5 - Deliberative Process

From: John Templon [mailto:john.templon@buzzfeed.com]
Sent: Tuesday, May 01, 2018 1:59 PM
To: Lynn, Tricia <lynn.tricia@epa.gov>
Subject: Lead-Contaminated Sites

Dear Tricia,

I was reading a story on Bloomberg about 13 lead-contaminated public housing sites the EPA found following a 2016 data review with HUD. Three were mentioned specifically: Chicago, Indianapolis, Chattanooga, but would it be possible to get the full list?

Article for reference: https://www.bna.com/epa-widens-superfund-n73014462810/

Thanks,

-John

--

John Templon

Investigative Data Reporter, **BuzzFeed News**

@jtemplon

(o) Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy

(c) Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy

To: Block, Molly[block.molly@epa.gov]
Cc: Ferguson, Lincoln[ferguson.lincoln@epa.gov]; Beach, Christopher[beach.christopher@epa.gov]; Wilcox, Jahan[wilcox.jahan@epa.gov]; Daniell, Kelsi[daniell.kelsi@epa.gov]; Konkus, John[konkus.john@epa.gov]
From: Bowman, Liz
Sent: Fri 3/23/2018 2:34:24 PM
Subject: Re: FOR REVIEW: EPA's Weekly Report for 3/23/18 - Preview

This looks great? Just change "convene" to past tense in the intro

On Mar 23, 2018, at 10:31 AM, Block, Molly <block.molly@epa.gov> wrote:

No Images? Click here

EPA'S WEEKLY REPORT

This week Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Scott Pruitt sat down with more than a dozen reporters across all mediums to discuss the important work the Agency is doing to ensure regulatory certainty for America's farmers, ranchers, and businesses during National Agriculture Week. Pruitt also advanced the Trump Administration's infrastructure agenda with a push to eradicate lead from drinking water and convene a national leadership summit on PFAS to update America's crumbling water infrastructure.

NATIONAL NEWS ...

In an exclusive interview with the Daily Caller, EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt laid out his plans to end the use of "secret science" to craft Agency regulations. "Pruitt will reverse long-standing EPA policy allowing regulators to rely on non-public scientific data in crafting rules. Such studies have been used to justify tens of billions of dollars worth of regulations. EPA regulators would only be allowed to consider scientific studies that make their data available for public scrutiny under Pruitt's new policy. Also, EPA-funded studies would need to make all their data public."

EPA Administrator Pruitt sat down with AgDay to talk about issues impacting farmers and ranchers including EPA's efforts to provide certainty by redefining "Waters of the U.S." According to Pruitt, a substitute or replacement definition will be issued sometime this year, a definition that will recognize private property ownership and the roles of states, and will answer the question of what exactly is a water of the United States. 'We're going to get that right going forward, and the definition is going to provide clarity, objective measurements by which we know where federal jurisdiction begins and ends,' he said."

OP-ED ...

In the Washington Times, EPA Administrator Pruitt outline the Agency's efforts to overhaul the permitting process to "rebuild and revitalize our nation's crumbling infrastructure. "The

president's ambitious proposal calls for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to play a leading role in the administration's efforts ... America's infrastructure was once the envy of the world. The president's proposal will restore our roads, bridges and waterways to greatness and create a safer, stronger America. Through regulatory reforms and targeted investments, EPA will spearhead the much-needed repairs to infrastructure in a way that provides tangible environmental benefits to all Americans."

REGIONAL NEWS ...

The Detroit News reported that eradicating lead from drinking water is one of EPA Administrator Pruitt's top priorities. "'I do think that what happened in Flint is something that could happen elsewhere. We just simply need to take steps to do all that we can to address it prospectively and proactively,' Pruitt said. Pruitt said President Donald Trump's $1.5 trillion plan to bolster the nation's infrastructure over the next decade would include investments in aging water infrastructure."

While speaking with the New York Post, Pruitt called for a local, state, and federal response to the lead crisis in New York City and across the country. "EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt called for a 'coordinated' response between New York State and City officials to address the ongoing lead crisis."

In an interview with New Jersey Advance Media, Pruitt discussed efforts to make cleaning up Superfund sites a priority to advance the Agency's core mission. "The Environmental Protection Agency plans to step up efforts to get companies who dumped toxic waste at New Jersey's Superfund sites to pay to clean them up, Administrator Scott Pruitt said. Pruitt on Monday blamed a lack of urgency... New Jersey has 114 designated Superfund sites, the most in the nation, included three of Pruitt's 21 highest-priority locations.

Pruitt reiterated his commitment to prioritizing the Superfund program to clean up America's most contaminated sites, including Tar Creek, in an interview with the Tulsa World. "Administrator Scott Pruitt of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency said his new push on the nation's Superfund program finally can provide clarity and accountability to the Tar Creek area, for decades one of the oldest, largest and most complex toxic sites in the nation. 'It is really unacceptable,' Pruitt said as he recalled the history of the Tar Creek area in far northeastern Oklahoma, whose Superfund legacy dates back to 1983, as well as the amount of money and time deployed there."

At his week's regional roundtable, the Albuquerque Journal reported on progress the Trump Administration is making on claim stemming from the 2015 Gold King Mine spill. "Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Scott Pruitt said Monday that the federal government is close to finishing its assessment of roughly 400 claims for financial damages stemming from the 2015 Gold King Mine spill, which dumped toxic chemicals into waters in New Mexico, Colorado and Utah, and final recommendations could be ready by the end of the month.

RADIO ...

This week, Administrator Pruitt joined WZFG 1100 AM The Flag – North Dakota to talk about his first year accomplishments, including repeal and replacement of both "Waters of the U.S." rule and Clean Power Plan.

Administrator Pruitt also joined the Lars Larson Show, based in Portland, Ore., and discussed how he's working to get the EPA back to basics and provide regulatory certainty for all Americans.

On the St. Louis, Missouri's own Mark Reardon Show, Administrator Pruitt talked a little about baseball and a lot about the good work the Agency is doing to improve environmental outcomes across the country.

Scott Voorhees on 1110 KFAF–Omaha had Administrator Pruitt on his show Wednesday to talk about what's to come at the EPA this year, including a continued focused on Superfund clean-up and regulatory transparency.

TWEETS ...

FRONT PAGES ...

http://usenvironmentalprotectionagency.cmail20.com/t/d-i-odyjlil-l-m/

<image001.png>

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue Northwest
Washington, D.C. 20004

Unsubscribe

To: Jahan Wilcox (wilcox.jahan@epa.gov)[wilcox.jahan@epa.gov]; Lincoln Ferguson (ferguson.lincoln@epa.gov)[ferguson.lincoln@epa.gov]; Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
From: Bowman, Liz
Sent: Thur 4/5/2018 7:39:02 PM
Subject: FW: CFA FOIA lawsuit

From: Russ Choma [mailto:rchoma@motherjones.com]
Sent: Thursday, April 5, 2018 3:37 PM
To: Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>
Subject: CFA FOIA lawsuit

Hi Liz,

I just saw a copy of a lawsuit filed today by Campaign For Accountability claiming that the EPA has not been responsive to its FOIA requests regarding the Tar Creek scandal – do you have a response?

More specifically, the FOIA request they're suing over seems to be probing to find out whether anyone in Administrator Pruitt's office has been in contact with anyone in Oklahoma state government about the way the state should handle requests to unseal an audit of the Tar Creek buyout program that was commissioned when Pruitt was Oklahoma AG – has there been any contact between EPA officials and Oklahoma officials on the issue?

The FOIA requests also seem to be trying to determine if any EPA officials were involved with the leaking or distribution of a 2013 EPA IG report on the buyout program – was there any involvement by EPA officials in that report's recent publication?

I'm going to press ASAP, but am very happy to include anything you can pass on as an update. Can fwd a copy of the lawsuit if you haven't seen it.

Thanks,

--

Russ Choma

Mother Jones

Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy

Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy

To: Abboud, Michael[abboud.michael@epa.gov]; Beach, Christopher[beach.christopher@epa.gov]; Block, Molly[block.molly@epa.gov]; Daniell, Kelsi[daniell.kelsi@epa.gov]; Hewitt, James[hewitt.james@epa.gov]; Konkus, John[konkus.john@epa.gov]; Wilcox, Jahan[wilcox.jahan@epa.gov]
From: Bowman, Liz
Sent: Tue 2/13/2018 3:01:52 PM
Subject: RE: FOR APPROVAL: EPA News Highlights 2.13.18

thanks

From: Abboud, Michael
Sent: Tuesday, February 13, 2018 9:29 AM
To: Beach, Christopher <beach.christopher@epa.gov>; Block, Molly <block.molly@epa.gov>; Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>; Daniell, Kelsi <daniell.kelsi@epa.gov>; Hewitt, James <hewitt.james@epa.gov>; Konkus, John <konkus.john@epa.gov>; Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>
Subject: FOR APPROVAL: EPA News Highlights 2.13.18

EPA News Highlights 2.13.18

The Washington Examiner: EPA Reaches $10 Million Settlement With Shell

Energy giant Shell agreed to install $10 million in emissions control equipment at a Louisiana chemical plant as part of a settlement Monday with the Environmental Protection Agency and Justice Department. EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt said the agreement demonstrates the agency's "dedication" to working with the states to pursue violations of federal clean air laws and bring violating companies into compliance. “This settlement will improve air quality for citizens of Louisiana by reducing emissions of harmful air pollution,” Pruitt said. The EPA, Justice Department and the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality announced the settlement with Shell Chemical for emissions violations stemming from the company's chemical plant in Norco, La. The settlement will result in the elimination of more than 150 tons of excess emissions of harmful air pollutants. It resolves charges that Shell violated the Clean Air Act and state law by not properly operating flaring units to burn off excess gases. The settlement, in addition to making the $10 million in improvements, also fined the company civil penalties totaling $350,000, including $87,500 to state regulators.

E&E News: Trump Wants To End EPA Dredge And Fill Permitting, Vetoes

The Trump administration wants to eliminate U.S. EPA authority over dredging and filling the nation's wetlands and waterways. The proposal — which would require congressional approval — was included in the Trump administration's infrastructure plan released today. The plan would give the Army Corps of Engineers complete authority over the Clean Water Act Section 404 program, taking EPA out of the process. The administration also wants to eliminate EPA's 404(c) veto power over permits it disagrees with. The proposal would mean the Army Corps would be solely responsible for reviewing project proposals and permitting them.

Milwaukee Journal Sentinel: No. 2 Wisconsin DNR official joins Cathy Stepp at regional office of the EPA in Chicago

A second top state official at the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources is moving to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's regional office in Chicago — an agency that oversees federal regulatory issues in the Midwest, including Wisconsin. Kurt Thiede, deputy secretary of the DNR, is joining the EPA as chief of staff for Cathy Stepp, the recently appointed regional administrator of the environmental enforcement agency. Thiede was appointed deputy DNR secretary in March 2015 by Republican Gov. Scott Walker and has worked at the state agency since 1999 in a variety of positions. He told fellow employees in a memo Monday that one of his goals had been to change the perception that the DNR was a regulatory agency to be feared. The move of Stepp and now Thiede to the EPA comes at a time when Foxconn Technology Group has started to submit environmental permit applications to the DNR for a massive industrial complex in Racine County.

Oklahoma Energy Today: EPA Disagrees With Auditor Jones Over Tar Creek Trust

Oklahoma State Auditor and Inspector Gary Jones apparently has a different opinion about the way contracts were handled by the Trust created to handle the relocation of homes and businesses at the Tar Creek Superfund site. He thinks there might have been criminal wrongdoing. But the Tulsa World reported over the weekend that a federal investigator concluded otherwise. The paper said a 2013 report by the Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Inspector General claimed there were no irregularities or violations of law concerning the handling of the bids and contracts at Tar Creek in northeast Oklahoma. The paper quoted the investigator from the report. "Extensive record reviews and interviews were conducted and did not disclose evidence to support the allegations," Special Agent Susan Chandler wrote in the OIG report. The OIG report was initially obtained by a member of the Lead-Impacted Communities Relocation Assistance Trust in 2014.

Bloomberg BNA: Water Infrastructure Among Few EPA Winners In Trump Budget Plan

Water infrastructure funding would be essentially shielded from the deep cuts the Trump

administration is seeking in Environmental Protection Agency funding in fiscal 2019, even as the president seeks to eliminate or greatly reduce regional water quality programs. The president's budget request released Feb. 12 would provide $6.15 billion to the EPA for the fiscal year that begins Oct. 1, a reduction of about 25 percent from the fiscal 2017 enacted levels. A proposed cut that deep is expected to encounter resistance from Senate Democrats and even some Republicans. At the same time, the proposed budget would maintain funding levels for EPA-funded water infrastructure projects. Overall, the EPA's two largest water funds, which provide money to states for infrastructure loans, would receive almost $2.3 billion in fiscal 2019.

National News Highlights 2.13.18

The Wall Street Journal: Shale Output Hasn't Grown This Fast Since Oil Was At $100

U.S. shale companies are churning out crude oil at a record pace that could overwhelm global demand and reverse the oil market's fragile recovery, a top energy-market observer said Tuesday. U.S. shale production is growing faster in 2018 than it did even during the boom years of $100 a barrel oil prices from 2011 to 2014, said the International Energy Agency in its closely watched monthly report. The difference this time: Oil prices are about 40% lower. The situation is "reminiscent of the first wave of U.S. shale growth," when a flood of American oil built up a global glut that sent prices crashing over four years ago, said the Paris-based IEA, which advises governments and corporations on energy trends. Oil prices fell after the report's release in Europe before recovering somewhat. Brent, the international benchmark was down 0.06% at $62.55 while U.S. prices were down 0.27% at $59.13.

Bloomberg: Americans Expect Biggest Pay Jump In Years

Americans are more optimistic about wage growth than they have been in years. U.S. consumers anticipate earnings will rise 2.73 percent in the coming year, the most since data collection began in 2013, according to the results of a New York Fed survey released Monday and conducted last month. January was only the third month in the survey's 56-month history in which expected wage growth topped expected consumer price inflation, which fell slightly, to 2.71 percent.

The Wall Street Journal: Trump's Big Public Works Dig

The real earth-moving parts of Mr. Trump's plan are the regulatory reforms, some of which will need to be fleshed out. The President wants to establish "one agency, one decision" for environmental reviews that would avoid regulatory hop-scotch. Good idea. Mr. Trump also suggests reducing environmental reviews to two years that can now drag out for a decade. Even

many Democrats would like to expedite their favorite projects that have been grounded due to the discovery of a tiger salamander or other endangered species. Another idea with merit is delegating environmental review and permitting decisions to states. California has been assigned these responsibilities under agreements with the Federal Highway Administration, as have Texas, Florida and Ohio. According to Gov. Brown, California has reduced the approval process from the "notice of intent to final environmental impact statement" on highway projects on average by 10 years. Tucked into the plan is modest flexibility on Buy America requirements and Davis-Bacon, which requires contractors on federal projects to pay workers prevailing wages set by unions. These raise construction costs. While this flexibility is commendable, Mr. Trump's plan will also require tens of thousands of more workers. The Associated General Contractors of America reported last month that 78% of contractors had a hard time hiring. Apprenticeships can make up some of the shortage, but the government will need to increase H-2B visas to avoid delays or exorbitant project costs. Democrats are ripping the President's plan, and no doubt many think they can get more money if they win control of Congress in November. But they shouldn't be so sure. President Trump deserves credit for opening a debate in Congress about why merely spending more on public works won't help the public.

TRUMP TWEETS

The Washington Examiner

http://www.washingtonexaminer.com/epa-reaches-10-million-settlement-with-shell/article/2648888

EPA Reaches $10 Million Settlement With Shell

By John Siciliano, 2/12/18

Energy giant Shell agreed to install $10 million in emissions control equipment at a Louisiana chemical plant as part of a settlement Monday with the Environmental Protection Agency and Justice Department.

EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt said the agreement demonstrates the agency's "dedication" to working with the states to pursue violations of federal clean air laws and bring violating companies into compliance.

“This settlement will improve air quality for citizens of Louisiana by reducing emissions of harmful air pollution,” Pruitt said.

The EPA, Justice Department and the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality announced the settlement with Shell Chemical for emissions violations stemming from the company's chemical plant in Norco, La.

The settlement will result in the elimination of more than 150 tons of excess emissions of harmful air pollutants. It resolves charges that Shell violated the Clean Air Act and state law by not properly operating flaring units to burn off excess gases.

The settlement, in addition to making the $10 million in improvements, also fined the company civil penalties totaling $350,000, including $87,500 to state regulators.

“This agreement is the latest in EPA’s and the Justice Department’s continuing efforts to work with our state partners to protect the American public from harmful air pollution,” said Jeffrey Wood, the Justice Department’s acting assistant attorney general for environment and natural resources.

E&E News

https://www.eenews.net/eenewspm/2018/02/12/stories/1060073641

Trump Wants To End EPA Dredge And Fill Permitting, Vetoes

By Ariel Wittenberg, 2/12/18

The Trump administration wants to eliminate U.S. EPA authority over dredging and filling the nation's wetlands and waterways.

The proposal — which would require congressional approval — was included in the Trump administration's infrastructure plan released today.

The plan would give the Army Corps of Engineers complete authority over the Clean Water Act Section 404 program, taking EPA out of the process.

The administration also wants to eliminate EPA's 404(c) veto power over permits it disagrees with.

The proposal would mean the Army Corps would be solely responsible for reviewing project proposals and permitting them.

While EPA and the Army Corps would continue working on current efforts to rewrite regulations defining which wetlands and small waterways are subject to the Clean Water Act, the administration apparently wants EPA's authority to end there.

Not only would the Army Corps be the only agency to issue jurisdictional determinations about whether specific projects need permits for dredging and filling, the administration also wants to "eliminate duplicative oversight" by removing EPA's veto authority over Army Corps 404 permits.

"The threat of the veto creates significant uncertainty and delays permit decisions," the proposal says. "Removing EPA's authority to veto a 404 permit would make the permitting process more efficient and predictable."

That could have major ramifications for projects nationwide, especially the Pebble mine project in southwestern Alaska.

Last month, U.S. EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt unexpectedly withdrew his attempt to quash proposed pre-emptive restrictions on the controversial mine project (Greenwire, Jan. 30).

Today's proposal would render that meaningless by eliminating 404(c) altogether, leaving Pebble's critics with only EPA's science showing "significant and irreversible harm."

EPA and Army Corps' joint administration of dredging and filling permits dates back to the Clean Water Act's 1972 passage. A deal between the House and Senate during CWA negotiations maintained the Army Corps' traditional authority over dredging and filling as EPA became responsible for water pollution from those projects (Greenwire, June 29, 2017).

The agencies agreed in 1979 that while the Army Corps would be the primary permit administrator, EPA would have the final say. In 1992, the agencies signed another agreement that they would jointly participate in a dual review.

The administration's proposal follows requests from energy companies this fall that EPA be eliminated from 404 permitting.

"Unfortunately, the extreme difference in opinions and backgrounds between the agencies has created a significant disruption in their coordination and program administration," coal company Murray Energy Corp. wrote to the Army Corps in October. "Each agency is struggling to manage the program as they see fit creating an uncertainty and unclear path of progression for the applicants."

The comments were in response to the Army Corps' requests for comments on 30 regulations that "might be appropriate for repeal, replacement or modification" (Greenwire, Oct. 20, 2017).

The Waters Advocacy Coalition, which comprises more than 60 industry groups, also asked the Army Corps to withdraw from both the 1979 and 1992 agreements.

The 1979 agreement, the coalition wrote, "allows EPA to delay and/or second-guess the Corps expertise."

That position is also supported by several construction and farming groups.

"Recognizing the Corps' authority over its own 404 program would promote consistency and certainty, as permit holders could rely on a jurisdictional determination or 404 permit issued by the Corps without having to wonder if EPA will insert itself into the decision making process and undermine the Corps' positions," the National Association of Home Builders wrote.

Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

https://www.jsonline.com/story/news/politics/2018/02/12/no-2-wisconsin-dnr-official-joins-cathy-stepp-regional-office-epa-chicago/330657002/

No. 2 Wisconsin DNR official joins Cathy Stepp at regional office of the EPA in Chicago

By Lee Bergquist, 2/12/18

A second top state official at the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources is moving to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's regional office in Chicago — an agency that oversees federal regulatory issues in the Midwest, including Wisconsin.

Kurt Thiede, deputy secretary of the DNR, is joining the EPA as chief of staff for Cathy Stepp, the recently appointed regional administrator of the environmental enforcement agency.

Thiede was appointed deputy DNR secretary in March 2015 by Republican Gov. Scott Walker and has worked at the state agency since 1999 in a variety of positions. He told fellow employees in a memo Monday that one of his goals had been to change the perception that the DNR was a regulatory agency to be feared.

The move of Stepp and now Thiede to the EPA comes at a time when Foxconn Technology Group has started to submit environmental permit applications to the DNR for a massive industrial complex in Racine County.

The Foxconn project is likely to require some federal environmental reviews or oversight.

Foxconn is planning to construct a $10 billion flat-screen plant in Mount Pleasant. The Taiwan company has already won exemptions from some state environmental rules as part of a state financial incentive package.

The EPA said earlier this month that Stepp has stepped aside from involvement in two ongoing regulatory cases in Wisconsin because of previous ties when she was at the DNR.

Those two cases involve pollution problems at barrel refurbishing plants in St. Francis, Milwaukee and Oak Creek and a longstanding EPA review of the DNR's water regulation program.

Asked if Stepp would recuse herself in other cases, an EPA spokeswoman told the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel on Feb. 6 that Stepp is "consulting with EPA ethics officials to determine which, if any, additional matters she should recuse herself from." The spokeswoman said Monday she had no additional details.

As for Thiede, the spokeswoman said, "Mr. Thiede will consult with EPA ethics officials to determine which matters he should recuse himself from."

Under the Walker administration, Thiede has played an influential role as an experienced agency insider in a department whose top managers mostly came from the outside.

In a memo to DNR employees on Monday, Thiede said:

"When I started to take on leadership roles at the agency I wanted to make sure we began to change the narrative that the DNR was something to be feared, avoided, or maligned.

"I wanted the agency to be viewed as a partner, a resource, and I feel like we have made great strides in this area. I understand that by the nature of our work we can't make everyone happy all the time, but we can change perceptions and make sure that any experience with the agency is professional, respectful and enlightening."

Stepp, a Republican and former builder and state senator from Racine County, oversaw all environmental regulations in Wisconsin as secretary from 2011 until August.

She left the DNR in August for a post in the Trump administration in the Kansas City office of the EPA. On Dec. 19, she was appointed to head up the Midwest regional office in Chicago.

The regional office oversees Wisconsin, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Minnesota and Ohio.

In Madison, DNR Secretary Dan Meyer said Ed Eberle, the assistant deputy secretary, will become the No. 2 official in the agency.

In another move, Pat Stevens, administrator of the environmental management division of the DNR, will become assistant deputy secretary.

Oklahoma Energy Today

http://www.okenergytoday.com/2018/02/epa-disagrees-with-auditor-jones-over-tar-creek-trust/

EPA Disagrees With Auditor Jones Over Tar Creek Trust

By Jerry Bohnen, 2/12/18

Oklahoma State Auditor and Inspector Gary Jones apparently has a different opinion about the way contracts were handled by the Trust created to handle the relocation of homes and businesses at the Tar Creek Superfund site.

He thinks there might have been criminal wrongdoing. But the Tulsa World reported over the weekend that a federal investigator concluded otherwise. The paper said a 2013 report by the Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Inspector General claimed there were no irregularities or violations of law concerning the handling of the bids and contracts at Tar Creek in northeast Oklahoma.

The paper quoted the investigator from the report.

"Extensive record reviews and interviews were conducted and did not disclose evidence to support the allegations," Special Agent Susan Chandler wrote in the OIG report.

The OIG report was initially obtained by a member of the Lead-Impacted Communities Relocation Assistance Trust in 2014.

The investigation and conclusions drawn by the State Auditor were submitted to then-Attorney General Scott Pruitt who chose not to release the report. Current Attorney General Mike Hunter agreed also not to release it.

Jones still contends his report should be released to the public.

"If the attorney general thinks the auditor and inspector's office did shoddy work, I'd think he'd want the public to see it," Jones told the paper last week.

The OIG report lists 15 allegations against LICRAT and project engineer Jack Dalrymple. The World reported they deal with claims that Dalrymple and perhaps trust members conspired to rig the bidding process on a $3 million contract to remove and dispose of abandoned buildings and otherwise rehabilitate the Tar Creek site.

Dalrymple told the newspaper he thinks the Auditor and Inspector's report should be made public and he's not afraid of its release, adding, "I can tell you every single person on that trust was honest and true."

Bloomberg BNA

https://www.bna.com/water-infrastructure-among-n57982088642/

Water Infrastructure Among Few EPA Winners In Trump Budget Plan

By Dean Scott, 2/12/18

Water infrastructure funding would be essentially shielded from the deep cuts the Trump administration is seeking in Environmental Protection Agency funding in fiscal 2019, even as the president seeks to eliminate or greatly reduce regional water quality programs.

The president's budget request released Feb. 12 would provide $6.15 billion to the EPA for the fiscal year that begins Oct. 1, a reduction of about 25 percent from the fiscal 2017 enacted levels. A proposed cut that deep is expected to encounter resistance from Senate Democrats and even some Republicans.

At the same time, the proposed budget would maintain funding levels for EPA-funded water infrastructure projects. Overall, the EPA's two largest water funds, which provide money to states for infrastructure loans, would receive almost $2.3 billion in fiscal 2019.

This $2.3 billion allocation is separate from the $20 billion proposed to go to EPA in the president's infrastructure proposal, which was also released Feb. 12. The $20 billion in the infrastructure plan would be used as matching funds meant to spur states, cities, and private companies to move forward on projects.

Before Congress last week reached a two-year budget deal, which Trump signed Feb. 9, the administration planned to cut more than $380 million from the infrastructure fund that goes toward wastewater projects. That would have been a more than 27 percent reduction from fiscal

2017, the last year for which detailed full-year budget figures exist.

The administration instead kept funding for the wastewater program and for the EPA's drinking water infrastructure program after the budget deal was reached.

Great Lakes, Chesapeake Cleanups Cut

But funding for most regional water quality programs, in which the EPA supports cooperative efforts by states, would take a big hit under the Trump administration's fiscal 2019 request. It is seeking to eliminate EPA support for all such regional programs, with the exception of the Chesapeake Bay and the Great Lakes. Those two programs would be cut to 90 percent below the fiscal 2017 enacted levels.

The Chesapeake Bay regional cleanup effort would receive $7.3 million in fiscal 2019, down from the fiscal 2017 level of $73 million level, and the Great Lakes regional effort would receive $30 million, down from $300 million in fiscal 2017. The Trump administration proposed to eliminate those programs as well in its 2018 budget request, but Congress kept the funding.

Sen. Debbie Stabenow (D-Mich.) vowed to fight to restore that funding for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative.

"This is outrageous," Stabenow said in a Feb. 12 statement. "People across Michigan spoke out and took action last year to stop these cuts and I know they'll do so again."

State water pollution programs also would get less funding under the Trump administration's budget plan. The White House is proposing $153 million for those EPA-funded programs, 33 percent below the enacted fiscal 2017 levels.

State Grant Cuts Sought

Trump also took aim once again at funding for state grants to reduce nonpoint source pollution, which comes from diffuse sources such as land runoff. His EPA budget proposal would

eliminate funding for them in fiscal 2019.

The agency "will continue to coordinate with the United States Department of Agriculture to target funding where appropriate to address nonpoint sources," the administration said in its EPA budget request.

The White House also is proposing to eliminate funding for beach protection, contending that local governments have acquired expertise and procedures to carry out this program without federal funding and technical assistance.

Whether the EPA will actually see an overall cut in those programs or its overall fiscal 2019 budget will depend in part on how Congress allocates increased spending it approved as part of a two-year budget deal that boosted both domestic and defense spending. The White House included an addendum in its budget plan released Feb. 12 to reflect that infusion of funds.

The EPA addendum would provide a boost of $724 million to the EPA, which is included in the $6.15 billion the White House requested in total. The White House proposed to use the additional funding for Superfund sites and EPA-funded state and tribal grants for drinking water and wastewater infrastructure projects.

Fees Boost Chemical Program

The EPA's chemicals program would see an increase in funding under the budget request, thanks to expected fees from the chemical industry.

The EPA requested $58.6 million for the chemicals program, which would represent an 8.8 percent cut from fiscal 2017 enacted levels. However, the EPA anticipates it would more than make up that difference through fees from chemical manufacturers, importers, and processors.

Updates to the nation's chemicals law authorized those fees to help defray agency costs. The EPA recently proposed a fee rule that presumes the agency would collect about $20 million annually.

The Wall Street Journal

https://www.wsj.com/articles/u-s-crude-output-expected-to-outpace-demand-iea-says-1518512404

Shale Output Hasn't Grown This Fast Since Oil Was At $100

By Christopher Alessi, 2/13/18

LONDON—U.S. shale companies are churning out crude oil at a record pace that could overwhelm global demand and reverse the oil market's fragile recovery, a top energy-market observer said Tuesday.

U.S. shale production is growing faster in 2018 than it did even during the boom years of $100 a barrel oil prices from 2011 to 2014, said the International Energy Agency in its closely watched monthly report. The difference this time: Oil prices are about 40% lower.

The situation is "reminiscent of the first wave of U.S. shale growth," when a flood of American oil built up a global glut that sent prices crashing over four years ago, said the Paris-based IEA, which advises governments and corporations on energy trends.

Oil prices fell after the report's release in Europe before recovering somewhat. Brent, the international benchmark was down 0.06% at $62.55 while U.S. prices were down 0.27% at $59.13.

Shale producers "cut costs dramatically" during the nearly three-year-long oil industry downturn, the IEA said. They then took advantage of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries cartel's decision to cut its own output, which helped prices rise from the low $40s to over $70 a barrel as recently as late last month.

“All the indicators that suggest continued fast growth in the U.S. are in perfect alignment,” the IEA said.

The result has been a series of milestones for U.S. oil production, which surpassed 10 million barrels a day for the first time since 1970 and is now higher than Saudi Arabian output. The IEA said the U.S. could catch up with Russia this year, the world’s biggest producer at 11 million barrels a day.

Led by U.S. shale companies, crude output from non-OPEC nations is expected to outpace the growth in oil demand in 2018, the IEA said. That is an important data point for oil traders who have been watching to see if shale production could catch up to robust demand that has been fueled by a strong global economy.

“U.S. shale is growing as sharply as it was in 2013-2014,” said Bjarne Schieldrop, chief commodities analyst at SEB Markets. But the situation is different now because of the OPEC-led agreement to curb production, Mr. Schieldrop added.

OPEC and 10 other countries including Russia—whose combined output accounts for over 55% of global supply—have been steadfast in their resolve to cut output. These countries have cut far more than the 1.8 million barrels a day they promised, according to the IEA.

The shale-oil growth will apply downward pressure on prices in the coming weeks. But as long as OPEC sticks to the deal, there won’t be a dramatic correction like there was in 2014, when prices fell from $114 a barrel to less than $70, Mr. Schieldrop said. Demand for OPEC oil “is not going to decline this year,” he said.

Until two weeks ago, oil prices had risen almost nonstop for over six months.

The optimistic sentiment was driven not only by OPEC but also by strong economic news, geopolitical flare-ups in Iraq, Saudi Arabia and Iran, and supply outages in Venezuela and the U.K. Oil storage levels—a gauge of a still-existing oversupply—have come down.

The IEA said commercial oil inventories in the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development—a group of industrialized, oil-consuming nations, including the U.S.—fell by 55.6 million barrels in December, in the largest drop since 2011.

"The huge drop in inventories is a bullish signal," said Giovanni Staunovo, commodities analyst at UBS Wealth Management.

But inventory levels in the U.S. have begun to rise again, after months of falling, as U.S. output rises.

U.S. crude output in January climbed by 1.3 million barrels a day compared with a year earlier, according to the IEA. Shale output accounted for much of those gains and is forecast to grow 1.25 million barrels a day on its own in 2018—its fastest rate ever, the IEA said.

The numbers represent a turnaround for a U.S. shale industry that was once dismissed as too high-cost to survive when oil prices fell from their peak several years ago.

Bloomberg

https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2018-02-12/americans-expect-biggest-pay-jump-in-years

Americans Expect Biggest Pay Jump In Years

By Matthew Boesler, 2/12/18

Americans are more optimistic about wage growth than they have been in years. U.S. consumers anticipate earnings will rise 2.73 percent in the coming year, the most since data collection began in 2013, according to the results of a New York Fed survey released Monday and conducted last month. January was only the third month in the survey's 56-month history in which expected wage growth topped expected consumer price inflation, which fell slightly, to 2.71 percent.

The Wall Street Journal

https://www.wsj.com/articles/trumps-big-public-works-dig-1518481073

Trump's Big Public Works Dig

By The Wall Street Journal Editorial Board, 2/12/18

The White House on Monday unveiled its plan to raise $1.5 trillion in capital for public works. This will cause sticker shock among Republicans, but the President's innovative regulatory reforms deserve debate and may even garner some Democratic support.

President Trump is proposing to spend $200 billion in federal funds to leverage $1.3 trillion in state, local and private investment in public works. This bid is probably dead on arrival since Republicans have little appetite for more spending after blowing the budget sequestration caps last week.

Many bridges and airports need a face-lift, though claims of crumbling roads are overwrought and often politically motivated. One problem is that public works like other discretionary programs are being squeezed by entitlements, which constitute nearly two-thirds of federal spending. But even while politicians in Washington gripe that we—always the royal "we"—don't spend enough on public works, they consistently prioritize other discretionary programs.

Consider: Of the $787 billion stimulus in 2009, only about $60 billion financed public works. Most was spent on safety-net programs and other progressive causes. More Hurricane Sandy recovery money went to "community development" than repairing train tunnels.

Many projects that do receive federal funding aren't national priorities, such as California's bullet train. That's because the government typically awards "competitive" grants to politically favored projects rather than those that would produce the biggest economic benefits. The Obama Administration rigged cost-benefit analysis to reward projects that would promote public housing and reduce carbon emissions.

Mr. Trump's plan includes $100 billion in "incentives" to spur state and private investment; $50 billion for rural projects; $30 billion in revolving federal credit and capital funds; and $20 billion for "bold and innovative projects" that may not attract private investment "because of the project's unique characteristics." By any other name, this is a national infrastructure bank synonymous with cronyism.

State and local governments have shown they're willing to finance worthwhile projects. According to the Pew Charitable Trusts, more than half of states have raised gas taxes over the past five years to pay for public works. Many innovative projects have no trouble attracting private investment. Consider the Cadiz pipeline, which aims to move 16.3 billion gallons of groundwater each year from the Mojave Desert to Southern California. Or the new desalination plant in Carlsbad, Calif.

Mr. Trump and Congress should instead focus new federal funding on national or regional priorities such as improving port security and repairing the Hudson River train tunnels, which would benefit most of the Northeast. Congress could also shift from categorical and competitive grants to block grants that give governors flexibility. This would also make state and local politicians more accountable for their spending. Let California Gov. Jerry Brown choose between spending billions more on his bullet train in the Central Valley or improving commuter rail in the Bay Area.

The real earth-moving parts of Mr. Trump's plan are the regulatory reforms, some of which will need to be fleshed out. The President wants to establish "one agency, one decision" for environmental reviews that would avoid regulatory hop-scotch. Good idea. Mr. Trump also suggests reducing environmental reviews to two years that can now drag out for a decade. Even many Democrats would like to expedite their favorite projects that have been grounded due to the discovery of a tiger salamander or other endangered species.

Another idea with merit is delegating environmental review and permitting decisions to states. California has been assigned these responsibilities under agreements with the Federal Highway Administration, as have Texas, Florida and Ohio. According to Gov. Brown, California has reduced the approval process from the "notice of intent to final environmental impact statement" on highway projects on average by 10 years.

Tucked into the plan is modest flexibility on Buy America requirements and Davis-Bacon, which requires contractors on federal projects to pay workers prevailing wages set by unions. These raise construction costs. While this flexibility is commendable, Mr. Trump's plan will also require tens of thousands of more workers. The Associated General Contractors of America reported last month that 78% of contractors had a hard time hiring. Apprenticeships can make up some of the shortage, but the government will need to increase H-2B visas to avoid delays or exorbitant project costs.

Democrats are ripping the President's plan, and no doubt many think they can get more money if they win control of Congress in November. But they shouldn't be so sure. President Trump deserves credit for opening a debate in Congress about why merely spending more on public works won't help the public.

TRUMP TWEETS

Donald J. Trump @realDonaldTrump · 3h

Negotiations on DACA have begun. Republicans want to make a deal and Democrats say they want to make a deal. Wouldn't it be great if we could finally, after so many years, solve the DACA puzzle. This will be our last chance, there will never be another opportunity! March 5th.

7.7K 7.5K 32K

Donald J. Trump @realDonaldTrump · 3h

Our infrastructure plan has been put forward and has received great reviews by everyone except, of course, the Democrats. After many years we have taken care of our Military, now we have to fix our roads, bridges, tunnels, airports and more. Bipartisan, make deal Dems?

7.3K 8.6K 37K

Donald J. Trump @realDonaldTrump · 17h

The journey to #MAGA began @CPAC 2011 and the opportunity to reconnect with friends and supporters is something I look forward to every year. See you at #CPAC2018!

9.6K 11K 52K

To: Grantham, Nancy[Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov]
Cc: Gray, David[gray.david@epa.gov]
From: Bowman, Liz
Sent: Wed 12/20/2017 2:19:19 AM
Subject: Re: Bird Creek folo

What?! That makes me unbelievably sad.

Sent from my iPhone

On Dec 19, 2017, at 8:24 PM, Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov> wrote:

> Yes - sadly he announced his retirement at the Monday senior staff meeting
>
> Sent from my iPhone
>
> On Dec 19, 2017, at 7:11 PM, Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov> wrote:
>
> > Of course but exit?! He isn't retiring is he?
> >
> > Sent from my iPhone
> >
> > On Dec 19, 2017, at 6:47 PM, Gray, David <gray.david@epa.gov> wrote:
> >
> > > Would you be okay with Sam doing an exit piece with the Tulsa World?
> > > Sent from my iPhone
> > >
> > > Begin forwarded message:
> > >
> > > **From:** "Bostian, Kelly" < Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy >
> > > **Date:** December 19, 2017 at 5:34:06 PM CST
> > > **To:** "Gray, David" <gray.david@epa.gov>
> > > **Subject: RE: Bird Creek folo**
> > >
> > > Wow.. I'd love to interview him about his time with EPA...
> > > Good guy, is my impression.
> > >
> > > Later in the week is fine. Let me know a time and I'll make it work.
> > >
> > > Thanks,
> > > Kellky

Kelly Bostian
Outdoors Writer
Tulsa World Media Company
www.tulsaworld.com
office | Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy
mobile | Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy
fax | Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy
315 S. Boulder Ave., Tulsa, OK 74103
twitter | Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy
blog |tulsaworld.com/KellyBostian
email | Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy

From: Gray, David [gray.david@epa.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, December 19, 2017 3:56 PM
To: Bostian, Kelly
Subject: RE: Bird Creek folo

Kelly,

I just saw your note. Let's connect later this week. BTW - Sam has announced his retirement on January 2. Lucky for us - he stayed on as long as he did (his retirement has been planned for over a year) but he announced this week.

David

-----Original Message-----
From: Bostian, Kelly [mailto: Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy
Sent: Tuesday, December 19, 2017 3:16 PM
To: Gray, David <gray.david@epa.gov>
Subject: Bird Creek folo

Hi David,
Editors have me working on a Bird Creek folo this week to run probably the week between the holidays. Our first story on this ran Jan. 3, 2017 so we're looking for a year-later sort of perspective.
I talked with Warren American and Dr. Sublette about the pumping and monitoring experiment they did the past couple of weeks and am in need of the EPA perspective on the regulatory process and how their cleanup idea fits with the process for the shut-in orders. Sounds like Sublette has recommended a 2nd and even a 3rd pumping that could be done months from now, depending on rain events (or lack thereof).

Hope to hear from you soon this.
(as a side note I'm at Tar Creek Site on Wednesday afternoon and may be touching base with you on that as well this week).
Thanks,
Kelly

Kelly Bostian
Outdoors Writer
Tulsa World Media Company
www.tulsaworld.com<http://www.tulsaworld.com/>
office | Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy
mobile
fax | Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy
315 S. Boulder Ave., Tulsa, OK 74103
twitter | (Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy
blog |tulsaworld.com/KellyBostian<http://www.tulsaworld.com/blog>
email | Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy >

To: Abboud, Michael[abboud.michael@epa.gov]
From: Bowman, Liz
Sent: Mon 1/29/2018 8:05:52 PM
Subject: RE: FOX23 Request: Tar Creek

Good, thank you for managing. Can you reply to the reporter and let him know you will get back to him (if you haven't already).

From: Abboud, Michael
Sent: Monday, January 29, 2018 3:05 PM
To: Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>
Cc: Ferguson, Lincoln <ferguson.lincoln@epa.gov>; Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>; Block, Molly <block.molly@epa.gov>; Daniell, Kelsi <daniell.kelsi@epa.gov>; Hewitt, James <hewitt.james@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: FOX23 Request: Tar Creek

Waiting to hear back from him now.

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 29, 2018, at 3:04 PM, Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov> wrote:

Thanks, did you talk with David Grey?

From: Abboud, Michael
Sent: Monday, January 29, 2018 2:46 PM
To: Ferguson, Lincoln <ferguson.lincoln@epa.gov>; Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>; Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>; Block, Molly <block.molly@epa.gov>; Daniell, Kelsi <daniell.kelsi@epa.gov>; Hewitt, James <hewitt.james@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: FOX23 Request: Tar Creek

I'll handle.

From: Ferguson, Lincoln
Sent: Monday, January 29, 2018 2:42 PM

To: Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>; Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>; Abboud, Michael <abboud.michael@epa.gov>; Block, Molly <block.molly@epa.gov>; Daniell, Kelsi <daniell.kelsi@epa.gov>; Hewitt, James <hewitt.james@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: FOX23 Request: Tar Creek

From: Andes, Natalie (CMG-TulsaTV) [mailto: Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy]
Sent: Monday, January 29, 2018 2:40 PM
To: Ferguson, Lincoln <ferguson.lincoln@epa.gov>
Subject: FOX23 Request: Tar Creek

Hi Lincoln.

I ran across a Tulsa World report that says that the EPA is asking people in Picher about the Tar Creek Superfund site. Can you tell me if that's true? If so, what is being asked of the residents in the survey? When are the results due? What's the project this is related to? What is the goal of the survey?

Thank you,

Natalie

Natalie Andes | **FOX23 Assignment Manager**
Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy

<image001.jpg>

This email (including any attachments) may contain material that is confidential and for the sole use of the intended recipient. Any review, reliance or distribution by others or forwarding without express permission is strictly prohibited. If you are not the intended recipient, please contact the sender and delete all copies.

To: Abboud, Michael[abboud.michael@epa.gov]; Ferguson, Lincoln[ferguson.lincoln@epa.gov]; Wilcox, Jahan[wilcox.jahan@epa.gov]; Block, Molly[block.molly@epa.gov]; Daniell, Kelsi[daniell.kelsi@epa.gov]; Hewitt, James[hewitt.james@epa.gov]
From: Bowman, Liz
Sent: Mon 1/29/2018 8:04:45 PM
Subject: RE: FOX23 Request: Tar Creek

Thanks, did you talk with David Grey?

From: Abboud, Michael
Sent: Monday, January 29, 2018 2:46 PM
To: Ferguson, Lincoln <ferguson.lincoln@epa.gov>; Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>; Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>; Block, Molly <block.molly@epa.gov>; Daniell, Kelsi <daniell.kelsi@epa.gov>; Hewitt, James <hewitt.james@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: FOX23 Request: Tar Creek

I'll handle.

From: Ferguson, Lincoln
Sent: Monday, January 29, 2018 2:42 PM
To: Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>; Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>; Abboud, Michael <abboud.michael@epa.gov>; Block, Molly <block.molly@epa.gov>; Daniell, Kelsi <daniell.kelsi@epa.gov>; Hewitt, James <hewitt.james@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: FOX23 Request: Tar Creek

From: Andes, Natalie (CMG-TulsaTV) [mailto: Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy]
Sent: Monday, January 29, 2018 2:40 PM
To: Ferguson, Lincoln <ferguson.lincoln@epa.gov>
Subject: FOX23 Request: Tar Creek

Hi Lincoln.

I ran across a Tulsa World report that says that the EPA is asking people in Picher about the Tar Creek Superfund site. Can you tell me if that's true? If so, what is being asked of the residents in the survey? When are the results due? What's the project this is related to? What is the goal of the survey?

Thank you,

Natalie

Natalie Andes | FOX23 Assignment Manager
Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy

This email (including any attachments) may contain material that is confidential and for the sole use of the intended recipient. Any review, reliance or distribution by others or forwarding without express permission is strictly prohibited. If you are not the intended recipient, please contact the sender and delete all copies.

To: Gray, David[gray.david@epa.gov]
Cc: Grantham, Nancy[Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov]
From: Bowman, Liz
Sent: Wed 12/20/2017 12:11:50 AM
Subject: Re: Bird Creek folo

Of course but exit?! He isn't retiring is he?

Sent from my iPhone

On Dec 19, 2017, at 6:47 PM, Gray, David <gray.david@epa.gov> wrote:

Would you be okay with Sam doing an exit piece with the Tulsa World?
Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Bostian, Kelly" <Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy>
Date: December 19, 2017 at 5:34:06 PM CST
To: "Gray, David" <gray.david@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Bird Creek folo

Wow.. I'd love to interview him about his time with EPA...
Good guy, is my impression.

Later in the week is fine. Let me know a time and I'll make it work.

Thanks,
Kellky

Kelly Bostian
Outdoors Writer
Tulsa World Media Company
www.tulsaworld.com
office | Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy
mobile | Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy
fax | Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy
315 S. Boulder Ave., Tulsa, OK 74103
twitter | Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy
blog |tulsaworld.com/KellyBostian
email | Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy

From: Gray, David [gray.david@epa.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, December 19, 2017 3:56 PM
To: Bostian, Kelly
Subject: RE: Bird Creek folo

Kelly,

I just saw your note. Let's connect later this week. BTW - Sam has announced his retirement on January 2. Lucky for us - he stayed on as long as he did (his retirement has been planned for over a year) but he announced this week.

David

-----Original Message-----
From: Bostian, Kelly [mailto: Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy]
Sent: Tuesday, December 19, 2017 3:16 PM
To: Gray, David <gray.david@epa.gov>
Subject: Bird Creek folo

Hi David,
Editors have me working on a Bird Creek folo this week to run probably the week between the holidays. Our first story on this ran Jan. 3, 2017 so we're looking for a year-later sort of perspective.
I talked with Warren American and Dr. Sublette about the pumping and monitoring experiment they did the past couple of weeks and am in need of the EPA perspective on the regulatory process and how their cleanup idea fits with the process for the shut-in orders. Sounds like Sublette has recommended a 2nd and even a 3rd pumping that could be done months from now, depending on rain events (or lack thereof).
Hope to hear from you soon this.
(as a side note I'm at Tar Creek Site on Wednesday afternoon and may be touching base with you on that as well this week).
Thanks,
Kelly

Kelly Bostian
Outdoors Writer
Tulsa World Media Company
www.tulsaworld.com<http://www.tulsaworld.com/>
office | Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy
mobile Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy
fax | Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy
315 S. Boulder Ave., Tulsa, OK 74103

twitter | Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy
blog |tulsaworld.com/KellyBostian<http://www.tulsaworld.com/blog>
email | Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy >

To: Coleman, Sam[Coleman.Sam@epa.gov]
From: Bowman, Liz
Sent: Thur 7/27/2017 10:48:38 PM
Subject: RE: Weekly Update

Thank you, Sam. I appreciate getting this report.

From: Coleman, Sam
Sent: Thursday, July 27, 2017 6:25 PM
To: Weekly Report Group <Weekly_Report_Group@epa.gov>
Cc: Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>; Starfield, Lawrence <Starfield.Lawrence@epa.gov>; Breen, Barry <Breen.Barry@epa.gov>; Cleland-Hamnett, Wendy <Cleland-Hamnett.Wendy@epa.gov>; Dunham, Sarah <Dunham.Sarah@epa.gov>; Shapiro, Mike <Shapiro.Mike@epa.gov>; Kenny, Shannon <Kenny.Shannon@epa.gov>; Coleman, Sam <Coleman.Sam@epa.gov>
Subject: Weekly Update

Update 7 27 17

UPCOMING HOT ISSUES AND IMPORTANT DEADLINES

Bird Creek, Pawhuska, Oklahoma

Sampling of all surface water bodies was completed by July 1st. Samples were sent by chain of custody to the Houston Laboratory for analysis. Data was also downloaded from the 18 surface water monitors, which were put in place to detect any changes in total dissolved solids during the time injection wells were shut-in. Most analytical results from the Houston Lab have been have been provided to the regional UIC and enforcement programs for review. EPA is working on a communications strategy to notify impacted parties of the monitoring results and next steps. A second round of data from the 18 surface water monitors is being collected this week. EPA contacted the operators of 7 wells within 1 mile of the seeps in Bird Creek to ask them to voluntarily shut in their injection wells. We found that the Mississippi chat formation was highly pressurized and likely in communication with the surface due to injection. Further review is underway to determine if the shut in area needs to be expanded.

Tar Creek, Picher, Oklahoma

EPA intends to continue field sampling to fill data gaps related to characterization of and potential risk related to sediment and surface water within the Tristate Watershed investigation area. The sampling is being accomplished through joint coordination and cooperation with Region 7; the states of Oklahoma, Missouri and Kansas; the Quapaw, Peoria, Ottawa, Miami, Eastern Shawnee, Wyandotte, Seneca-Cayuga, and Cherokee tribes; and other federal and state agencies (U.S. Fish and Wildlife, U.S. Geological Survey, Oklahoma Department of Wildlife). The Quapaw Tribe Environmental Office will continue source material excavation at Distal 10 and hauling to the central repository. Site preparation (i.e., grubbing, haul roads) will continue at Distal 12. The Quapaw Tribe Environmental Office will continue confirmation sampling at Distal 10, under cooperative agreements with the EPA. The Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality will continue the remedial action work at Beaver Creek under a cooperative agreement with the EPA. The ODEQ will also continue the preparation of the Operable Unit (OU) 2 (Residential) Commerce remedial action work plan and cost estimate, and continue planning for the public meeting currently scheduled for August 15, 2017.

Hope Iron and Metal, Hope, Arkansas

EPA intends to continue on-site removal activities at the Hope Iron and Metal Superfund Site. All grids with soil contamination on-site are currently excavated. Removal activities for contaminated soil began on two residential properties adjacent to the site. Restoration activities on-site are 90 percent complete. Completion is expected in early August.

Ruiz Foods Facility, Denison, Texas

EPA intends to conduct a Clean Air Act Risk Management Program inspection of the Ruiz Foods facility in Denison, TX. The regulated facility is classified as a *High Risk facility* and is also part of the National Enforcement Initiative for ammonia.

Rowlett Creek Regional Waste Water Treatment Plant Facility, Denison, Texas

EPA intends to conduct a Clean Air Act Risk Management Program inspection of the Rowlett Creek Regional Waste Water Treatment Plant facility in Denison, TX. The regulated facility is classified as a *High Risk facility* for chlorine.

Fort Hood Army Base, Killeen, Texas

EPA intends to conduct a RCRA Compliance Evaluation Inspection at Fort Hood Army Base.

The purpose of the inspection is to determine whether Fort Hood is compliant with RCRA regulations, and confirm the hazardous waste operating status of the facility. Under the Federal Facility Compliance Act of 1992, EPA or its representatives are required to inspect every Federal Facility that treats, stores or disposes of hazardous waste. Fort Hood was identified as a facility that should be inspected, based on Region 6 data mining evaluation, a technique on which the States have been trained. The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) was invited to participate in this inspection, but advised Region 6 that we should proceed without them.

-

Vallourec Star, LP, Houston, Texas

EPA intends to conduct a Compliance Evaluation Inspection at the Vallourec Star tubular goods Facility in Houston, Texas. The facility's wastewater operations will be evaluated in accordance with the CWA for capacity, management, operations, and maintenance in order to protect public health and the environment. Compliance with permit conditions, the accuracy of information submitted, and the adequacy of sampling and monitoring conducted will also be evaluated. The investigation is part of the EPA's National Industrial Wastewater Initiative (NEI). TCEQ inspectors were notified of the inspection and invited to participate.

-

Odfjell Terminals, Seabrook, TX

EPA intends to send an *information request letter* to Odfjell Terminals in Seabrook, TX to evaluate remedies for potential noncompliance concerning the facilities' flare operations. Emissions from improperly operated flares are a large source of air toxics and pose a risk to public health. The facility has a history of noncompliance related to flaring. Region 6 plans to issue the information request letter on August 7, 2017. The Region will notify TCEQ before issuing the letter.

Chevron Phillips Chemical, Pasadena, TX

EPA intends to send an *information request letter* to Chevron Phillips Chemical facility in Pasadena, TX to evaluate remedies for potential noncompliance concerning the facilities' flare operations. Emissions from improperly operated flares are a large source of air toxics and pose a risk to public health. The facility has a history of noncompliance related to flaring. TCEQ will be notified before issuing the letter.

Shell Offshore, Inc., New Orleans, LA

EPA intends to send an *information request letter* to Shell Offshore, Inc., New Orleans, LA, to evaluate RCRA compliance of Shell Offshore's offshore facilities in the Gulf of Mexico. The letters will be issued in the next two weeks.

Xutapa Properties LLC, Pawhuska, Oklahoma

EPA intends to issue a p*ublic notice* for a Consent Agreement and Final Order (CAFO) to Xutapa Properties, LLC (Respondent). The US EPA Administrative Complaint alleged that inspection observations show the Respondent maintained seven injection wells located in the Landon Field of the Osage Mineral Reserve in Osage County, Oklahoma, in a manner that may allow movement of fluids into underground sources of drinking water. The CAFO requires Respondent to pay an administrative penalty of $42,500.00 for violations of Section 1423 of the Safe Drinking Water Act, 42 U.S.C. 300h-2(e) and failure to comply with an EPA Administrative Compliance Order. Comments will be solicited for 30 days.

-

Falcon Refinery Superfund Site, Port Aransas, Texas

EPA intends to issue a *public notice* for the proposed plan for Operable Unit O1 (Site Wide Groundwater) for the Falcon Refinery site. EPA is taking public comments on its preferred remedial approach of no action for the shallow groundwater at the site. The comment period should be completed on August 30, 2017.

Jones Road Groundwater Plume Superfund Site, Houston, Texas

EPA intends to issue *public notice* for the proposed plan to select a remedy for two soil zones which are continuing sources of contaminants to groundwater at the Jones Road site, Harris County, Texas. The public comment period will be completed on September 5, 2017.

-

Fruit Avenue Plume Superfund Site, Albuquerque, New Mexico

EPA intends to issue a *public notice* for the Proposed Plan for a Record of Decision for the Fruit Avenue Plume Superfund Site. EPA is taking public comments to expand the use of Monitored Natural Attenuation as the site-wide remedy for the ground water plume. This alternative will allow for the decommissioning of the existing pump and treat facilities, and return the property to the city. The alternative also facilitates the reuse of the property and promote further redevelopment in the area. The comment period is scheduled to run through August 28, 2017.

RKR Feeders, LLC., Clayton, New Mexico

EPA intends to issue a *public notice* for the proposed permit seeking renewal of coverage under the New Mexico CAFO General Permit. The comment period is scheduled for 30 days.

RFL Clayton, Clayton, New Mexico

EPA intends to issue a *public notice* for the proposed permit seeking renewal of coverage under the New Mexico CAFO General Permit. The comment period is scheduled for 30 days.

Clayton Cattle Feeders, Clayton, New Mexico

EPA intends to issue a *public notice* for the proposed permit seeking renewal of coverage under the New Mexico CAFO General Permit. The comment period is scheduled for 30 days.

Jackpile-Paguate Uranium Mine Site, Laguna Pueblo, NM - Site Visit & Scoping Meeting

On August 2–3, 2017, EPA plans to meet with Atlantic Richfield and the Pueblo of Laguna to discuss scoping document deliverables and planning activities associated with the Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) for the site. Members intend to participate in a pre-site tour discussion and a site visit of the former mine. Activities will close with a wrap-up discussion. EPA intends to gain a better understanding of the strategies Atlantic Richfield will use while conducting the RI/FS after collaboration on proposed approaches for expediting and maximizing resources. Discussion will also include the Pueblo community outreach needs, working with the technical team and scheduling a potential community Open House in September 2017.

Final Approval for April 2017 Updates to the State of Texas Water Quality Management Plan (WQMP). The week of July 24-28, 2017, the Water Division plans to approve updates to the Texas Water Quality Management Plan (TX WQMP) submitted by TCEQ. The WQMP update was developed by TCEQ staff pursuant to Section 26.036 and26.037 of the Texas Water Code and satisfies federal Water quality management planning regulations and grant requirements under Sections of the Clean Water Act. The WQMP update has been reviewed by local planning agencies, appropriate state agencies, and TCEQ staff. The TCEQ held a public comment period as required by Section 26.037 of the Texas Water Code and federal regulations.

UPCOMING PUBLIC EVENTS

August 3 – Texas Environmental Law Superconference, Austin, Texas. Acting RA will keynote.

August 8 – State Environmental Directors' Meeting, Dallas, Texas (Tentative)

September 11–13 – National Air Quality Conference, Austin, Texas.Attendees will learn the latest information on air quality forecasting and mapping.

September 12-14 – US Mexico Border National Coordinator Meeting, Mexico City, Mexico

September 17-21 - 19th Annual Stormwater Conference in San Antonio, TX. The Conference will inform and educate professionals on controls that can address water pollution

October 27 – Arkansas Environment Federation 50th Annual Convention, Hot Springs, AR. Acting RA will keynote.

UPCOMING DECISIONS

Arkansas Regional Haze

Arkansas proposed its SIP addressing a portion of the Regional Haze requirements on July 12, 2017, and submitted to EPA for parallel processing. EPA will act expeditiously to propose the SIP. On July 13, 2017, EPA's Narrow FIP revision was published in the Federal Register to extend the NOx compliance dates by 21 months to January 27, 2020. The extension was

requested by industry to provide them certainty that they have time to work with EPA and the State on a Regional Haze SIP without the compliance clock running down. EPA also continues to track the national CSAPR remand action as the Arkansas Regional Haze SIP depends on the NOx CSAPR for BART.

Texas Regional Haze

Region 6 is preparing documents for the Administrator on a Texas Regional Haze Intrastate Trading Program BART SIP. EPA is using all available resources to develop the Federal Action by September 9. EPA has a September 9 CD deadline that requires EPA to finalize a plan.

PAST WEEK ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Public Water System Supervision Program Revision for the State of Louisiana

EPA intends to approve the State of Louisiana revisions to its approved Public Water System (PWSS) program for the Revised total Coliform Rule and the Groundwater Rule. EPA has determined that the RTCR and GWR primacy applications submitted are no less stringent than the corresponding federal regulations and therefore an approval is warranted.

Proposed Rule and Direct Final Rule for the Arkansas Hazardous Waste Program

EPA approved a direct final rule that proposes to authorize the State of Arkansas for State-initiated changes to their hazardous waste program and codifying the State's base hazardous waste program revisions. EPA is publishing this rule without prior proposal because the actions are not controversial and no opposition is expected.

PENDING ACTIONS (Pending Federal Register Publication)

Arkansas Final Authorization of State-initiated Changes and Incorporation by Reference of State Hazardous Waste Management Program (EPA-R06-0680)

Samuel Coleman, P.E.

Deputy Regional Administrator

EPA Region 6

coleman.sam@epa.gov

214.665.2100 Ofc

214.665.3110 Direct

214.789.2016 Cell

To: Ferguson, Lincoln[ferguson.lincoln@epa.gov]
From: Bowman, Liz
Sent: Thur 1/18/2018 1:18:35 AM
Subject: Fwd: Tar Creek audit lawsuit

Do you need help w this?

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Mike Soraghan <Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy>
Date: January 17, 2018 at 6:01:30 PM EST
To: "Liz Bowman (Bowman.Liz@epa.gov)" <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>, "ferguson.lincoln@epa.gov" <ferguson.lincoln@epa.gov>
Subject: Tar Creek audit lawsuit

Mr. Bowman, Mr. Ferguson,

Hi. The state auditor of Oklahoma has filed a response in the open records lawsuit seeking release of the Tar Creek audit. He is asking for a court order to release it. He also alleges that Mr. Pruitt had already released it to the LICRAT board. I cannot tell at this point if he is alleging that that release to the LICRAT board was improper.

Please let me know if EPA or Administrator Pruitt has any comment.

Thank you,

Mike Soraghan

E&E News reporter

Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy

Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy (office and mobile)

Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy

E&E NEWS

122 C Street NW 7th Floor Washington, DC 20001

www.eenews.net | @EENewsUpdates

Energywire, Climatewire, Greenwire, E&E Daily, E&E News PM

To: Hewitt, James[hewitt.james@epa.gov]; Wilcox, Jahan[wilcox.jahan@epa.gov]; Abboud, Michael[abboud.michael@epa.gov]; Konkus, John[konkus.john@epa.gov]; Block, Molly[block.molly@epa.gov]
From: Bowman, Liz
Sent: Mon 12/11/2017 2:54:04 PM
Subject: RE: FOR APPROVAL//EPA News Highlights 12.11.17

Good, thanks

From: Hewitt, James
Sent: Monday, December 11, 2017 9:05 AM
To: Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>; Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>; Abboud, Michael <abboud.michael@epa.gov>; Konkus, John <konkus.john@epa.gov>; Block, Molly <block.molly@epa.gov>
Subject: FOR APPROVAL//EPA News Highlights 12.11.17

EPA News Highlights 12.11.17

Portland Tribune: EPA targeting Portland Superfund site for 'immediate, intense' attention

The Environmental Protection Agency says its targeting the Portland Harbor Superfund Site in the Willamette River for immediate attention. The EPA announced Friday that the Portland Harbor Superfund Site is one of 21 sites it plans to target across the country. In a statement, EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt says he's asking Superfund Task Force staff to immediately develop plans for cleanup at the sites, though environmentalists say they want more information about what the cleanup process will look like. "It would be a good thing to get this cleanup moving as quickly as possible and bring this harbor back to health," said Bob Sallinger, conservation director with the Audubon Society of Portland. "But that cannot mean cutting corners and letting polluters off the hook and lowering the cleanup standard."

KPAX: EPA names Butte and Anaconda as priority Superfund sites

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency named the Silver Bow Creek/Butte area and the Anaconda Smelter Superfund sites as two of the 21 top priorities in the nation for cleanup. The sites on the list will be targeted for immediate and intense attention. For the Silver Bow Creek/Butte area, the EPA has taken steps to accelerate negotiations and set a deadline for an agreement to ensure stormwater controls along Silver Bow and Blacktail creeks as well as

review the water treatment plant for the Berkeley Pit. At the Anaconda Smelter site, the EPA has directed Atlantic Richfield to complete lead and arsenic sampling and cleanup of commercial and residential properties including another 1,000 homes over the next three years. The EPA also directed Atlantic Richfield to begin testing school grounds for lead and school interiors for lead and arsenic in the next few months.

The New York Times: Under Trump, E.P.A. Has Slowed Actions Against Polluters, and Put Limits on Enforcement Officers

Scott Pruitt, the E.P.A. administrator, has said the Trump administration's high-profile regulatory rollback does not mean a free pass for violators of environmental laws. But as the Trump administration moves from one attention-grabbing headline to the next, it has taken a significant but less-noticed turn in the enforcement of federal pollution laws. An analysis of enforcement data by The New York Times shows that the administration has adopted a more lenient approach than the previous two administrations — Democratic and Republican — toward polluters like those in East Liverpool. The Times built a database of civil cases filed at the E.P.A. during the Trump, Obama and Bush administrations. During the first nine months under Mr. Pruitt's leadership, the E.P.A. started about 1,900 cases, about one-third fewer than the number under President Barack Obama's first E.P.A. director and about one-quarter fewer than under President George W. Bush's over the same time period

The Associated Press: Providence superfund site among 2 priority from EPA

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency says two sites in the Northeast are being prioritized for cleanup, including the Centredale Manor Restoration Project in North Providence. The project, the site of a chemical manufacturer from the 1940s to the 1970s, was among 21 nationwide slated for speedier cleanup and redevelopment under the superfund program, which provides federal resources to deal with some of the nation's most contaminated locations. The list was one of the recommendations put forth this summer by a superfund task force. The other site in the Northeast is the former Mohawk Tannery in Nashua, New Hampshire. Other sites on the list are in New Jersey, Montana, California, Missouri, Virginia, Kentucky, Mississippi, Indiana, Michigan, Nevada, Oklahoma, Texas, Iowa, Oregon and Washington.

National News Highlights 12.4.17

Reuters: One person in custody, several injured, in New York explosion

An explosion rocked New York's Port Authority, one of the city's busiest commuter hubs in

midtown Manhattan, during Monday morning's rush hour, injuring several people. Police confirmed one person is in custody but were not yet identifying the device used. Local news channel WABC cited police sources as saying a possible pipe bomb detonated in a passageway below ground at Port Authority. A police officer near the scene said: "There was an explosion under Port Authority somewhere in the subway. That's all we've got for now." Media reported several people were injured, and WPIX television reported, citing sources, that a man with a "possible second device" has been detained in the subway tunnel. New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio and President Donald Trump have been briefed on the incident, according to local media and the White House.

The Wall Street Journal: The Taxman Cometh: Senate Bill's Marginal Rates Could Top 100% for Some

Some high-income business owners could face marginal tax rates exceeding 100% under the Senate's tax bill, far beyond the listed rates in the Republican plan. That means a business owner's next $100 in earnings, under certain circumstances, would require paying more than $100 in additional federal and state taxes. As lawmakers rush to write the final tax bill over the next week, they already are looking at changes to prevent this from happening. Broadly, House and Senate Republicans are trying to reconcile their bills, looking for ways to pay for eliminating the most contentious proposals. The formal House-Senate conference committee will meet on Wednesday, and GOP lawmakers may unveil an agreement by week's end.

The Wall Street Journal: Americans Give Trump Higher Grades on Economy Than Overall

Although President Donald Trump's overall approval ratings have dropped to the lowest point of his presidency, he is getting significantly higher marks in one important area: his handling of the economy. With the U.S. unemployment rate holding at a 17-year low, hiring strong and the stock market hitting regular records, Mr. Trump is getting stronger reviews from the public on the economy, with 42% approving and 37% disapproving, according to the most recent Wall Street Journal/NBC News survey, conducted in late October. That stands in stark contrast to his overall approval rating, which dropped last week to 32%, the lowest point of his 11-month presidency, according to a Pew Research Center poll. His disapproval rating of 68% in the same survey was also a new high. The WSJ poll showed the president with a 38% approval rating, his lowest to date in this poll, while 58% disapproved of his overall performance.

TRUMP TWEETS

Portland Tribune

http://portlandtribune.com/pt/9-news/380911-268495-epa-targeting-portland-superfund-site-for-immediate-intense-attention

EPA targeting Portland Superfund site for 'immediate, intense' attention

By Ericka Cruz Guevarra, 12/10/17

The Environmental Protection Agency says its targeting the Portland Harbor Superfund Site in the Willamette River for immediate attention.

The EPA announced Friday that the Portland Harbor Superfund Site is one of 21 sites it plans to target across the country. In a statement, EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt says he's asking Superfund Task Force staff to immediately develop plans for cleanup at the sites, though environmentalists say they want more information about what the cleanup process will look like.

"It would be a good thing to get this cleanup moving as quickly as possible and bring this harbor back to health," said Bob Sallinger, conservation director with the Audubon Society of Portland. "But that cannot mean cutting corners and letting polluters off the hook and lowering the cleanup standard."

KPAX

http://www.kpax.com/story/37036181/epa-names-butte-and-anaconda-as-priority-superfund-sites

EPA names Butte and Anaconda as priority Superfund sites

By MTN News, 12/10/17

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency named the Silver Bow Creek/Butte area and the Anaconda Smelter Superfund sites as two of the 21 top priorities in the nation for cleanup.

The sites on the list will be targeted for immediate and intense attention.

For the Silver Bow Creek/Butte area, the EPA has taken steps to accelerate negotiations and set a deadline for an agreement to ensure stormwater controls along Silver Bow and Blacktail creeks as well as review the water treatment plant for the Berkeley Pit.

At the Anaconda Smelter site, the EPA has directed Atlantic Richfield to complete lead and arsenic sampling and cleanup of commercial and residential properties including another 1,000 homes over the next three years.

The EPA also directed Atlantic Richfield to begin testing school grounds for lead and school interiors for lead and arsenic in the next few months.

Butte and Anaconda were the only two Montana sites to make the list. New Jersey was the only state with more sites on the priority list with three listed.

The New York Times

https://www.nytimes.com/2017/12/10/us/politics/pollution-epa-regulations.html

Under Trump, E.P.A. Has Slowed Actions Against Polluters, and Put Limits on Enforcement Officers

By Eric Lipton and Danielle Ivory, 12/10/17

The highway billboard at the entrance to town still displays a giant campaign photograph of President Trump, who handily won the election across industrial Ohio. But a revolt is brewing here in East Liverpool over Mr. Trump's move to slow down the federal government's policing of air and water pollution.

The City Council moved unanimously last month to send a protest letter to the Environmental Protection Agency about a hazardous waste incinerator near downtown. Since Mr. Trump took office, the E.P.A. has not moved to punish the plant's owner, even after extensive evidence was assembled during the Obama administration that the plant had repeatedly, and illegally, released harmful pollutants into the air.

"I don't know where we go," Councilman William Hogue, a retired social studies teacher, said in frustration to his fellow council members. "They haven't resolved anything."

Scott Pruitt, the E.P.A. administrator, has said the Trump administration's high-profile regulatory rollback does not mean a free pass for violators of environmental laws. But as the Trump administration moves from one attention-grabbing headline to the next, it has taken a significant but less-noticed turn in the enforcement of federal pollution laws.

An analysis of enforcement data by The New York Times shows that the administration has adopted a more lenient approach than the previous two administrations — Democratic and Republican — toward polluters like those in East Liverpool.

The Times built a database of civil cases filed at the E.P.A. during the Trump, Obama and Bush administrations. During the first nine months under Mr. Pruitt's leadership, the E.P.A. started about 1,900 cases, about one-third fewer than the number under President Barack Obama's first E.P.A. director and about one-quarter fewer than under President George W. Bush's over the same time period.

In addition, the agency sought civil penalties of about $50.4 million from polluters for cases initiated under Mr. Trump. Adjusted for inflation, that is about 39 percent of what the Obama administration sought and about 70 percent of what the Bush administration sought over the same time period.

The E.P.A., turning to one of its most powerful enforcement tools, also can force companies to retrofit their factories to cut pollution. Under Mr. Trump, those demands have dropped sharply. The agency has demanded about $1.2 billion worth of such fixes, known as injunctive relief, in

cases initiated during the nine-month period, which, adjusted for inflation, is about 12 percent of what was sought under Mr. Obama and 48 percent under Mr. Bush.

Resolving complicated pollution cases can take time, and the E.P.A. said it remained committed to ensuring companies obeyed environmental laws.

“E.P.A. and states work together to find violators and bring them back into compliance, and to punish intentional polluters,” the agency said in a statement. Officials said Mr. Pruitt was less fixated on seeking large penalties than some of his predecessors were.

“We focus more on bringing people back into compliance than bean counting,” the statement said.

After this article was posted, the E.P.A. issued a statement criticizing the report, and saying that “Administrator Scott Pruitt is committed to enforcement,” and that “there is no reduction in E.P.A.’s commitment to ensure compliance with our nation’s environmental laws.” (The full statement is here.)

Confidential internal E.P.A. documents show that the enforcement slowdown coincides with major policy changes ordered by Mr. Pruitt’s team after pleas from oil and gas industry executives.

The documents, which were reviewed by The Times, indicate that E.P.A. enforcement officers across the country no longer have the authority to order certain air and water pollution tests, known as requests for information, without receiving permission from Washington. The tests are essential to building a case against polluters, the equivalent of the radar gun for state highway troopers.

At at least two of the agency’s most aggressive regional offices, requests for information involving companies suspected of polluting have fallen significantly under Mr. Trump, according to internal E.P.A. data.

In the last two complete fiscal years of the Obama administration, the E.P.A.'s office in Chicago sent requests for testing that covered an average of 50 facilities per year, or about 4.2 each month. By comparison, after the policy changes, one such request for a single facility was made in the subsequent four-month period. There was a similar decline in the Denver regional office, according to the data.

The enforcement slowdown has been compounded by the departure of more than 700 employees at the E.P.A. since Mr. Trump's election, many of them via buyouts intended to reduce the agency's size, and high-level political vacancies at the E.P.A. and the Justice Department. The agency's top enforcement officer — Susan Bodine — was confirmed only late last week.

Separately, Mr. Pruitt's team has told officials and industry representatives in Missouri, North Dakota and other states that E.P.A. enforcement officers will stand down on some pollution cases, according to agency documents. The retrenchment is said to be part of a nationwide handoff of many enforcement duties to state authorities, an effort Mr. Pruitt calls cooperative federalism but critics say is an industry-friendly way to ease up on polluters.

Current and recently departed E.P.A. staff members said the new direction has left many employees feeling frozen in place, and demoralized, particularly in the regional offices, which have investigators who are especially knowledgeable of local pollution threats.

"Certain people who are polluting are doing it with impunity right now and I think it is horrible," said Nicole Cantello, an E.P.A. lawyer in the Chicago office, who has worked at the agency for 26 years.

Ms. Cantello agreed to speak to The Times because she is protected by her status as a union official. The E.P.A. did not authorize agency employees to speak.

The Times asked top E.P.A. enforcement officials from the Obama and Bush administrations to review The Times's data, analysis and methodology. (Read more about The Times's methodology here.) They said the slowdown signaled a sea change in enforcement under Mr. Trump.

“Those kinds of numbers are stark,” said Granta Nakayama, a lawyer who served in the Bush administration as assistant administrator for the E.P.A.’s enforcement office and who now represents companies facing E.P.A. enforcement actions for the law firm King & Spalding, where he oversees the environmental practice.

“If you’re not filing cases, the cop’s not on the beat,” he said. “Or has the cop been taken off the beat?”

Cynthia Giles, the former assistant administrator for the E.P.A.’s enforcement office during the Obama administration, also prepared a separate version of the data. She described as a “stunning decline” the reduced efforts under Mr. Trump to require companies to bring their facilities into compliance with pollution laws.

“The Pruitt E.P.A. is cratering on the enforcement work that matters most: holding the biggest polluters accountable,” said Ms. Giles, now a director at the Energy & Environment Lab at the University of Chicago.

Some enforcement experts suggested that the E.P.A. under Mr. Pruitt might have filed fewer cases because it was going after larger penalties. But according to the Times analysis, most of the top penalties were smaller than those in the previous two administrations. And the nine-month window included the single largest civil case filed by the E.P.A., against Exxon Mobil.

On a midsummer afternoon in 2013, boiler ash and steam blasted through a breach at the Heritage Thermal Services hazardous waste incinerator, spewing hundreds of pounds of ash into a nearby neighborhood in East Liverpool and setting off a series of small fires at the plant.

Tests later showed that the ash, which looked like dirty clumps of cotton candy scattered across rooftops and lawns, contained toxic chemicals. In some samples, lead and arsenic were found at concentrations that “could pose a hazard to small children,” according to an Ohio Department of Health report. Heritage Thermal went door to door offering to wash people’s houses and replace vegetables in their gardens.

Sandra Estell, 64, who lives on a river bluff overlooking the plant, said the ash covered her brother's Chevy Blazer and blanketed the street where she grew up. Even when the plant operates normally, she said, she smells the incinerator from her home — with the odor changing from rotten eggs to an electrical fire to something difficult to place.

Truckloads of hazardous waste often sit in the parking lot outside the plant, awaiting disposal. On the day of the accident in 2013, the plant was burning through a load of waste sent from an oil refinery in Toledo.

"It really just scares me," Ms. Estell said of the incinerator.

The plant falls under the jurisdiction of the E.P.A. regional office in Chicago, which moved quickly to investigate the episode as a possible violation of the Clean Air Act, federal records show.

Investigators sent Heritage Thermal's general manager what is known as a Section 114(a) request for detailed information on the explosion. Failing to answer the questions, warned George T. Czerniak, who was then the E.P.A.'s Chicago-based director of the air and radiation division, could result in punishment.

Heritage Thermal complied within weeks, and also disclosed that the plant had faced a series of related problems when pressure inside the incinerator had climbed to dangerous levels. Mr. Czerniak asked for more information about those episodes, and by March 2015 he had signed a formal letter of complaint, alleging a series of Clean Air Act violations that would very likely result in fines, as well as possible civil or criminal action.

"We are offering you an opportunity to confer with us about the violations," Mr. Czerniak wrote in the letter. "You may have an attorney represent you at this conference."

More than two and a half years later, the matter remains unresolved, leading to the letter of complaint to the E.P.A. last month from the East Liverpool City Council. The body is dominated by Democrats, but it says its motivation in criticizing the E.P.A. is based on concerns about public safety and not partisan politics.

John Mercer, a City Council member, said taking on air pollution issues at Heritage Thermal has been a delicate matter because the area has lost thousands of jobs as steel and pottery manufacturing plants closed. “Heritage Thermal is one of the city’s largest employers,” he said. “We are all friends and neighbors with those that work there.”

Still, he said, residents want the matter resolved. “Our constituents deserve answers that no one seems to want to provide,” he said.

A spokesman for the E.P.A. declined to comment on the case’s status, as did Christopher T. Pherson, president of Heritage Thermal. The company said in a statement that it “is committed to continuously enhancing its performance and environmental compliance.”

Ms. Estell, who was critical of the plant even before it opened in the 1990s for being built near homes, blames the change in administrations in Washington for the inaction. “Something made them slam on the brakes,” she said.

Every administration runs into delays when investigating and enforcing environmental laws, and it is hard to pinpoint why any particular case might stall without access to confidential E.P.A. files. But the lack of action in East Liverpool mirrors a pattern of sluggish new enforcement activity under the Trump administration, as represented in data analyzed by The Times.

The Times identified more than a dozen companies or plants like Heritage Thermal that received notices of violation toward the end of the Obama administration, but as of late November had not faced E.P.A. penalties. The findings were based on agency files released through a Freedom of Information Act request to the Environmental Integrity Project, a nonprofit group run by a former E.P.A. enforcement chief.

Indiana Harbor Coke in East Chicago, Ind., has received at least three warning notices since 2015 for pollution violations, including hundreds of illegal emissions of lead, which can cause serious health problems, especially for children.

Other cases include TimkenSteel Corporation of Canton, Ohio, which was served with a notice in November 2015 for illegally emitting hazardous toxins, including mercury, which, when inhaled in large quantities, can cause pulmonary edema, respiratory failure and death.

In Waterford, Ohio, Globe Metallurgical was cited in June 2015 and December 2016 for air pollution violations. The E.P.A. collected evidence that it was emitting illegal amounts of sulfur dioxide, which can irritate the nose and throat and, at very high concentrations, cause life-threatening accumulation of fluid in the lungs.

And in East Liverpool, just down the street from the Heritage Thermal incinerator, S.H. Bell was cited for allowing toxic levels of dust with heavy metal chemical additives such as manganese to drift beyond its property line.

Tests conducted near S.H. Bell found "the highest levels of ambient manganese concentrations in the United States," a complaint issued during the Obama administration said. Health officials warned that the situation represented "a public health hazard and should be mitigated as soon as possible to reduce harmful exposures."

Research led by the University of Cincinnati found in September that levels of manganese in the blood and hair of children in East Liverpool appeared to be related to lower I.Q. scores, a conclusion executives from S.H. Bell have disputed.

The E.P.A. moved in the final days of the Obama administration to resolve the S.H. Bell matter, proposing a consent decree in January that would require changes to reduce manganese dust levels and to improve monitoring.

Generally, a proposed consent decree is resolved within several months, but in March, the Trump administration asked a federal judge to delay the case so the E.P.A. could "brief incoming

administration officials with decision-making responsibility" given that "many subordinate political positions at the agency remain unfilled." The Justice Department has since asked the court to move ahead, but the case remains open.

A spokeswoman for S.H. Bell said that the company had moved to comply with the requirements and that its operations had not harmed residents. The E.P.A. said in a statement that it was waiting for the court to act. "It would not be appropriate to discuss the open enforcement matters," the statement said.

Roberta Pratt, 49, a bartender who lives with her family on a block situated between Heritage Thermal and S.H. Bell, said she worries constantly about the delays in enforcement at the facilities. The side of her house, she said, is stained with a rusty color from heavy metals that float through the air.

"It makes me feel like less of a mother," said Ms. Pratt of the pollution problems. "You can't protect your children."

Fighting back tears, she added, "People say to me, 'Why don't you just pick up and move out of here?' Well, I just don't have the money to do that."

Industry Gets a Sympathetic Ear

The memo was marked "Privileged/Confidential/Do Not Release" and was signed by Susan Shinkman, the director of civil enforcement at the E.P.A. and one of Mr. Pruitt's top deputies in Washington at the time.

It arrived by email to agency employees across the country on May 31.

With four pages of detailed instructions, it directed E.P.A. investigators to seek authorization before asking companies to track their emissions with instruments that determine the type and

amount of pollutants being released at their plants.

It also said investigators needed special authorization if they did not already have evidence that the company had quite likely violated the law, or if state authorities objected to the tests.

The scope was far-reaching, applying to possible violations of the Clean Air Act, the Clean Water Act and federal laws regulating hazardous waste plants.

The goal of these changes, the memo said, was to "ensure a more nationally consistent and complete accounting of federal compliance monitoring and enforcement activities." But the directive arrived like a thunderbolt, upending one of the agency's most effective methods in catching polluters, E.P.A. regional officials said, and one that was extremely unpopular with the oil and gas industry.

In the prior two years, investigators in the Chicago office had sent requests for information — which includes requests for testing — that covered 267 facilities in the six Midwest states it oversees, including in cases involving giant mountains of petcoke stored near residential neighborhoods in Chicago. A carbon and sulfur byproduct of refining oil, petcoke particles can become airborne and enter the lungs, causing serious health effects.

Investigators in the regional office in Denver, which handles many oil and gas cases, also sent out a series of requests during the Obama administration based on hints that energy producers were letting vast quantities of hazardous air pollutants escape into the atmosphere. The pollutants included benzene, which is a carcinogen, and methane, which is a major contributor to climate change. The investigations escalated after four workers at energy facilities in North Dakota were overcome by fumes and died.

As the Obama administration came to a close, companies had grown increasingly unhappy with the tests and began to fight them by turning to allies in Washington.

Koch Carbon, a subsidiary of Koch Industries, which operated two petcoke storage facilities in Chicago, challenged the E.P.A.'s authority to require the tests in a formal filing with the agency,

E.P.A. documents show, although it still provided the information the agency had requested. The test results showed that its petcoke piles were, in fact, threatening neighbors and led to their removal.

Republicans in Congress, including Senator James M. Inhofe of Oklahoma, took up the cause for the oil and gas industry. In public hearings, Mr. Inhofe interrogated E.P.A. officials about the tests and called them “a backdoor effort for the E.P.A. to cut greenhouse gas emissions.”

When Mr. Trump was elected and named Mr. Pruitt, the former Oklahoma attorney general, to lead the E.P.A., the complaints got a fresh — and sympathetic — hearing. Ms. Shinkman, in an interview, said she was instructed to write the new policy memo after Mr. Pruitt received letters of complaint from oil industry executives in North Dakota and Colorado. Ms. Shinkman retired from the E.P.A. in September; in its statement to The Times, the E.P.A. did not say whether the oil and gas industry had been a factor in its decision.

Ron Ness, the president of the North Dakota Petroleum Council, wrote to Mr. Pruitt in March describing the tests as burdensome and costly. “Under the previous administration, the E.P.A. initiated sweeping Clean Air Act (CAA) Section 114 information requests and threatened company-ending sanctions.” Mr. Ness wrote in a letter obtained by The Times.

In his response to Mr. Ness, Mr. Pruitt wrote that the E.P.A. would “develop best practices for the judicious use” of the requests, and also hand off much of the enforcement of air pollution laws to North Dakota officials, except on Indian lands where the federal government has jurisdiction.

“The E.P.A. acknowledges the critical role that the oil and gas industry plays in ensuring the nation’s energy independence through domestic energy production,” Mr. Pruitt wrote to Mr. Ness in July.

The change in North Dakota was part of a broader effort by the E.P.A. to give states more say in how to treat polluters.

In a letter to the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, Edward Chu, the deputy administrator of the E.P.A.'s regional office in Kansas, said the agency would back off some inspection and enforcement activity so the state could take the lead. "These shifts in direction do represent significant change," Mr. Chu wrote.

Officials in North Dakota said the new arrangement there is leading to faster resolution of cases involving the oil and gas industry.

"We are focused on compliance and fixes, not on big fines that are trumped up," said Jim Semerad, who leads the division of the North Dakota Department of Health that enforces air emissions rules.

But some critics question the sincerity of Mr. Pruitt's deference to state authorities, in part because it comes as the Trump administration has proposed cutting grants that help states pay for local enforcement. And the vigilance of some states in taking on the new responsibilities is also uncertain.

An audit by the E.P.A. inspector general in 2011 described North Dakota as "a state philosophically opposed to taking enforcement action" against polluters.

The state's fines, moreover, are a tiny fraction of those imposed by the E.P.A. for the same violations, records obtained by The Times show, and some North Dakota settlements do not require the hiring of independent inspectors to ensure companies honor their promises.

In Ohio, a change in state law that was tucked into a budget bill this year cut funding for an inspector in East Liverpool, even as Ohio authorities found continued evidence of air pollution violations at the Heritage Thermal incinerator, according to state records obtained by The Times.

Ohio Environmental Services Industry, a trade group that represents Heritage Thermal and a handful of other hazardous waste companies, pushed for the change. The group said the facility would receive sufficient oversight without the dedicated state inspector.

The changes across the country, some lawyers suggest, are giving violators an upper hand in negotiating with the E.P.A.

Paul Calamita, who represents cities accused of violating the Clean Water Act when they release sewage and contaminated storm water into rivers and lakes, recommends that clients team up with state governments to push back against the E.P.A.

Under President Trump, Mr. Calamita said, the E.P.A. and the Department of Justice have been willing to compromise, withdrawing a six-figure penalty in one instance after refusing to do so in two previous rounds of negotiations during the Obama administration.

"States with new Republican governors are following the Trump approach — providing compliance assistance at the outset to avoid enforcement where the discharger is cooperative," he said in a presentation to utility executives from around the United States. "A state that pushes back on E.P.A. is likely to be successful."

A Muscular Office Loses Muscle

The E.P.A. under Mr. Pruitt has pursued some high-profile prosecutions of polluters and has talked tough about companies like Fiat Chrysler, which like Volkswagen has been accused of installing software on its vehicles meant to evade emissions standards.

The agency's biggest civil case filed since Mr. Trump took office involves Exxon Mobil, which was accused of not properly operating and monitoring industrial flares at its petrochemical facilities. Exxon agreed in October to pay $2.5 million in civil penalties, some of which will go to Louisiana, and spend $300 million to install new technology to reduce air pollution.

The agency on Friday also released a list of 21 Superfund sites contaminated with hazardous substances and pollutants that Mr. Pruitt has targeted for immediate and intense attention. One of the sites on the list, Tar Creek, a former lead and zinc mine, is in Oklahoma, where Mr. Pruitt

once served as attorney general and state senator.

But more than a dozen current and former E.P.A. officials told The Times that the slowdown in enforcement is real on the ground, and that it is being directed from the top.

At the Ralph Metcalfe Federal Building in Chicago, which houses a regional office of the E.P.A., employees said it has become difficult to even start a new investigation. Because it covers states populated with Rust Belt industries, the Chicago office has traditionally been one of the busiest of the 10 regions.

An agency spokeswoman, in a statement, said "we have not rejected any requests for sampling, monitoring and testing" that were sent to headquarters as a result of the new policy. But agency staff said the memo made clear such requests were discouraged, and many fewer were being drafted.

Jeff Trevino, a lawyer in the Chicago office, who has worked for the agency for 27 years, said the new hurdles imposed by Mr. Pruitt had created "a Catch-22" because, with new policies effectively discouraging requests for information, investigators will have a harder time getting the data needed to detect and confirm violations.

Mr. Trevino, like other current E.P.A. employees, was not authorized by the agency to speak with The Times, and did so as a member of the labor union.

"We are the boots on the ground and we just are having a hard time now getting the information we need to do our job," said Felicia Chase, who has worked for nearly a decade as a water pollution enforcement officer in the Chicago office, which covers states from Minnesota to Ohio. She was also speaking in her capacity as a union member.

Ms. Chase sat glumly in the cafeteria just before Thanksgiving. On a television set on the wall, President Trump could be seen offering an official pardon to a turkey, joking that he could not reverse Mr. Obama's turkey pardons from the previous year.

Some workers said they would take the unusual step of asking members of Congress to protect funding for the work they do, while others said they held out hope that the new restrictions on information gathering would not be permanent. Ms. Shinkman, the retired author of the May memo, said she had hoped to avoid a sharp drop in requests for information, but she declined to elaborate how that would be possible.

Mr. Czerniak, who led the air pollution unit in Chicago until his retirement in 2016, said it was hard to watch the agency struggle through this new era.

"People at the agency are just being cautious, almost to the point of paralysis," he said. "They do not want to do anything for fear of being told they have done something wrong — something the new administrator won't like."

The Associated Press

http://www.providencejournal.com/news/20171210/providence-superfund-site-among-2-priority-from-epa

Providence superfund site among 2 priority from EPA

By Staff, 12/10/17

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency says two sites in the Northeast are being prioritized for cleanup, including the Centredale Manor Restoration Project in North Providence.

The project, the site of a chemical manufacturer from the 1940s to the 1970s, was among 21 nationwide slated for speedier cleanup and redevelopment under the superfund program, which provides federal resources to deal with some of the nation's most contaminated locations. The list was one of the recommendations put forth this summer by a superfund task force.

The other site in the Northeast is the former Mohawk Tannery in Nashua, New Hampshire. Other sites on the list are in New Jersey, Montana, California, Missouri, Virginia, Kentucky, Mississippi, Indiana, Michigan, Nevada, Oklahoma, Texas, Iowa, Oregon and Washington.

Reuters

https://www.reuters.com/article/us-newyork-incident/one-person-in-custody-several-injured-in-new-york-explosion-idUSKBN1E51E9

One person in custody, several injured, in New York explosion

By Staff, 12/11/17

An explosion rocked New York's Port Authority, one of the city's busiest commuter hubs in midtown Manhattan, during Monday morning's rush hour, injuring several people.

Police confirmed one person is in custody but were not yet identifying the device used. Local news channel WABC cited police sources as saying a possible pipe bomb detonated in a passageway below ground at Port Authority.

A police officer near the scene said: "There was an explosion under Port Authority somewhere in the subway. That's all we've got for now."

Media reported several people were injured, and WPIX television reported, citing sources, that a man with a "possible second device" has been detained in the subway tunnel.

New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio and President Donald Trump have been briefed on the incident, according to local media and the White House.

"There was a stampede up the stairs to get out," said Diego Fernandez, one of the commuters at Port Authority. "Everybody was scared and running and shouting."

The Wall Street Journal

https://www.wsj.com/articles/the-taxman-cometh-senate-bills-marginal-rates-could-top-100-for-some-1512942118?mg=prod/accounts-wsj

The Taxman Cometh: Senate Bill's Marginal Rates Could Top 100% for Some

By Richard Rubin, 12/10/17

Some high-income business owners could face marginal tax rates exceeding 100% under the Senate's tax bill, far beyond the listed rates in the Republican plan.

That means a business owner's next $100 in earnings, under certain circumstances, would require paying more than $100 in additional federal and state taxes.

As lawmakers rush to write the final tax bill over the next week, they already are looking at changes to prevent this from happening. Broadly, House and Senate Republicans are trying to reconcile their bills, looking for ways to pay for eliminating the most contentious proposals. The formal House-Senate conference committee will meet on Wednesday, and GOP lawmakers may unveil an agreement by week's end.

The possible marginal tax rate of more than 100% results from the combination of tax policies designed to provide benefits to businesses and families but then deny them to the richest people. As income climbs and those breaks phase out, each dollar of income faces regular tax rates and a hidden marginal rate on top of that, in the form of vanishing tax breaks. That structure, if maintained in a final law, would create some of the disincentives to working and to earning business profit that Republicans have long complained about, while opening lucrative avenues for tax avoidance.

As a taxpayer's income gets much higher and moves out of those phaseout ranges, the marginal tax rates would go down.

Consider, for example, a married, self-employed New Jersey lawyer with three children and earnings of about $615,000. Getting $100 more in business income would force the lawyer to pay $105.45 in federal and state taxes, according to calculations by the conservative-leaning Tax Foundation. That is more than double the marginal tax rate that household faces today.

If the New Jersey lawyer's stay-at-home spouse wanted a job, the first $100 of the spouse's wages would require $107.79 in taxes. And the tax rates for similarly situated residents of California and New York City would be even higher, the Tax Foundation found. Analyses by the Tax Policy Center, which is run by a former Obama administration official, find similar results, with federal marginal rates as high as 85%, and those don't include items such as state taxes, self-employment taxes or the phase-out of child tax credits.

The bill as written would provide incentives for business owners to shift profit across calendar years, move personal expenses inside the business and engage in other economically unproductive maneuvers, said David Gamage, a tax-law professor at Indiana University.

"I would expect a huge tax-gaming response once people fully understand how it works," said Mr. Gamage, a former Treasury Department official, who said business owners have an easier time engaging in such tax avoidance than salaried employees do. "The payoff for gaming is huge, within the set of people who both face these rates and have flexible enough business structures."

The analyses "raise a valid concern" that lawmakers are examining, said Julia Lawless, a spokeswoman for the Senate Finance Committee.

"With any major reform, there will always be unusual hypotheticals delivering anomalous results," she said. "The goal of Congress's tax overhaul has been to lower taxes on the American people and by and large, according to a variety of analyses, we're achieving that."

Marginal tax rates are different from average tax rates. A marginal rate is the tax on the edge, or margin, of one's earnings, and so it reflects what would be the next dollar of income. The average rate is a way of measuring a taxpayer's total burden.

The Republican bills are trying to reduce both marginal and average tax rates, and for many taxpayers, they do. The marginal tax rates above 100% affect a small slice of households with very particular circumstances. Similar, though smaller, effects occur throughout the tax system.

"This is a big concern," said Scott Greenberg, a Tax Foundation analyst. "It would be unfortunate if Congress passed a tax bill that had the effect of making additional work and additional income not worthwhile for any subgroup of households."

Here's how that New Jersey lawyer's marginal rate adds up to more than 100%:

The household is paying the 35% marginal tax rate on their income range. Or, they are paying the alternative minimum tax, which operates at the same marginal rate in that income range.

The household is paying New Jersey's highest income-tax rate, which is 8.97%, and now has to pay all of that because the Republican tax plan wouldn't let such state or local taxes be deducted from federal income.

The household is also losing a deduction the Senate created for so-called pass-through businesses such as partnerships and S corporations. That 23% deduction is fully available to owners of service businesses like law firms, but only if income is below $500,000 for a married couple.

The deduction then phases out over $100,000 in income, according to a complex formula, disappearing entirely once income reaches $624,000. Up to that point, each additional dollar of business income faces progressively steeper tax rates because the deduction and its benefit are shrinking rapidly as income goes up.

The provisions also interact with each other in ways that drive up marginal rates. "The central problem here is that there is a large benefit phasing out over a short range," Mr. Greenberg said.

The Republican bill doubles the child tax credit to $2,000 but phases it out beginning at $500,000 income for joint filers. The credit shrinks by $50 for every $1,000 in income above that, so a married couple with three children faces a higher marginal tax rate when they're in that phase-out range.

The analysis assumes that the New Jersey lawyer is paying a 3.8% tax on self-employment income.

Pushing marginal rates lower on these households wouldn't be easy and would require tradeoffs. Republicans could make the phaseout of the business deduction more gentle, spreading it over, say, $200,000, as opposed to $100,000, of income above $500,000. But that would make the tax cuts bigger, and Republicans are already looking for money to offset other changes they are planning.

They could lower the threshold for the child tax credit, but that would reduce tax cuts for households below $500,000.

Under current law, there are some high marginal tax rates for some lower-income households. Some families just above the poverty line can see their earned income tax credits and food stamps going down as their federal and state taxes go up. That combination can create marginal tax rates of around 75%, according to the Congressional Budget Office.

The Wall Street Journal

https://www.wsj.com/articles/americans-give-trump-higher-grades-on-economy-than-overall-1512925084

Americans Give Trump Higher Grades on Economy Than Overall

By Eli Stokols, 12/10/17

Although President Donald Trump's overall approval ratings have dropped to the lowest point of his presidency, he is getting significantly higher marks in one important area: his handling of the economy.

With the U.S. unemployment rate holding at a 17-year low, hiring strong and the stock market hitting regular records, Mr. Trump is getting stronger reviews from the public on the economy, with 42% approving and 37% disapproving, according to the most recent Wall Street Journal/NBC News survey, conducted in late October.

That stands in stark contrast to his overall approval rating, which dropped last week to 32%, the lowest point of his 11-month presidency, according to a Pew Research Center poll. His disapproval rating of 68% in the same survey was also a new high.

The WSJ poll showed the president with a 38% approval rating, his lowest to date in this poll, while 58% disapproved of his overall performance.

A Gallup survey from November showed the president's approval rating for his handling of the economy at 45%, eight points ahead of his overall approval number, which sagged to 37%.

"He's a political contortionist in that he has high economic numbers and very low personal approval ratings. That's almost impossible to do," said Peter Hart, a veteran Democratic pollster.

On Friday, the White House celebrated the December jobs report that showed the economy gaining 228,000 jobs in November.

"President Trump's bold economic vision continues to pay off," White House Press Secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders said in a statement that also referenced an increase in manufacturing jobs since the president took office. "As we continue to unleash the American economy from unnecessary regulation and taxes, we look forward to seeing more reports like this, showing a healthy and thriving jobs market for the American people."

The president expects to sign a final version of the GOP's $1.4 trillion tax overhaul before the end of the year. White House political director Bill Stepien, who didn't respond to a request to comment, has expressed confidence in the past that strong economic numbers, especially in the states Mr. Trump won in the 2016 election, will be enough to help him overcome other political liabilities.

"The issues that drove the 2016 election—change Washington and fix the economy—continue to break President Trump's way. Today's strong economy is a bulwark for the party in power as it faces the electorate next year in congressional elections,'' said Bill McInturff of the Republican polling firm Public Opinion Strategies. Mr. McInturff directs the Journal/NBC News poll with Democrat Fred Yang.

Mr. Hart isn't so sure. He pointed to a recent focus group he conducted with North Carolina voters. He said they were less willing to forgive Mr. Trump's sometimes controversial behavior amidst a strong economy than they were with President Bill Clinton two decades earlier.

"During the Clinton impeachment, people said, 'Look, the economy is doing fine.' They weren't in a mood to pursue impeachment," Mr. Hart said. "What's different now is the country is looking for an equilibrium and the president keeps the country constantly on edge. There's never enough of a lull for voters to get their breath and say, 'I'm comfortable.' And that's why Trump doesn't get the full political benefit of the economic growth."

Some administration allies have been trying to impress upon the president and his communications team that he would be in a stronger political position if he created fewer distractions with his tweets, according to people familiar with those conversations.

TRUMP TWEETS

N/A

To: Daniell, Kelsi[daniell.kelsi@epa.gov]
Cc: Wilcox, Jahan[wilcox.jahan@epa.gov]; Konkus, John[konkus.john@epa.gov]; Hewitt, James[hewitt.james@epa.gov]; Abboud, Michael[abboud.michael@epa.gov]; Block, Molly[block.molly@epa.gov]; Ferguson, Lincoln[ferguson.lincoln@epa.gov]
From: Bowman, Liz
Sent: Wed 1/10/2018 2:35:10 PM
Subject: Re: FOR APPROVAL -- EPA Morning News Highlights 01.10.18

Thanks

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 10, 2018, at 8:56 AM, Daniell, Kelsi <daniell.kelsi@epa.gov> wrote:

EPA Morning News Highlights 01.10.18

Reuters: Exclusive: Trump's EPA aims to replace Obama-era climate, water regs in 2018

A top EPA priority for 2018 is to replace the Obama-era Clean Power Plan which would have slashed carbon emissions from power plants. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency will replace Obama-era carbon and clean water regulations and open up a national debate on climate change in 2018, part of a list of priorities for the year that also includes fighting lead contamination in public drinking water.

NewsOK: Contaminated Eagle Industries site in Midwest City added to EPA priorities list

A contaminated industrial site along Midwest City's border with Oklahoma City was added Tuesday to the Environmental Protection Agency's national priorities list for Superfund site. The designation signifies the site is one of the nation's most severely polluted parcels of land. Soil and groundwater around the former Eagle Industries property at 10901 SE 29th St. are contaminated with trichloroethylene and dichloroethane, according to Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality investigators.

Miami News Record: Tar Creek Superfund Site Makes Pruitt's Priority List

The Tar Creek Superfund Site made U.S. EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt's list of Superfund Sites Targeted for Immediate and Intense Action, but no commitment of additional funding

is associated with the site's inclusion on the list. The Tar Creek Superfund Site is included on a list of 21 sites across the nation making the list. The EPA considered sites that could benefit from Pruitt's direct engagement and sites that have identifiable actions to protect human health and the environment.

Times Free Press: Local Site Proposed for List of Country's Most Toxic Places

A local site composed of residential properties, including areas used by children, has been proposed to be put on a list of the country's most toxic places. The Southside Chattanooga Lead Site is one of 10 sites across the country recommended to be added to the Superfund Program's National Priorities List by the Environmental Protection Agency.

US News: Michigan Sets Standard for Chemical Contaminant in Water

Michigan regulators on Tuesday set a state threshold for chemicals that were once widely used and are being found in drinking water, a move they said will let them issue violation notices and take legal action if needed. The announcement is the latest as Republican Gov. Rick Snyder's administration scrambles to combat potential health risks in tap water that stem from the chemicals used in firefighting, waterproofing, carpeting and other products.

Newark Post: EPA Adds Contaminated Newark Site to Superfund List

The Environmental Protection Agency has agreed to add a site in Newark to the National Priorities List – a list of contaminated sites eligible for remedial action financed under the federal Superfund program. The agency will conduct a remedial investigation and feasibility study to determine the extent of contamination and evaluate various cleanup options, a spokesperson said.

National Morning News Highlights 01.10.18

-

Los Angeles Times: At least 13 dead as heavy rains trigger flooding, mudflows and freeway closures across Southern California

At least 13 people were killed Tuesday when a rainstorm sent mud and debris coursing through Montecito neighborhoods and left rescue crews to scramble through clogged roadways and downed trees to search for victims. The deluge that washed over Santa

Barbara County early Tuesday was devastating for a community that was ravaged by the Thomas fire only a few weeks earlier. In just a matter of minutes, pounding rain overwhelmed the south-facing slopes above Montecito and flooded a creek that leads to the ocean, sending mud and massive boulders rolling into residential neighborhoods, according to Santa Barbara County Fire Department spokesman Mike Eliason.

Fox News: US Oks selling Japan missiles to shoot down North Korean missiles

The Trump administration has approved a $133.3 million missile defense sale to Japan to meet the escalating threat from North Korea — by shooting down the rogue nation's own ballistic missiles. The State Department says Congress was notified Tuesday of the proposed sale of four missiles for the SM-3 Block IIA interceptor.

CNBC: China is reportedly thinking of halting US Treasury purchases and that's worrying markets right now

China, the United States' biggest buyer of sovereign bonds, could be slowing down or even halting its purchases, according to a report. Bloomberg News reported Wednesday, citing people familiar with the matter, that officials in Beijing have recommended the Chinese government lowers — or even stops — its buying of U.S. sovereign debt.

Wall Street Journal: Amid signs of a thaw in North Korea, Tensions bubble up

A tentative move toward diplomacy over the confrontation with North Korea has begun, though that hardly means the tension is evaporating. In a village on their heavily militarized border, North and South Korean officials opened talks Tuesday, ostensibly over possible North Korean participation in the coming South Korean Olympics. South Korea would like the talks to expand beyond that, toward finding broader ways to lower tensions.

Reuters

http://news.trust.org/item/20180110023844-vd9k3/

Exclusive: Trump's EPA aims to replace Obama-era climate, water regs in 2018

By: Valerie Volcovici and David Shepardson, 1/9/18

A top EPA priority for 2018 is to replace the Obama-era Clean Power Plan which would have slashed carbon emissions from power plants

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency will replace Obama-era carbon and clean water regulations and open up a national debate on climate change in 2018, part of a list of priorities for the year that also includes fighting lead contamination in public drinking water.

The agenda, laid out by EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt in an exclusive interview with Reuters on Tuesday, marks an extension of the agency's efforts under President Donald Trump to weaken or kill regulations the administration believes are too broad and harm economic growth, but which environmentalists say are critical to human health.

"The climate is changing. That's not the debate. The debate is how do we know what the ideal surface temperature is in 2100?... I think the American people deserve an open honest transparent discussion about those things," said Pruitt, who has frequently cast doubt on the causes and implications of global warming.

Pruitt reaffirmed plans for the EPA to host a public debate on climate science sometime this year that would pit climate change doubters against other climate scientists, but he provided no further details on timing or which scientists would be involved.

Pruitt said among the EPA's top priorities for 2018 will be to replace the Clean Power Plan, former President Barack Obama's centerpiece climate change regulation which would have slashed carbon emissions from power plants. The EPA began the process of rescinding the regulation last year and is taking input on what should replace it.

"A proposed rule will come out this year and then a final rule will come out sometime this year," he said. He did not give any details on what the rule could look like, saying the agency was still soliciting comments from stakeholders.

He said the agency was also planning to rewrite the Waters of the United States rule, another Obama-era regulation, this one defining which U.S. waterways are protected under federal law. Pruitt and Trump have said the rule marked an overreach by including streams that are shallow, narrow, or sometimes completely dry - and was choking off energy development.

Pruitt said that in both cases, former President Barack Obama had made the rules by executive order, and without Congress. "We only have the authority that Congress gives us," Pruitt said.

Pruitt's plans to replace the Clean Power Plan have raised concerns by attorneys general of states like California and New York, who said in comments submitted to the EPA on Tuesday that the administrator should recuse himself because as Oklahoma attorney general he led legal challenges against it.

BIOFUELS AND STAFF CUTS

Pruitt said he hoped for legislative reform of the U.S. biofuels policy this year, calling it "substantially needed and important" because of the costs the regulation imposes on oil refiners.

The Renewable Fuel Standard, ushered in by former President George W. Bush as a way to help U.S. farmers, requires refiners to blend increasing amounts of biofuels like corn-based ethanol into the nation's fuel supply every year.

Refining companies say the EPA-administered policy costs them hundreds of millions of dollars annually and threatens to put some plants out of business. But their proposals to change the program have so far been rejected by the Trump administration under pressure from the corn lobby.

The EPA in November slightly raised biofuels volumes mandates for 2018, after previously opening the door to cuts.

The White House is now mediating talks on the issue between representatives of both sides, with input from EPA, and some Republican senators from states representing refineries are working on possible legislation to overhaul the program.

Pruitt said he also hoped Congress could produce an infrastructure package this year that would include replacing municipal water pipes, as a way of combating high lead levels in certain parts of the United States.

"That to me is something very tangible very important that we can achieve for the American people," he said.

Pruitt added that EPA also continuing its review of automobile fuel efficiency rules, and would be headed to California soon for more meetings with the California Air Resources Board to discuss them.

California in 2011 agreed to adopt the federal vehicle emission rules through 2025, but has signaled it would opt out of the standards if they are weakened – a move that would complicate matters for automakers serving the huge California market.

In the meantime, Pruitt said EPA is continuing to reduce the size of its staff, which fell to 14,162 employees as of Jan. 3, the lowest it has been since 1998, under Ronald Reagan when the employment level was 14,400. The EPA employed about 15,000 when Obama left office.

Nearly 50 percent of the EPA will be eligible to retire within the next five years, according to the agency.

NewsOK

http://newsok.com/contaminated-eagle-industries-site-in-midwest-city-added-to-epa-priorities-list/article/5578891

Contaminated Eagle Industries site in Midwest City added to EPA priorities list

By: Justin Wingerter, 1/9/18

A contaminated industrial site along Midwest City's border with Oklahoma City was added Tuesday to the Environmental Protection Agency's national priorities list for Superfund site.

The designation signifies the site is one of the nation's most severely polluted parcels of land. Soil and groundwater around the former Eagle Industries property at 10901 SE 29th St. are contaminated with trichloroethylene and dichloroethane, according to Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality investigators.

"Groundwater resources at the site and the surrounding area are threatened by the contamination," the EPA wrote in a memo Tuesday. "(Trichloroethylene) has been found in off-site private drinking water wells. The site is an area of recharge for the Central Oklahoma aquifer system, which is a major source of groundwater in Central Oklahoma."

Contamination at Eagle Industries was first discovered in 2003. The company, which had dumped contaminants in violation of state law, closed in 2010 without paying a fine.

The EPA announced in early August it would consider adding Eagle to its national priorities list at the request of Gov. Mary Fallin. Several months of public comment followed, leading to Tuesday's announcement.

“Once again, Administrator (Scott) Pruitt is making it clear that he's focused on protecting the environment by partnering with states to clean up contaminated sites in local communities," said U.S. Sen. Jim Inhofe, R-Tulsa.

"By adding the Eagle Industries site in Oklahoma City to the National Priorities List, it will give the site increased attention for long-term clean-up efforts and focus on revitalizing the area for development and economic activity," he added.

The adverse public health ramifications of Eagle's illegal actions have not dissipated. Trichloroethylene, or TCE, has been found within nearby residential water wells. State investigators distributed a fact sheet to residents that stated TCE “may cause nervous system effects, liver and lung damage, abnormal heartbeat, coma and possibly death.”

“It is clear that the TCE is migrating, with the likelihood of affecting approximately 30 additional residences and businesses,” stated an internal DEQ memo obtained by The Oklahoman in an open records request. “Eagle Industries lies in Midwest City. The plume of pollution is flowing into Oklahoma City.”

On Tuesday, the EPA wrote, "There are currently no readily available alternative drinking water sources for the 18 family homes south of Eagle Industries."

“Today's action ensures the necessary resources are available for effective and safe revitalization of some of the most contaminated sites across the country,” Pruitt said in a statement.

EPA cleanup efforts could eventually extend to a second Eagle site, where the company operated for decades, beginning in 1957. Since an investigation by The Oklahoman found Eagle employees may have also dumped trichloroethylene at the site, 8828 SE 29th St., state investigators and Midwest City have agreed to test the soil and groundwater there. The property is owned by Midwest City.

Rita Kottke, an environmental programs director at DEQ, told Midwest City council members last month that EPA headquarters in Washington had shown an interest in the 8828 site. The EPA contacted DEQ and pushed them to conduct environmental testing, the first step in the Superfund process, according to Kottke.

When soil and groundwater tests are complete in the coming months, several outcomes are possible. The tests could find no cause for concern, allowing Midwest City to develop the 8828 site and attract a grocery store or other retail opportunity. The tests could find minor contamination curative with soil extraction and other actions. Or the tests could find dire contamination requiring massive EPA action.

Miami News Record

http://www.miamiok.com/news/20180109/tar-creek-superfund-site-makes-pruitts-priority-list

Tar Creek Superfund Site Makes Pruitt's Priority List

By: Melinda Stotts, 1/9/18

The Superfund list came in direct response to the EPA's Superfund Task Force Recommendations issued in July of 2017.

MIAMI – The Tar Creek Superfund Site made U.S. EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt's list of Superfund Sites Targeted for Immediate and Intense Action, but no commitment of additional funding is associated with the site's inclusion on the list.

The Tar Creek Superfund Site is included on a list of 21 sites across the nation making the list.

The EPA considered sites that could benefit from Pruitt's direct engagement and sites that have identifiable actions to protect human health and the environment.

The listed sites require timely resolution of specific issues to expedite cleanup and redevelopment efforts, according to the EPA's press release, and the list is designed to spur action at sites where opportunities exist to act quickly and comprehensively.

The Superfund list came in direct response to the EPA's Superfund Task Force Recommendations issued in July of 2017.

According to the EPA, Pruitt will receive regular updates on the listed sites, but the EPA remains dedicated to addressing the risks of all Superfund sites.

There are currently more than 1,300 Superfund sites on EPA's National Priorities List at various stages in the cleanup process

The Task Force recommendations are aimed at expediting cleanup at all sites and Pruitt has set the expectation of a renewed focus on accelerating work and progress.

The list released on Dec. 8 includes the following U.S. Superfund Sites Mohawk Tannery in Nashua, New Hampshire, Centredale Manor Restoration Project in North Providence in Rhode Island, American Cyanamid Co. in Bound Brook, New Jersey, Diamond Alkali Co. (aka Upper Lower Passaic) Newark, New Jersey, Ventron/Velsicol (aka Berry's Creek) in Wood Ridge Borough, New Jersey, L.A. Clarke & Son in Spotsylvania, Virginia, B.F. Goodrich in Calvert City, Kentucky, Mississippi Phosphates Corporation in Pascagoula, Mississippi, U.S. Smelter and Lead Refinery Inc. (aka USS Lead or East Chicago) in East Chicago, Indiana, Allied Paper Inc./Portage Creek/Kalamazoo River in Kalamazoo, Michigan, Tar Creek (Ottawa County) in Ottawa County, Oklahoma, San Jacinto Waste Pits in Channelview, Texas, Des Moines TCE (aka Dico Company) in Des Moines, Iowa, West Lake Landfill in Bridgeton, Missouri, Bonita Peak Mining District in San Juan County, Colorado, Anaconda Co. Smelter in Anaconda, Montana, Silver Bow Creek/Butte Area I Butte, Montana, Orange County North Basin in Fullerton, California, Anaconda Copper Mine in Lyon County, Nevada, Portland Harbor in Portland, Oregon and Quendall Terminal in Renton, Washington.

All 21 sites have been designated the nation's Superfund sites for years, some for decades. Tar Creek was first officially designated a Superfund in 1983.

Millions and millions, well over $300 million, of federal funding has been expended for cleanup and buyout of the Tar Creek Superfund Site which continues today and is expected to continue for more decades to come.

Pruitt is a former Oklahoma state senator and served the state as attorney general before his nomination by President Trump to the EPA and confirmation to the post in February of 2017.

During his time serving as Oklahoma's attorney general Pruitt refused to release the state audit conducted regarding the Lead-Impacted Communities Relocation Trust (LICRAT), a Public Trust and Agency of the State of Oklahoma buyout of the Tar Creek Superfund Site despite the objection of other state officials.

A non-profit Washington, DC watchdog group, Campaign for Accountability (CfA) filed a lawsuit in the District Court of Oklahoma in November of 2017 against Oklahoma Attorney General Mike Hunter and Oklahoma State Auditor and Inspector Gary Jones for failing to release copies of audits and documents related to corruption allegations associated with the management of the Tar Creek Reclamation site in the state, according to their press release.

"While he was serving as the Attorney General of Oklahoma, EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt declined to bring criminal charges in response to an audit that found evidence of criminal wrongdoing at the Tar Creek Reclamation site," said CfA Executive Director Daniel E. Stevens in a press release issued by Nov. 27, 2017, by CfA. "Why did he refuse to bring charges? We don't know because the Oklahoma Attorney General's office has repeatedly refused to release documents related to this audit."

Pruitt claimed if released the information in the audit might unfairly embarrass private civilians.

Times Free Press

http://www.timesfreepress.com/news/breakingnews/story/2018/jan/09/local-site-proposed/460875/

Local site proposed for list of country's most toxic places

By: Mark Pace, 1/9/18

A local site composed of residential properties, including areas used by children, has been proposed to be put on a list of the country's most toxic places.

The Southside Chattanooga Lead Site is one of 10 sites across the country recommended to be added to the Superfund Program's National Priorities List by the Environmental Protection Agency.

"The priority for proposing the Site is protecting children by identifying and cleaning up lead-contaminated soil at residential properties and other areas where children may be present," according to a release from the EPA.

The site site located where waste material was used in past decades as fill or top soil in Alton Park, Cowart Place, Jefferson Heights, Richmond and the Southside Gardens areas in the southwestern portion of Chattanooga.

Lead levels at the site were detected above health-based benchmarks. The EPA will work with other groups and agencies to clean the site and replace it with clean soil.

Sites are added to the National Priorities List when contaminants are considered threats to human health and the environment.

The move is another step in EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt's goal to identify and the clean toxic sites. The announcement comes on the heels of a targeted campaign for "immediate

and intense attention" to clean and restore 21 sites in the U.S.

US News

https://www.usnews.com/news/best-states/michigan/articles/2018-01-09/michigan-sets-standard-for-chemical-contaminant-in-water

Michigan sets standard for chemical contaminant in water

By: David Eggert, AP, 1/9/18

Michigan regulators on Tuesday set a state threshold for chemicals that were once widely used and are being found in drinking water, a move they said will let them issue violation notices and take legal action if needed.

The announcement is the latest as Republican Gov. Rick Snyder's administration scrambles to combat potential health risks in tap water that stem from the chemicals used in firefighting, waterproofing, carpeting and other products.

The combined standard for perfluorooctanoic acid and perfluorooctanesulfonic acid is 70 parts per trillion. That mirrors a federal advisory level set in 2016.

"This new standard allows us to take regulatory enforcement actions, something we have not been able to do absent a state criterion," Michigan Department of Environmental Quality Director Heidi Grether said in a statement. "This means we will now have tools to mandate a responsible party conduct activities to address PFOA and PFOS contamination, thereby reducing risk to human health and the environment."

The expectation is that parties will voluntarily comply with clean up criteria, she said.

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, or PFAS, have been detected at military bases, water treatment plants and, most recently, an old industrial dump site for footwear company Wolverine World Wide. The contaminants, classified by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency as "emerging" nationally, have sparked enough concern that Snyder in November created a state response team and last month enacted $23 million in emergency spending passed by the Legislature.

The chemicals were used in scores of industrial applications and have been detected in human and animal blood around the world. The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry said scientists are uncertain about how they affect human health at exposure levels typically found in food and water. But some studies suggest the chemicals might affect fetal development, disrupt hormonal functions, damage fertility and immune systems, and boost the risk of cancer.

At least 1,000 homes with private wells in the Plainfield Township area north of Grand Rapids, near where Wolverine dumped hazardous waste decades ago, have been tested for PFAS contamination in recent months.

Also Tuesday, Snyder announced the creation of two advisory committees to the response team.

One, to be led by Dr. David Savitz of Brown University, will review the science and make recommendations within six months — including potentially a stricter state PFAS standard. Democrats are proposing legislation to establish a 5 parts per trillion limit, which would be the country's toughest guidelines.

The other advisory committee will focus on the public health impact of the contamination and be led by Dr. Eden Wells, Michigan's chief medical executive.

She has been charged with involuntary manslaughter, obstruction of justice and lying to an investigator as part of a criminal investigation of Flint's water crisis, but Snyder has stood behind her. In November, he appointed her to lead a new Public Health Advisory Council.

Newark Post

http://www.newarkpostonline.com/news/epa-adds-contaminated-newark-site-to-superfund-list/article_bd185770-1678-57de-91c0-40f653ecd7af.html

EPA adds contaminated Newark site to Superfund list

By: Josh Shannon, 1/9/18

The Environmental Protection Agency has agreed to add a site in Newark to the National Priorities List – a list of contaminated sites eligible for remedial action financed under the federal Superfund program.

"Today's action ensures the necessary resources are available for effective and safe revitalization of some of the most contaminated sites across the country," EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt said in a prepared statement.

The agency will conduct a remedial investigation and feasibility study to determine the extent of contamination and evaluate various cleanup options, a spokesperson said.

City and state officials first asked for federal help investigating the cause of groundwater pollution in 2016.

The issue involves the area surrounding the city's South Well Field, located on a narrow property off South Chapel Street, between Brookside and Scottfield. Water from the South Well Field feeds the southern part of the city, roughly as far north as Kells Avenue. The northern part of the city gets its water from White Clay Creek and the Newark Reservoir.

Nearly 20 years ago, city officials noticed volatile organic compounds (VOCs) – including

chemicals commonly found in dry cleaning solvents and other industrial solvents and degreasers – seeping into the water and installed a treatment system in 2003. The chemicals are toxic but are easily removed in treatment, according to Tom Coleman, acting city manager for the city of Newark.

"It's been in place since 2003, and we don't have any problem treating it," Coleman explained in 2016. "It's just an expense."

Coleman emphasized that treatment eliminates the VOCs from the water.

"Our water is safe, has been safe and will continue to be safe," he said.

The Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control has been studying the cause of the pollution but has been unable to pinpoint the source.

The contamination is believed to be in two groundwater plumes. One is beneath Pencader Plaza, the Blue Hen Industrial Park and homes around Scottfield Drive. The second is beneath a portion of the Diamond State Industrial Park along Bellevue Road.

Officials believe the VOCs may have come from industrial chemicals used or spilled in the industrial parks.

A year ago, the EPA conducted preliminary tests at monitoring wells in Brookside and Scottfield, as well as in the commercial areas along South Chapel Street. The agency was testing for "vapor intrusion," which is the migration of VOCs from contaminated groundwater into nearby buildings through openings in the building foundation.

The study found the concentration of VOCs does not present a vapor intrusion concern to nearby residents and businesses.

Los Angeles Times

http://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-ln-rainfall-mudflow-20180109-story.html

At least 13 dead as heavy rains trigger flooding, mudflows and freeway closures across Southern California

By: James Queally, Joseph Serna, Michael Livingston and Ruben Vines, 1/9/18

At least 13 people were killed Tuesday when a rainstorm sent mud and debris coursing through Montecito neighborhoods and left rescue crews to scramble through clogged roadways and downed trees to search for victims.

The deluge that washed over Santa Barbara County early Tuesday was devastating for a community that was ravaged by the Thomas fire only a few weeks earlier. In just a matter of minutes, pounding rain overwhelmed the south-facing slopes above Montecito and flooded a creek that leads to the ocean, sending mud and massive boulders rolling into residential neighborhoods, according to Santa Barbara County Fire Department spokesman Mike Eliason.

At least 25 other people were injured, authorities said at an afternoon press conference. Crews rescued 50 people by air and dozens more from the ground.

"It's going to be worse than anyone imagined for our area," Eliason said in a phone interview Tuesday. "Following our fire, this is the worst-case scenario."

The deaths came after a heavy band of rain struck around 2:30 a.m., causing "waist-high" mudflows, Eliason said.

Late Tuesday, about 300 people remained stuck in their homes in Montecito's Romero Canyon neighborhood after impassable roads halted rescue operations, officials said.

First-responders plan to launch aerial rescues at daybreak for those residents, all of whom are safe.

"So far there isn't a concern about anybody being in any potential danger in that area," said Rosie Narez, a spokeswoman for the multi-agency storm response. "There's no way in or out, so I mean, at some point … you're going to run out of stuff, so you're going to need help."

Authorities said the residents are in a mandatory evacuation zone.

The mudslide struck a section of the city that is south of the Thomas fire's burn area and was not subject to a mandatory evacuation, Eliason said. Rescue personnel have yet to even make it north of Highway 192, which is closer to soil scorched by last month's wildfire. Burned areas are less capable of absorbing water, making them even more susceptible to flooding and mudslides.

Officials had no estimate on how many people could be trapped or how many homes were damaged. The search for survivors was still underway Tuesday afternoon, with many places inaccessible.

Stationed in Hawaii for the Navy, Tyler McManigal, 28, was notified Tuesday that his father and brother were swept away by flooding in Montecito.

In a phone interview, he said he knew very little else about what happened.

McManigal said when the flash flood and mud flow began, his 64-year-old father, John, woke up and rushed over to wake up his brother, Connor, 23. The pair were unable to make it out of their home in the 300 block of Hot Springs Road, just north of Olive Mill Road.

The torrent of brown liquid mixed with branches, rocks, boulders and other debris carried away the family home — along with McManigal's brother and father.

"They found my brother probably three-quarters of a mile away, south of where the house is, on the 101 Freeway," he said, adding that Connor was taken to a local hospital.

"My brother is OK," he said.

But his father, who has six children, is yet to be found, said McManigal, who is trying to get back home.

The founder of St. Augustine Academy in Ventura was among those killed early Tuesday when a powerful mudslide swept him and his wife from their Montecito home.

Roy Rohter was identified by officials at Thomas Aquinas College, from which his daughter graduated in 2000. His wife, Theresa, was rescued and is in stable condition, officials said.

Friends remembered Rohter as an energetic leader and generous benefactor of the college.

"Roy Rohter was a man of strong faith and a great friend of Catholic education," Michael F. McLean, president of the college, said in a statement posted on the school's website. "He played a pivotal role in the lives of countless young Catholic students — students who came to a deeper knowledge and love of Christ because of his vision, commitment and generosity."

Michael Van Hecke, headmaster of St. Augustine, said in a statement that Rohter "has done so much for so many people and pro-life and Catholic education causes. … Thousands have been blessed by the Rohters' friendship and generosity."

Emergency crews spent the first hours of light making rescues in voluntary evacuation zones near Montecito Creek north of U.S. 101.

In the 300 block of Hot Springs Road, crews rescued six people and a dog after four homes were destroyed. The mud lifted one home off of its foundation and carried it into trees, where it then collapsed, Eliason said. Firefighters used the jaws of life to cut their way into the home where a firefighter heard muffled cries for help from a 14-year-old girl, Eliason said.

A rescue dog pinpointed the girl's location and two hours later, the mud-covered girl was pulled free. A second 14-year-old girl was also rescued from the same neighborhood and carried from ankle-high mud in a basket by half a dozen firefighters.

The U.S. Coast Guard also sent rescue helicopters into the area Tuesday morning, hoisting several people from collapsed homes or rooftops that stood above swirling mud and water. Rescue personnel were also able to save a young boy who was swept more than half a mile south from his house after the building was lifted from its foundation in Montecito, authorities said.

The boy was found alive under a U.S. 101 overpass, authorities said. But his father remains unaccounted for.

On Hot Springs Road on Tuesday afternoon, a dozen sheriff's deputies carried a body on a gurney from a collapsed house as muddy water raced down the street. The deputies surrounded the body in silence for several moments before placing it gently into an emergency vehicle.

According to the National Weather Service in Los Angeles, the highest preliminary rainfall total appeared to register at roughly 5 inches in a gauge north of Ojai in Ventura County, in the burn area of the Thomas fire, which forced evacuations and destroyed homes last month. With heavy showers still forecast, flash flood warnings remained in effect for Santa Barbara County and southern Ventura County through Tuesday afternoon, according to the National Weather Service.

The 101 Freeway was shut down in both directions for more than 30 miles in the Thomas fire burn area because of flooding and debris flow, spanning an area from Santa Barbara to Ventura, according to the California Highway Patrol. Sections of routes 33 and 150 were also closed in Ventura County, according to the Sheriff's Department. There was no estimate for when the roadways might reopen, a California Department of Transportation spokesman said Tuesday afternoon.

In Los Angeles, one person was killed when a big rig overturned in the northbound lanes of the 5 Freeway near Los Feliz, said Saul Gomez, public information officer for the California Highway Patrol's Southern Division. All northbound lanes were closed as of 4 a.m., though Gomez said police were hoping to reopen the roadway by 8 a.m.

The victim, who was not identified, was approximately 60 years old, Gomez said. No one else was injured. While the accident happened as rain fell across Los Angeles County, Gomez said he could not confirm the crash was storm-related.

The fatal crash was one of hundreds that occurred during the downpour. Between 5 and 9 a.m. Tuesday, there were 275 traffic collisions reported on Los Angeles-area freeways, the California Highway Patrol said. There were only 30 during the same time period a week ago.

Santa Barbara County officials evacuated nearly 7,000 residents from foothill communities shortly before the heaviest surge hit the area, according to Sheriff's Office spokeswoman Kelly Hoover.

About 3 a.m., she said, the storm became ferocious.

“We just had a deluge, a power surge of rain. And we had a report of a structure fire burning in the Montecito area, the San Ysidro area. And it just kept going downhill from there,” she said. “We have people stuck in their homes, stuck in their cars. There’s downed power lines, flooded roadways, debris.”

Hoover said the shutdown of the 101 Freeway was heavily hindering rescue efforts.

“There’s no way to get from Ventura here, no way for us to get south,” Hoover said. “We’re encouraging people to stay off the roads if they’re in an evacuation area.”

By 8:30 a.m., the county’s dispatch center had at least 50 calls pending, she said.

Santa Barbara County officials put a boil water notice in effect for the entire Montecito Water District on Tuesday afternoon.

In Los Angeles County, there was “mudslide activity” on Country Club Drive in Burbank, where police ordered evacuations of all homes east of Via Montana on Tuesday morning. The Police Department released footage of water surging across a roadway and urged people not to attempt to drive over it. Some vehicles were picked up and moved by the surge, and a few homes suffered minor damage, but no one had been injured as of 1 p.m., according to Sgt. Derek Green, a Burbank police spokesman.

The torrent of mud and debris sheared at least three fire hydrants, pumping another 130,000 gallons of water onto the debris flow, said Bill Mace, an assistant general manager of water systems for Burbank Water and Power. The department was able to cut off the pressure to each hydrant, but 14 homeowners will be without water for at least two days, Mace said.

Country Club Drive residents Allie Vonnacher, 17, and her mom, Heidi Donato-Fennell, 42, said they awoke to the site of several cars flowing down the street, along with power lines, trees and mailboxes.

“It’s just surreal how powerful nature is,” Donato-Fennell said. “You just hope it stays contained in the street and it doesn’t become life-threatening.”

Surges also washed out Topanga Canyon Boulevard north of Pacific Coast Highway, and sections of the 110 Freeway were closed because of flooding. The Los Angeles Fire Department had to launch a swift-water rescue to aid a man and a dog trapped in rising water near the Sepulveda Basin Recreation Area, and a Los Angeles police cruiser became mired in a debris flow on La Tuna Canyon Road, according to authorities. The officer was uninjured and walked out of the vehicle. The cruiser was in the process of being dug out of the mud with a backhoe early Tuesday.

International travelers arriving at Los Angeles International Airport also had to be diverted from Terminal 2 on Tuesday morning, after the customs area became flooded, the airport said on Twitter.

The CHP also said heavy rains likely contributed to a crash that left one person dead on Highway 126 in Ventura County, about two miles from the Los Angeles County line, on Monday afternoon. One woman died and two others were injured in the five-car crash, the agency said.

The National Weather Service was reporting rainfall totals of up to 5 inches in Ventura County and 3.3 inches in Santa Barbara County as of 11 a.m. Nearly 1½ inches of rain had fallen in Bel-Air, which could be susceptible to mudslides and debris flow because of damage caused by the Skirball fire last month.

The storm spared some areas that were affected by last month’s blazes. Early Tuesday afternoon, evacuation orders for neighborhoods in the burn areas of the Creek and Fish fires were lifted, according to the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department.

“I woke up ready this morning to laugh and scoff at all the gloom-and-doom predictions,” said Dominic Shiach, 50. “It’s actually way worse than I thought it was going to be.”

Shiach wore a Navy raincoat as he walked Archie, his 3-year-old West Highland terrier, down Sycamore Canyon Road on Tuesday morning.

Amber Anderson with the Santa Barbara Incident Management Team said there were about 75 people who called for evacuation help.

Marc Phillips realized he should have listened to emergency officials as he trudged down East Valley Road in mud-soaked jeans.

“They were right,” he said, pointing to a place where residences had been knocked from their foundations. “It looks like there was never a house there, but it was.”

Fox News

http://www.foxnews.com/politics/2018/01/09/us-oks-selling-japan-missiles-to-shoot-down-north-korean-missiles.html

US Oks selling Japan missiles to shoot down North Korean missiles

By: Frank Miles, 1/9/18

The Trump administration has approved a $133.3 million missile defense sale to Japan to meet the escalating threat from North Korea — by shooting down the rogue nation's own ballistic missiles.

The State Department says Congress was notified Tuesday of the proposed sale of four missiles for the SM-3 Block IIA interceptor.

A State Department official told Fox News that, “Also included are four Mk 29 missile canisters, and other technical, engineering and logistics support services.”

The department said the sale would support the U.S. defense industry and underscore Trump’s commitment to improve the defense of allies threatened by North Korea.

The system was jointly developed by Japan and the U.S.

The missiles could be used at sea with Japan’s current Aegis-equipped destroyers and with the land-based Aegis system its Cabinet approved for purchase last month.

That’s intended to bolster Japan’s current missile defense and perhaps curry favor with President Donald Trump who is eager for U.S. allies to buy more American military hardware.

“If concluded, this proposed sale will contribute to the foreign policy and national security interests of the United States,” the State Department official told Fox News. “It will bolster the security of a major treaty ally that has been, and continues to be, a force for political stability and economic progress in the Asia-Pacific region. It will also improve (Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force’s) interoperability with U.S. missile defense systems, and increase the protection for U.S. installations in the region.”

Fox News previously reported that North Korea’s weapons “are only aimed” at America and its territories, a regime official menacingly revealed during Tuesday’s joint talks with South Korea — doubling down on Kim Jong Un’s frequent threats to destroy the United States.

CNBC

https://www.cnbc.com/2018/01/10/china-is-reportedly-thinking-of-halting-us-treasury-purchases.html

China is reportedly thinking of halting US Treasury purchase and that's worrying markets right now

By: Fred Imbert, 1/10/18

China, the United States' biggest buyer of sovereign bonds, could be slowing down or even halting its purchases, according to a report.

Bloomberg News reported Wednesday, citing people familiar with the matter, that officials in Beijing have recommended the Chinese government lowers — or even stops — its buying of U.S. sovereign debt.

The report also notes that Chinese officials think U.S. debt is becoming less attractive compared to other assets, adding that trade tensions between the two countries could provide a reason to slow down or halt the purchases.

The news is worrying markets.

Treasury prices fell, boosting yields. The U.S. dollar also fell vs. most currencies and gold increased.

Dow futures were down more than 110 points.

A taper in Chinese purchases would come as the Federal Reserve unwinds the massive balance sheet it amassed following the financial crisis. The Fed is also expected to raise rates three times this year. In 2017, the central bank also hiked rates three times.

The U.S. 10-year yield rose to 2.59 percent on Wednesday, hitting levels not seen since last March. The dollar also fell against a basket of major currencies, trading down 0.6 percent at 91.96.

Click here for the full report.

Wall Street Journal

https://www.wsj.com/articles/amid-signs-of-a-thaw-in-north-korea-tensions-bubble-up-1515427541

Amid signs of a thaw in North Korea, Tensions bubble up

By: Gerald Seib, 1/9/18

A tentative move toward diplomacy over the confrontation with North Korea has begun, though that hardly means the tension is evaporating.

In a village on their heavily militarized border, North and South Korean officials opened talks Tuesday, ostensibly over possible North Korean participation in the coming South Korean Olympics. South Korea would like the talks to expand beyond that, toward finding broader ways to lower tensions.

But as just one sign of how fraught the situation remains, simply consider this: U.S. officials are quietly debating whether it's possible to mount a limited military strike against North Korean sites without igniting an all-out war on the Korean Peninsula.

Senior officials from South and North Korea held their first formal face-to-face talks in two years on Tuesday, discussing Pyongyang's possible participation in the Winter Olympics and other issues in hopes of cooling tensions.

The idea is known as the "bloody nose" strategy: React to some nuclear or missile test with a targeted strike against a North Korean facility to bloody Pyongyang's nose and illustrate the high price the regime could pay for its behavior. The hope would be to make that point

without inciting a full-bore reprisal by North Korea.

It's an enormously risky idea, and there is a debate among Trump administration officials about whether it is feasible. North Koreans have a vast array of artillery tubes pointed across the demilitarized zone at Seoul, the capital of South Korea, with which they could inflict thousands of casualties within minutes if they choose to unleash an all-out barrage.

Now, that danger is coupled with the risk that the North Koreans could attempt to use a nuclear weapon if they choose to escalate in retaliation against even a single strike.

Such a debate reflects how tense the situation remains, even though North Korea has scaled back the pace of its provocative actions in recent weeks and opened the door to diplomacy.

Tuesday's talks marked the first high-level dialogue between the Koreas in two years. After almost a year of regular provocations from North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, they are the first real sign that a diplomatic track is possible to begin de-escalating tensions over his nuclear and missile programs.

The U.S. and South Korea agreed on Thursday to delay their planned joint military exercises. The South Koreans are hosting the Olympics in February and want a period of calm and peace on the Korean Peninsula during that period. WSJ's Gerald F. Seib explains the short-term and long-term consequences of the delay.

A key question is whether the conversation can expand beyond the Olympics to include other topics Seoul wants to discuss, notably reunification of Korean families split between North and South, and a general lowering of hostility.

Even if that happens, though, the diplomatic move needed to really start dialing back tensions would be conversations between North Korea and the U.S. That possibility seems stuck in a long-distance dance between Pyongyang and Washington, with each side making opening bids the other finds unacceptable.

North Korea wants the U.S. to forswear joint military activities with South Korea in advance of talks, while the U.S. insists the goal of talks should be to eliminate North Korea's nuclear arsenal, not merely contain it. Each side finds the other's conditions unacceptable.

Indeed, diplomats suspect North Korea's engagement with South Korea is an attempt to drive a wedge between Seoul and its American allies, thereby reducing the possibility the U.S. could take any kind of military action against Pyongyang.

Efforts are under way to broaden the diplomatic opening beyond Tuesday's intra-Korean conversation. Jonathan Powell, a former chief of staff to British Prime Minister Tony Blair, has offered to help try to get broader conversations going, three people in the diplomatic community said.

And Jeffrey Feltman, an American diplomat now serving as U.N. under secretary-general for political affairs, recently traveled to North Korea to explore diplomatic possibilities. But Mr. Feltman returned alarmed at what he found in Pyongyang, where he sensed little interest in either talks with the U.S. or moving off the North's current nuclear track, say those who have talked with him.

Within the Trump administration, officials say, Secretary of State Rex Tillerson and Defense Secretary Jim Mattis remain focused on trying to get a broader diplomatic effort under way to rein in the North Korean nuclear program. National security adviser H.R. McMaster is arguing more vocally, publicly and privately, that military options need to be considered.

The wild card, as in all things in the Trump administration, is President Donald Trump himself. He signaled his own interest in a diplomatic track in the past. But he has also seemed to disavow Mr. Tillerson's overtures on negotiations. And his recent tweet—asserting he has a "bigger" nuclear button than does Mr. Kim—is, in the words of one experienced diplomat, the equivalent of "waving a red flag before a bull."

The U.S. hasn't done the kind of logistical preparations needed for a full-blown conflict on the Korean Peninsula. Still, as the talk of a "bloody nose" option suggests, that doesn't

mean one can't happen.

Thanks to the Olympics and the intra-Korean diplomatic opening, the next few months figure to be relatively calm. But depending on whether the diplomatic opening widens or not, mid-2018 could be a time of reckoning.

<EPA Morning News Highlights 01.10.18.docx>

To: Abboud, Michael[abboud.michael@epa.gov]
Cc: Hewitt, James[hewitt.james@epa.gov]; Graham, Amy[graham.amy@epa.gov]; Ferguson, Lincoln[ferguson.lincoln@epa.gov]
From: Bowman, Liz
Sent: Thur 8/3/2017 12:36:16 AM
Subject: Re: FOR APPROVAL: EPA Evening News Highlights 8.2.17

Yes

Sent from my iPhone

> On Aug 2, 2017, at 8:13 PM, Abboud, Michael <abboud.michael@epa.gov> wrote:
>
> Was this good to send out?
>
> Sent from my iPhone
>
>> On Aug 2, 2017, at 4:20 PM, Abboud, Michael <abboud.michael@epa.gov> wrote:
>>
>> EPA Evening News Highlights 8.2.17
>>
>> Utility Dive: EPA Grants Petitions Against Air Quality Permits For 2 Duke Coal Plants
>> The Trump administration is busily rolling back environmental regulatory standards, but not all enforcement of Obama-era rules has stopped. On June 30, Pruitt signed two orders granting petitions against permits issued by North Carolina environmental agencies. The orders were published in the Federal Register on Wednesday.
>>
>> E&E News: Industry To EPA: We Want Rule 'Fixed, Not Just Gone'
>> Industry has delivered a clear message to the Trump administration during a series of recent closed-door meetings: Don't completely gut the Obama-era Clean Power Plan. To be sure, leading industry associations are pushing White House and U.S. EPA officials to drastically roll back the landmark climate change rule. They're advocating a new approach that still limits power plants' emissions but is narrower than the one envisioned by President Obama's team.
>> The heavy-hitting U.S. Chamber of Commerce and the National Association of Manufacturers advocated an "inside-the-fence" approach to power plant regulations during a July meeting with the Office of Management and Budget and EPA staff, they told E&E News. Critics of the Obama rule have argued that it overstepped by allowing emissions reductions "outside the fence line" of coal-fired power plants.
>>
>> Bloomberg: Refiners Argue EPA Can Cut Biofuel Quota Despite Defeat in Court
>> Refiners told the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to cut biofuel quotas for 2018, arguing that a federal court decision against the agency shouldn’t prevent it from setting targets below levels enshrined in law. The administration of President Donald Trump still has the authority to waive congressional biofuel levels to avert economic or environmental harm, refiner Valero Energy Corp. and oil industry trade groups said at an EPA hearing on the issue Tuesday in Washington. Economic harm could result, industry groups said, if refiners are forced to blend more than 10 percent ethanol into the fuel supply, a level the oil industry dubs the blend wall.
>>
>> National Evening News Highlights 8.2.17
>>
>> The Washington Post: Trump Signs What He Calls ‘Seriously Flawed’ Bill Imposing New Sanctions On Russia
>> President Trump on Wednesday signed a bill that imposes new sanctions on Russia, ending immediate hopes that he might be able to reset U.S. relations with the Kremlin as Congress overruled his opposition to the provisions' curb on his executive power. Trump's reluctant signing of the legislation came nearly a week after it was approved by an overwhelming, bipartisan majority in the Senate and after a similarly large majority in the House. The president issued two statements outlining his concerns with

the bill, which he called “seriously flawed,” primarily because it limits his ability to negotiate sanctions without congressional approval.
>>
>> The New York Times: Trump Supports Bill That Would Cut Legal Immigration By Half
>> President Trump embraced legislation on Wednesday that would cut legal immigration to the United States in half within a decade by sharply curtailing the ability of American citizens and legal residents to bring family members into the country. Arguing that the United States has taken in too many low-skilled immigrants for too long, Mr. Trump invited two Republican senators to the White House to put his weight behind their bill that would judge applicants for legal residency on the basis of education, language ability and job abilities that would benefit the country.
>>
>> Oklahoma Evening News Highlights 8.2.17
>>
>> The Oklahoman: Oklahoma Lt. Gov. Lamb Leads In Fundraising In Governor's Race
>> Lt. Gov. Todd Lamb raised more than $2 million in his bid to become the state's next governor, the most so far of the 13 candidates already in the 2018 race, their campaign reports show. Oklahoma City Mayor Mick Cornett reported raising $181,000. Lamb and Cornett are among six Republicans seeking the state's top elected position.
>>
>> TRUMP TWEETS
>> Utility Dive
>> http://www.utilitydive.com/news/epa-grants-petitions-against-air-quality-permits-for-2-duke-coal-plants/448446/
>> EPA Grants Petitions Against Air Quality Permits For 2 Duke Coal Plants
>> By Gavin Bade, 8/2/17
>>
>> The Trump administration is busily rolling back environmental regulatory standards, but not all enforcement of Obama-era rules has stopped.
>>
>> On June 30, Pruitt signed two orders granting petitions against permits issued by North Carolina environmental agencies. The orders were published in the Federal Register on Wednesday.
>>
>> In their petitions, the Sierra Club asserts that air quality permits issued by the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) for Roxboro and the Western North Carolina Regional Air Quality Agency (WNCRAQA) for the Asheville plant are incomplete and misdirected.
>>
>> North Carolina regulations require permits issued by state agencies to comply with the NAAQS to have specific accounting mechanisms for emissions, which the petitions argue both permits lack. And the permits, the Sierra Club says, only aim to attain the SO2 standards approved in the original NAAQS rules in 1971, not the updated standards finalized by the Obama administration in 2010.
>>
>> The difference is significant. The 2010 update tightened SO2 standards to 75 parts per billion (ppb) over a one-hour time period. The 1971 standard stood at 140 ppb over a 24-hour time period, almost double the current allowance.
>>
>> In their response to the petitions, WNCRAQA argued that because EPA is still reviewing compliance with the 2010 NAAQS standard, it cannot issue permits to comply with those updated standards. DEQ said that it has begun monitoring SO2 at the Roxboro plant to comply with the new standards.
>>
>> Those justifications aside, the EPA said the permits do not adequately explain when the 2010 standards will apply to the two coal plants and how they would be monitored. In granting the petitions, it directed the two agencies to better explain when the new standards apply in the permits and how they will be measured.
>>
>> Sierra Club staff attorney Bridget Lee said the EPA could have gone further by including more specific directions for the two state agencies on how to alter their permits. But she praised the agency for

affirming that permits for NAAQS should reflect the most recent standards, even as compliance reviews of multiple jurisdictions are active.
>>
>> "To EPA's credit," she said, "they do say that argument doesn't hold water and these things operate in parallel."
>>
>> EPA did not respond to requests for comment.
>>
>> Duke spokesperson Danielle Peoples said the company appreciates "EPA's caution in granting the Sierra Club's petitions," and looks forward to reviewing the revised permits from each agency.
>> "It should be noted," she wrote in an email, "that EPA did not direct either agency to open or revise Duke Energy's air permits, but directed the agencies to discuss when facility-specific SO2 emissions controls might need to be placed into a facility's permit to avoid an exceedance of the 2010 SO2 NAAQS."
>>
>> Duke has begun a three-year monitoring period for NAAQS, she said, "that will be used to confirm we can meet the 2010 standard."
>> E&E News
>> https://www.eenews.net/stories/1060058186
>> Industry To EPA: We Want Rule 'Fixed, Not Just Gone'
>> By Zach Coleman, 8/1/17
>>
>> Industry has delivered a clear message to the Trump administration during a series of recent closed-door meetings: Don't completely gut the Obama-era Clean Power Plan.
>>
>> To be sure, leading industry associations are pushing White House and U.S. EPA officials to drastically roll back the landmark climate change rule. They're advocating a new approach that still limits power plants' emissions but is narrower than the one envisioned by President Obama's team.
>>
>> The heavy-hitting U.S. Chamber of Commerce and the National Association of Manufacturers advocated an "inside-the-fence" approach to power plant regulations during a July meeting with the Office of Management and Budget and EPA staff, they told E&E News. Critics of the Obama rule have argued that it overstepped by allowing emissions reductions "outside the fence line" of coal-fired power plants.
>>
>> "We were trying to also lay the foundation for what we think would be an acceptable replacement rule because we want to see this rule fixed, not just gone forever," Ross Eisenberg, vice president of energy and natural resources policy with NAM, said in an interview.
>>
>> Matt Letourneau, spokesman for the Chamber's Institute for 21st Century Energy, said in an email: "It's safe to say we" pushed for inside-the-fence-line.
>>
>> In rescinding the rule, EPA chief Scott Pruitt plans to argue that the Obama administration went too far in setting carbon reduction goals by looking at what the broader power system could achieve instead of focusing solely on improvements at coal plants, an administration official told E&E News in June (Climatewire, June 12).
>>
>> The recently publicized meetings with industry hint of a nearing Trump administration decision on how and whether to regulate carbon emissions from power plants, though devising a formal rule could take several months. While OMB and EPA meet with a variety of interest and business groups affected by pending regulations, the Chamber and NAM carry considerable weight in the business community that President Trump has courted.
>>
>> The Trump administration is facing pressure from conservatives to trash EPA's endangerment finding, which gives the agency the authority to regulate greenhouse gas emissions. If the Trump administration adopts an inside-the-fence approach, it would mean those angling to challenge the endangerment finding have lost a key battle.

>>
>> The meetings came after recent reports that EPA was planning to pursue a legal strategy known as the "112 exclusion," which argued the agency couldn't regulate power plants under Section 111(d) of the Clean Air Act — as the Clean Power Plan proposed — because they were already hit with limits for mercury and air toxins under Section 112.
>>
>> Those pushing for a full Clean Power Plan repeal have acknowledged that a twin effort to scrub the endangerment finding may be necessary to ward off lawsuits that EPA wasn't doing enough to address emissions. A move to develop any carbon rules for power plants, however, would amount to an implicit admission that greenhouse gas emissions deserve curbing.
>>
>> "If they had already decided that's what they wanted to do, then there would be no reason to develop this inside-the-fence-line approach," Jeff Holmstead, a partner at Bracewell LLP and former EPA air chief under President George W. Bush, said in an interview.
>>
>> The White House referred E&E News to EPA, which did not return a request for comment.
>>
>> 'Skepticism' about axing endangerment finding
>>
>> EPA officials under Obama argued the electricity system required regulation as an interconnected entity, thereby achieving emissions reductions beyond power plants' physical parameters. Opponents, though, said that view was too expansive — some have argued regulations must apply to power plants themselves, while others maintain EPA lacks authority to regulate power plant carbon emissions because it already caps mercury emissions.
>>
>> Utilities have pushed for the inside-the-fence-line approach rather than a full dismantling of the Clean Power Plan because they say it provides more certainty. They argue that something like requiring on-site efficiency improvements could prevent future presidents from pursuing ever-more aggressive rules. Detractors in the environmental community note, however, that emissions reductions under this scenario would be small.
>>
>> The Edison Electric Institute, a trade group representing investor-owned utilities, declined to say what it advocated for in its July 26 meeting — for which White House energy adviser Mike Catanzaro was present — though it has in the past advocated for an inside-the-fence tactic.
>>
>> An industry source who wasn't present for that meeting noted Catanzaro had expressed "skepticism" about the administration's ability to overturn the endangerment finding. The source said Catanzaro was concerned about getting into endless litigation, as the administration would need to compile anthologies of climate change science that refuted greenhouse gas emissions' effects on a warming planet — a heady if not impossible task.
>>
>> That said, the industry source wasn't ready to take bets on where the administration would end up on the Clean Power Plan.
>>
>> "There's wide agreement among the utility industry that inside-the-fence-line would make more sense," the source said. "But there's certainly other people pushing for a different approach, including people who have sway with this White House. I'd be very cautious saying anything definitive."
>>
>> An inside-the-fence-line plan is "ultimately not enough in the long term" when it comes to restricting regulation on energy, said Tom Pyle, president of the conservative Institute for Energy Research. Pyle said in an interview that he's "not surprised" the business community is lobbying for that approach, though.
>>
>> "Obviously wherever as aggressively EPA could go is where I'd be comfortable with," said Pyle, who also ran Trump's Energy Department transition team, stating his desire to whack the endangerment finding.

>>
>> Some haven't given up hope on the Section 112 exclusion and an ultimate challenging of the endangerment finding. Myron Ebell, director of the Competitive Enterprise Institute's Center for Energy and Environment, said in an email that the White House could ask for input on both the inside-the-fence-line approach and Section 112 exclusion in the public comment portion of the rulemaking process after rescinding the Clean Power Plan.
>>
>> To environmental groups, a move to regulate inside the fence line would signal that the administration is taking policy cues from industry rather than the far right. Utilities and manufacturers, after all, were chief advocates of such a plan when the Obama administration rolled out its regulation, which sought a 32 percent reduction of power plant emissions below 2005 levels by 2030. That largely relied on shifts from coal-fired power to natural gas and renewable energy.
>>
>> "An inside-the-fence-line approach with an argument in the alternative that industry lacks authority to regulate carbon emissions under Section 111 follows the industry talking points to a T," John Walke, senior attorney and clean air director with the Natural Resources Defense Council, said in an interview.
>> Bloomberg
>> https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2017-08-01/refiners-argue-epa-can-cut-biofuel-quota-despite-defeat-in-court
>> Refiners Argue EPA Can Cut Biofuel Quota Despite Defeat in Court
>> By Jennifer Dlouhy and Ari Natter, 8/1/17
>>
>> Refiners told the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to cut biofuel quotas for 2018, arguing that a federal court decision against the agency shouldn’t prevent it from setting targets below levels enshrined in law.
>>
>> The administration of President Donald Trump still has the authority to waive congressional biofuel levels to avert economic or environmental harm, refiner Valero Energy Corp. and oil industry trade groups said at an EPA hearing on the issue Tuesday in Washington. Economic harm could result, industry groups said, if refiners are forced to blend more than 10 percent ethanol into the fuel supply, a level the oil industry dubs the blend wall.
>>
>> "The ethanol blend wall is a real constraint on today’s fuel supply system that makes the statutory volumes unattainable and limits the use of ethanol," said Frank Macchiarola, a group director at the American Petroleum Institute, which represents oil companies such as Exxon Mobil Corp.
>>
>> Nothing in a ruling by a federal court in Washington last week "clips the wings of the EPA" to set lower biofuel quotas that avoid economic harm, said Scott Segal, a Bracewell LLP lobbyist representing Valero. "Severe harm can be established on a number of fronts."
>>
>> Biofuel producers such as Poet LLC, however, argued that ruling largely handcuffs the EPA, forcing the government to require the use of 15 billion gallons of ethanol and more next generation biofuel next year and for years to come.
>>
>> The dueling opinions illustrate the challenge facing Trump and EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt as they try to fulfill political promises to help corn farmers in the Midwest, appease oil companies eager to protect market share and live within the contours of a biofuel mandate created last decade when the U.S. was hooked on imports of Mideast crude.
>>
>> In a unanimous ruling Friday, a three-judge panel sided with ethanol producers in saying the EPA was wrong to justify setting lower quotas for 2016 based on constraints in demand, such as limited infrastructure to deliver the product to consumers or the availability of higher blended fuel mixes. For years, the oil industry has argued that the congressional target in the Renewable Fuel Standard push refiners past a 10 percent blend wall for ethanol in gasoline -- the amount that can be easily blended because it is acceptable in all cars and trucks. Ethanol producers argued that was the entire point of the law.

>>
>> Most gasoline sold in the U.S. is E10, or 10 percent ethanol. Higher ethanol blends, including E15 and E85, are not available at all filling stations and not all vehicles can use them, oil industry leaders said Tuesday.
>>
>> Trump's EPA has proposed requiring the use of 15 billion gallons of conventional renewable fuels in 2018 -- the maximum allowed for that category in law -- while lowering proposed quotas for advanced alternatives that have been slow to commercialize, including cellulosic ethanol made from corn stalks and other non-edible materials. The agency is set to finalize the 2018 targets before the end of this year.
>>
>> The Side of Pessimism
>>
>> Biofuel groups complained that the reductions for advanced biofuel use will curtail growth in the market.
>>
>> "The agency has erred on the side of pessimism with regard to the potential for significant growth in cellulosic ethanol," said Bob Dinneen, head of the Renewable Fuels Association. The "spirit and intent" of the law was to "maximize the nation's use of these fuels, to drive marketplace innovation and investment in these new technologies, and to make the U.S. more energy diverse."
>>
>> Jan Koninckx, DuPont Co.'s global business director for advanced biofuels, said Trump's EPA used a flawed methodology to estimate potential cellulosic ethanol production and propose requiring 238 million gallons of it for 2018. That's down from 311 million gallons required this year.
>>
>> "EPA must revisit the process used in the current proposal for cellulosic ethanol and follow its own guidance and process used for the 2016 and 2017 cellulosic" quotas, Koninckx said.
>>
>> Higher advanced biofuel targets would help drive innovation and spur more production, said Pete Ricketts, the governor of Nebraska.
>>
>> Still, overall, EPA's "proposal is consistent with the president's statements of support for the corn ethanol industry," Ricketts said.
>> The Washington Post
>> https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/post-politics/wp/2017/08/02/trump-signs-bill-imposing-new-sanctions-on-russia-but-issues-a-statement-with-concerns/?hpid=hp_hp-top-table-main_trumprussia-1105a%3Ahomepage%2Fstory&utm_term=.0b1922766dca
>> Trump Signs What He Calls 'Seriously Flawed' Bill Imposing New Sanctions On Russia
>> By Abby Phillip, 8/2/17
>>
>> President Trump on Wednesday signed a bill that imposes new sanctions on Russia, ending immediate hopes that he might be able to reset U.S. relations with the Kremlin as Congress overruled his opposition to the provisions' curb on his executive power.
>>
>> Trump's reluctant signing of the legislation came nearly a week after it was approved by an overwhelming, bipartisan majority in the Senate and after a similarly large majority in the House. The president issued two statements outlining his concerns with the bill, which he called "seriously flawed," primarily because it limits his ability to negotiate sanctions without congressional approval.
>>
>> "By limiting the Executive's flexibility, this bill makes it harder for the United States to strike good deals for the American people, and will drive China, Russia, and North Korea much closer together," Trump said in a statement on Wednesday morning. "The Framers of our Constitution put foreign affairs in the hands of the President.
>>
>> "This bill will prove the wisdom of that choice," he added.
>>
>> The signing statement, long a controversial tool of president, expresses the president's concern with

legislation but it does nothing to halt or amend it. The president had the ability to veto it, but it would likely have been overridden by majorities in Congress.
>>
>> Lawmakers' solidarity in tying Trump's hands on this issue reflects a deepening concern about the administration's posture toward Russia, which critics have characterized as naive. The new Russia sanctions expand on measures taken by the Obama administration to punish the Kremlin for its alleged efforts to interfere in the 2016 election. But Trump has continued to doubt that Russia was responsible and he has called the investigations in Congress and by the special counsel into Russian meddling a "witch hunt."
>>
>> The administration's lobbying of lawmakers in public and private to pull back the bill's requirement that Congress review any attempt by the president to amend sanctions against Moscow ultimately fell on deaf ears. The measure imposes a 30-day review period to give Congress a chance to vote down any of the president's proposed changes to Russia sanctions before they can be implemented.
>>
>> Despite Trump's considerable objections, House Speaker Paul D. Ryan (R-Wis.) praised the bill becoming law.
>>
>> "Today, the United States sent a powerful message to our adversaries that they will be held accountable for their actions," Ryan said. "These sanctions directly target the destructive and destabilizing activities of Iran, Russia, and North Korea.
>>
>> "We will continue to use every instrument of American power to defend this nation and the people we serve," he added.
>>
>> Trump said that he signed the bill despite his reservations for the sake of "national unity." In a second statement accompanying his signing of the legislation, Trump called some of the provisions in the legislation "clearly unconstitutional."
>>
>> And in a pointed jab at lawmakers in his own party, he questioned Congress's ability to negotiate sanctions based on its inability to approve the Republicans' health-care legislation.
>>
>> "The bill remains seriously flawed — particularly because it encroaches on the executive branch's authority to negotiate," Trump said. "Congress could not even negotiate a healthcare bill after seven years of talking."
>>
>> According to constitutional law experts, Congress rightfully asserted its own constitutional powers to serve as a check on the executive branch, even on matters of national security.
>>
>> Constitutional and national security expert Michael Glennon from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy said that Trump's statement was "gross misreading" of the case law he cited in his signing statement to bolster his claim that the congressional review provision had unconstitutionally robbed him of the power to negotiate.
>>
>> "That's obviously a misguided interpretation of his constitutional authority," Glennon said. "Congress has very broad authority over foreign commerce — it's explicitly given the power to regulate commerce with foreign nations.
>>
>> "It could have, if it desired, imposed those sanctions without giving the president any waiver authority whatsoever," he added.
>>
>> The measure also imposes sanctions against North Korea and Iran for those countries' weapons programs.
>> Russia has already retaliated against the United States for the new sanctions, announcing that it would order the U.S. Embassy to reduce its staff by 755 people and seize U.S. diplomatic properties.
>>

>> Trump noted that he supported tough measures to punish the three regimes, and said that he will honor the review period prescribed in the bill.
>>
>> But in a potential warning to lawmakers that he might not observe those parts of the law, Trump added that he would “give careful and respectful consideration” to other provisions that direct the administration to undertake diplomatic initiatives and require the administration to deny entry to the United States of certain foreign individuals, without exceptions for diplomats.
>>
>> “My Administration will give careful and respectful consideration to the preferences expressed by the Congress in these various provisions and will implement them in a manner consistent with the President's constitutional authority to conduct foreign relations,” Trump said.
>>
>> For now, Trump's desire to reset relations with Russia has hit a major speed bump at around the same time that Americans are expressing growing support for an adversarial approach toward the country, according to a survey released Wednesday by the Chicago Council on Global Affairs.
>>
>> The poll found 53 percent support actively working to limit Russia’s power compared with 43 percent who favor friendly cooperation and engagement, a sharp reversal from last year when 58 percent favored cooperative efforts. Over 4 in 10 say Russian influence in U.S. elections represents a “critical threat” to the country.
>>
>> The poll finds mixed support for imposing additional sanctions, with 38 percent saying they should be increased and 41 percent saying they should be kept about the same. Far fewer, 17 percent, said the U.S. should decrease or eliminate sanctions on Russia, according to the survey of a random sample of 2,020 adults conducted June 27-July 19.
>> In addition to concerns about the review component of the bill, the administration also said it was worried about the impact of the bill on U.S. businesses in Russia.
>>
>> In a statement late last week, the White House signaled that Trump would eventually sign the measure, and a White House official added that the administration had worked to renegotiate critical elements of it.
>>
>> Yet even as Putin moved quickly to retaliate against the United States, Trump has not issued any statement — written or otherwise — on the Kremlin's actions.
>>
>> Trump did argue, however, that he could negotiate deals on behalf of the American people far better than Congress.
>>
>> “I built a truly great company worth many billions of dollars,” Trump said. “That is a big part of the reason I was elected.
>>
>> “As President, I can make far better deals with foreign countries than Congress,” he added.
>> The New York Times
>> https://www.nytimes.com/2017/08/02/us/politics/trump-immigration.html
>> Trump Supports Bill That Would Cut Legal Immigration By Half
>> By Peter Baker, 8/2/17
>>
>> President Trump embraced legislation on Wednesday that would cut legal immigration to the United States in half within a decade by sharply curtailing the ability of American citizens and legal residents to bring family members into the country.
>>
>> Arguing that the United States has taken in too many low-skilled immigrants for too long, Mr. Trump invited two Republican senators to the White House to put his weight behind their bill that would judge applicants for legal residency on the basis of education, language ability and job abilities that would benefit the country.
>>

>> “This competitive application process will favor applicants who can speak English, financially support themselves and their families and demonstrate skills that will contribute to our economy,” Mr. Trump said.
>>
>> “This legislation,” he added, “will not only restore our competitive edge in the 21st century, but it will restore the sacred bonds of trust between America and its citizens. This legislation demonstrates our compassion for struggling American families who deserve an immigration system that puts their needs first and that puts America first.”
>>
>> The bill, sponsored by Senators Tom Cotton of Arkansas and David Perdue of Georgia, would reduce overall legal immigration by 41 percent in its first year and by 50 percent by its 10th year, according to projections cited by its authors. The reductions would come almost entirely from those brought in through family ties. The number of immigrants granted legal residency on the basis of job skills, about 140,000, would remain roughly the same, though a much higher proportion of the reduced overall number.
>>
>> The proposal revives an idea that was included in broader immigration legislation supported by President George W. Bush in 2007 but that failed in Congress. Republican supporters argued that it would modernize immigration policy that had not been updated significantly in half a century, but critics in both parties contended it would harm the economy by keeping out workers who filled low-wage jobs that Americans did not want.
>>
>> Under the current system, most legal immigrants are admitted to the United States based on family ties. American citizens can sponsor spouses, parents and minor children for visas that are not subject to any numerical caps, while siblings and adult children get preferences for a limited number of visas available to them. Legal permanent residents holding green cards can also sponsor spouses and children.
>>
>> In 2014, 64 percent of more than one million immigrants admitted with legal residency were immediate relatives of American citizens or sponsored by family members. Just 15 percent entered on the basis of employment-based preferences, according to the Migration Policy Institute, an independent research organization. But that does not mean that those who came in on family ties were necessarily low skilled or uneducated.
>>
>> The projections cited by the sponsors said legal immigration would decrease to 637,960 after a year and to 539,958 after a decade.
>>
>> The legislation would establish a system of skills points based on education, English speaking ability, high-paying job offers, age, record of achievement and entrepreneurial initiative. But while it would still allow the spouses and minor children of Americans and legal residents to come in, it would eliminate preference for other relatives, like siblings and adult children. The bill would create a renewable temporary visa for elderly parents who come for caretaking purposes.
>>
>> The legislation would limit refugees offered permanent residency to 50,000 a year and eliminate a diversity visa lottery that the sponsors said does not promote diversity. The senators said their bill is meant to emulate “merit-based” systems in Canada and Australia.
>>
>> “Our current system does not work,” Mr. Perdue said. “It keeps America from being competitive.”
>>
>> Mr. Cotton rejected the notion that the current system was a symbol of American compassion. “It’s a symbol that we’re not committed to working-class Americans and we need to change that,” he said.
>>
>> But Senator Lindsey Graham, Republican of South Carolina, criticized the measure, noting that agriculture is his state’s No. 1 industry and tourism is No. 2. “If this proposal were to become law, it would be devastating to our state’s economy, which relies on this immigrant work force,” he said.
>>
>> “Hotels, restaurants, golf courses and farmers,” he added, “will tell you this proposal to cut legal immigration in half would put their business in peril.”

>> The Oklahoman
>> http://newsok.com/who-has-raised-the-most-so-far-in-2018-governors-race/article/5558535
>> Oklahoma Lt. Gov. Lamb Leads In Fundraising In Governor's Race
>> By Nolan Clay, 8/2/17
>>
>> Lt. Gov. Todd Lamb raised more than $2 million in his bid to become the state's next governor, the most so far of the 13 candidates already in the 2018 race, their campaign reports show.
>>
>> Oklahoma City Mayor Mick Cornett reported raising $181,000.
>>
>> Lamb and Cornett are among six Republicans seeking the state's top elected position.
>>
>> Drew Edmondson, a former state attorney general, is the top fundraiser among the four Democrats in the race, collecting $300,211 so far.
>>
>> The campaign reports — filed at the Oklahoma Ethics Commission — cover donations and expenses through June 30. The deadline to file them was Monday.
>>
>> Most of the candidates were filing their first reports in the race that could become the most expensive in state history.
>>
>> Lamb on Monday reported collecting $1,089,273 in direct and in-kind contributions since starting his gubernatorial campaign in April. He added $1,004,772 in June that was left over from his 2014 lieutenant governor campaign.
>>
>> Lamb said last month he is pleased and humbled by his strong support so far.
>>
>> He said Tuesday he now has well over 700 contributors to his campaign.
>>
>> “It's not just about raising money," he said. "It is about building the infrastructure and the campaign team that will not only help us win the election, but will be ready to rebuild and renew Oklahoma.”
>>
>> Tulsa attorney Gary Richardson was second in fundraising among the GOP candidates. He reported raising $185,729 through June 30, mostly from personal loans to his campaign.
>>
>> He also already has spent most of that money, including $33,110 for polling, his report shows. His campaign only had $5,757 on hand June 30, according to his report.
>>
>> "With the ongoing budget crisis these past months, I made a conscious decision to delay my fundraising efforts in order to focus on preventing the proposed tax increases in our state," Richardson said Tuesday.
>>
>> "I am confident that, between our fundraising efforts and what I will put into the campaign personally, we will have more than enough money to get our conservative message out to the people of Oklahoma and be victorious in 2018," he said.
>>
>> Richardson ran for governor once before — in 2002 as an independent. That time, he raised $2.7 million, mostly from his own pocket.
>>
>> Cornett, who has been mayor of Oklahoma City for more than 13 years, said, “I have been amazed by the outpouring of support we have received statewide during the first few days of our campaign."
>>
>> Another well-known Republican, Gary Jones, had a much more modest fundraising total. Jones, the state auditor and inspector, reported collecting only $22,585 in his bid for governor.
>>
>> "I've got a job to do," Jones said Tuesday. "I've been working on my job. I knew that I probably

wouldn't have as much as a lot of people."
>>
>> Jones said his goal is to win on Election Day "not travel around the state and spend all my time gathering up campaign contributions."
>>
>> "As we've seen, money doesn't always win it," he said.
>>
>> Two other GOP candidates, former state Rep. Dan Fisher and mortgage banker Kevin Stitt, have just begun campaign efforts and did not have to file reports yet.
>>
>> The Democrats
>>
>> Edmondson has run for governor before, too, narrowly losing in 2010 in the Democratic primary election.
>>
>> He said Monday his strong fundraising so far "shows that people are frustrated with our state's current leadership."
>>
>> "They're ready for a governor who will fight for them instead of the billion-dollar corporations that dictate business as usual at the state Capitol," he said.
>>
>> Second in fundraising among the Democrats was state Rep. Scott Inman, the House minority leader. He reported raising $99,566, more than a third coming from funds left over from his last legislative race.
>>
>> "We've always known that we're not going to have the famous name or the big fat cats behind us but we are determined to work harder than anybody else in the race," Inman said. "We were very encouraged by the overwhelming support we received from donors all across the state."
>>
>> Inman, of Del City, said many of his more than 300 donors are "middle-class folks" who can only afford $50 or so.
>>
>> In third was former state Sen. Connie Johnson, of Oklahoma City. She reported raising $21,057 through June 30.
>>
>> In fourth was Norman Brown, a retired mechanic from Oklahoma City. He reported raising $1,421.
>>
>> The Libertarians
>>
>> Three Libertarian candidates are in the race.
>>
>> Big cat breeder Joseph Maldonado, also known as Joe Exotic, reported raising $3,012.
>>
>> Most of his total was a $2,635 in-kind donation from the Greater Wynnewood Exotic Animal Park for the "purchase of T-shirts to be given away."
>>
>> Chris Powell, of Bethany, reported raising $234. Rex Lawhorn, of Broken Arrow, just registered his campaign committee with the Ethics Commission in July and did not have to report any contributions yet
>> TRUMP TWEETS
>>
[cid:image001.jpg@01D30BAB.4959EE60]<https://twitter.com/realDonaldTrump/status/892741272259133441>[cid:image002.jpg@01D30BAB.4959EE60]<https://twitter.com/realDonaldTrump/status/892749228291874816>
>>
[cid:image003.jpg@01D30BAB.4959EE60]<https://twitter.com/realDonaldTrump/status/892782712322437120>[cid:image004.jpg@01D30BAB.4959EE60]<https://twitter.com/realDonaldTrump/status/892814520942460928.>

>>
>>
>> Michael Abboud
>> U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
>> Office of Public Affairs
>> M: Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy
>>
>> <image001.jpg>
>> <image002.jpg>
>> <image003.jpg>
>> <image004.jpg>
>> <EPA Evening News Highlights 8.2.17.docx>

To: Cook, Steven[cook.steven@epa.gov]; Chancellor, Erin[chancellor.erin@epa.gov]; Falvo, Nicholas[falvo.nicholas@epa.gov]; Darwin, Veronica[darwin.veronica@epa.gov]
Cc: Harwood, Jackie[Harwood.Jackie@epa.gov]; Abboud, Michael[abboud.michael@epa.gov]; Beach, Christopher[beach.christopher@epa.gov]; Daniell, Kelsi[daniell.kelsi@epa.gov]; Ferguson, Lincoln[ferguson.lincoln@epa.gov]; Hewitt, James[hewitt.james@epa.gov]; Konkus, John[konkus.john@epa.gov]; Wilcox, Jahan[wilcox.jahan@epa.gov]
From: Block, Molly
Sent: Fri 6/29/2018 2:56:31 PM
Subject: Bloomberg Environment: Could Quicker, Cheaper Superfund Cleanups Create Uncertainty?

Headline kinda suck, but Steve got his own graphic!

Steven Cook
Chair of EPA's Superfund task force

Could Quicker, Cheaper Superfund Cleanups Create Uncertainty?

Sylvia Carignan

•□□ Superfund task force chair favoring 'adaptive' approach to Superfund

•□□ Companies likely on board with less costly, faster approach

The start-and-stop approach the EPA wants to use for toxic site cleanup could be quicker, cheaper, and more effective than the process the agency has used for decades, but some are concerned it could increase uncertainty for the companies involved.

Steven Cook, head of the Environmental Protection Agency's Superfund task force, told Bloomberg Environment June 28 he is focusing on creating sustainable reforms to the agency's contaminated site cleanup program. To do that, the agency wants to expand to all 1,300 of the nation's most contaminated sites the use of adaptive management, an approach that has been used in many other cleanups.

"The adaptive management concept has got real potential," Cook told Bloomberg Environment. The approach allows the agency to be more flexible in its cleanup decisions and adapt to the contaminants found at a site, he said.

Under the approach, the EPA or a company would assess the immediate, apparent risks at a site, get them cleaned up, then stop and re-assess if more work is needed. This differs from EPA's conventional approach to Superfund sites, which typically requires a full site assessment before taking any action.

"The result would be more sharply focused on what you want to achieve, and perhaps, more cost effective," Jonathan Z. Cannon, professor at the University of Virginia's School of Law and former acting administrator for the EPA's Superfund and land office, told Bloomberg Environment.

The adaptive approach can be helpful at complicated sites where the EPA and involved companies disagree about what needs to be done, John Gullace, partner at Manko, Gold, Katcher & Fox LLP in Bala Cynwyd, Pa., told Bloomberg Environment. Gullace has represented companies involved with Superfund sites.

The EPA has already started using the adaptive management approach at Berry's Creek, part of the Ventron/Velsicol Superfund site in Bergen County, N.J. At Berry's Creek, industrial and sewage discharges as well as urban runoff have contaminated sediment and water and entered the food chain. The area is contaminated with enough mercury, chromium, and other substances that the fish and crabs are unsafe to eat.

The EPA proposed an interim plan to address some of the contamination while it develops a cleanup plan for the entire site. Agency staff are now reviewing public comments on the proposal.

The agency is planning to implement adaptive management principles at pilot sites by the end of the year, Molly Block, spokeswoman for the EPA, told Bloomberg Environment in an email.

At the same time, the adaptive management approach could create uncertainty for the parties involved because the entire site isn't necessarily assessed, leaving the potential for hidden contaminants, and because remedies may be more experimental, Cannon, who also was the EPA's general counsel during the Clinton administration, said.

Cook said while there may be some uncertainty, it can be outweighed by the benefits.

“Sometimes you find unexpected things, and they add costs. But other times you learn a better way to do it, and achieve the same environmental result that you’re looking for: protectiveness,” Cook said.

Cannon, the agency, and some companies involved in Superfund sites believe the benefits of the approach exceed the costs of uncertainty.

“I think the regulated industry, as a whole, favors adaptive management, because it allows them to address a problem more quickly, and hopefully, more cost effectively,” Duke K. McCall III, partner at the law firm, Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP, in Washington, told Bloomberg Environment. McCall has represented companies involved with Superfund sites.

“There isn’t unanimity in that view,” Gullace said. Some potentially responsible parties, or PRPs, are concerned that the adaptive management approach could prolong the cleanup process.

“As a PRP, you bear some risk that after you’ve spent years and millions of dollars, you have to go back and do some more,” he said.

EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt’s Superfund task force issued a report in July 2017, outlining how the agency would reform the contaminated site cleanup program. The task force’s 42 recommendations focus on administrative ways the agency can ensure accountability, accelerate cleanup, and prepare sites for reuse.

Adaptive management is a theme across several of the recommendations. As part of that plan, the agency’s regional offices are encouraged to take early cleanup actions at sites with immediate risks or the potential for a contaminant to spread.

The EPA’s National Priorities List contains the most contaminated properties in the country, also known as Superfund sites. They include the Gowanus Canal in New York, Portland Harbor in Oregon, and Tar Creek in Oklahoma.

Properties with the EPA’s Superfund designation are eligible to receive federal funds for cleanup, although the agency aims to compel companies responsible for the sites, or third parties, to pay those cleanup bills.

To: Jones, Enesta[Jones.Enesta@epa.gov]; Press[Press@epa.gov]
From: Abboud, Michael
Sent: Mon 9/11/2017 2:05:52 PM
Subject: RE: For Review: BNA (Sylvia Carignan) re: HUD residents and Superfund sites (Deadline: 9/11)

This is good to send.

From: Jones, Enesta
Sent: Monday, September 11, 2017 8:42 AM
To: Press <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: For Review: BNA (Sylvia Carignan) re: HUD residents and Superfund sites (Deadline: 9/11)

Background: BNA reporter has returned, seeking clarification on specific Superfund sites where HUD residents were at risk and which sites (and where) need to be prioritized for investigation and cleanup. Response input from OLEM. Sylvia Carignan, Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy

Suggested Response:

Ex. 5 - Deliberative Process

Ex. 5 - Deliberative Process

Ex. 5 - Deliberative Process

From: "Carignan, Sylvia" <Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy>
Date: August 3, 2017 at 12:59:23 PM EDT
To: "Jones, Enesta" <Jones.Enesta@epa.gov>
Cc: Press <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Superfund/HUD data

Hi Enesta – I'd like to get clarification on a couple pieces of the provided responses:

"At the majority of sites, EPA was able to confirm that HUD residents were not at any elevated risk"

--At which sites were HUD residents found to be at elevated risk due to their proximity to those Superfund sites?

"…project managers at several sites—not just the top 10 priorities—to identify nearby public housing that needed to be prioritized for investigation or cleanup."

--How many is "several," and where are those sites?

My deadline for these is 4:30 p.m. today.

From: Jones, Enesta [mailto:Jones.Enesta@epa.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, August 02, 2017 11:59 AM
To: Carignan, Sylvia <Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy>
Cc: Press <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Superfund/HUD data

Hi Sylvia,

Thanks for your patience. Our responses – attributable to an EPA spokesperson – are below.

1. Could you provide a copy of her presentation?

A copy is attached.

2. Her presentation notes that the Superfund office "is initiating a broader NPL review project." Could you provide further details on what that project is and what its goals are?

Superfund is initiating an ongoing review of current NPL sites to:

- Identify and address data gaps in our database (the Superfund Enterprise Management

System, or SEMS) for contaminants data, environmental indicator status, remedies, and site size and location;

- Incorporate available data for the number of residents within site boundaries, or within a specified radius of the site, along with socioeconomic indicators to facilitate review prioritization; and

- Review sites for remedies selected, construction status, and exposure pathways to identify potential risks to human health, beyond those faced by HUD residents, and not solely limited to lead exposure.

Eventual goals:

- Collect up to date and accurate site specific data

- Update environmental indicator data

- Connect EPA regions with technical resources necessary

- Identify "hot sites" for regular updates with EPA HQ

3. What and where were the 10 prioritized NPL sites near HUD housing?

The 10 sites were:

- Omaha Lead (Omaha, NE)
- Brown's Dump and Jacksonville Ash (Jacksonville, FL)
- Oronogo-Duenweg Mining Belt (Joplin, MO)
- Jacobsville Neighborhood Soil Contamination (Evansville, IN)
- Anniston PCB Site (Anniston, AL)
- Southwest Jefferson County Mining District (Jefferson County, MO)
- Welsbach & General Gas Mantle [Camden radiation] (Camden, NJ)
- Tar Creek (Ottawa County, OK)
- Raymark Industries (Stratford, CT)
- Colorado Smelter (Pueblo, CO)

The review also identified 3 Superfund removal actions:

- Pilsen Neighborhood Contamination (Chicago, IL)
- American Lead (Indianapolis, IN)
- Former Chattanooga Foundries (Chattanooga, TN)

4. Why were each of these sites considered top priorities?

EPA initially provided HUD data on the proximity of every HUD asset in the two publicly available HUD datasets (Multifamily Assisted and Public Housing Buildings), with additional descriptors describing the type of contamination, construction status, and environmental indicators. Out of that universe of sites, HUD identified and prioritized 10 based on the presence of lead in soil, the potential for human exposure, construction status, and the number or residents potentially impacted. This identification was in the context of gathering more information.

5. What were the dominant contaminants at those sites?

The initial focus, as determined by HUD, was on lead-contaminated sites. Co-contaminants included arsenic, cadmium and PCBs, depending on the individual site.

6. Has EPA taken expedited actions at all 10 sites?

The only site identified by HUD in their initial list of priorities with expedited actions was Former Chattanooga Foundries. This site was highlighted in the presentation for completing its residential sampling and sending a confirmation letter to the local housing authority. In addition, EPA Region 4 reviewed the location of public housing assets at Jacobsville to ensure all yards had been sampled and necessary removal actions were taking place.

At the majority of sites, EPA was able to confirm that HUD residents were not at any elevated risk from their proximity to these sites.

For each site, EPA Headquarters worked with the EPA Regions to identify whether public housing was near an area of release, if it had been sampled, and what the lead levels were. Many of the sites that HUD flagged were large Superfund sites where properties fell within the site boundaries but were not impacted by contamination. Other sites had already had early action planned to address contamination, which EPA communicated to HUD HQ.

The impact of this review project and the MOU has been primarily in early-stage investigation sites where data were previously limited. We have informed our regional staff of the location of public housing assets, HUD's willingness to facilitate access agreements for sampling and cleanup, and expectations about communication between our agencies as well as with the residents.

7. When were those 10 sites identified?

HUD requested additional information on these 10 sites in late November 2016. EPA provided HUD with additional data in December 2016.

8. Alicia also noted that EPA is expanding site investigations to nearby communities. Is that only in the top 10 priority sites, or at all potential NPL sites?

OSRTI has communicated with regional staff at all levels about the importance of the MOU. This communication includes sharing data, for every NPL and many non-NPL sites, on HUD assets within a 1-mile radius. None of the sites initially identified by HUD had significant issues that were not being addressed, but EPA Regions have identified other sites for investigation.

Awareness of the proximity of public housing has enabled project managers at several sites – not just the top 10 priorities – to identify nearby public housing that needed to be prioritized for investigation or cleanup. Superfund cannot sample public housing that is not expected to be impacted by a release, or threat of a release, but we can prioritize identifying and sampling housing that falls within our authorities.

Enesta Jones

U.S. EPA

Office of Media Relations

Office: 202.564.7873

Cell: Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy

"The root of all joy is gratefulness."

From: Carignan, Sylvia [mailto: Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy]
Sent: Wednesday, August 02, 2017 10:50 AM
To: Jones, Enesta <Jones.Enesta@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Superfund/HUD data

Yes, please. I didn't realize you were still handling them – I sent Christie a note yesterday that I'm still looking for answers on those.

From: Jones, Enesta [mailto:Jones.Enesta@epa.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, August 02, 2017 10:49 AM
To: Carignan, Sylvia <Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy>
Subject: RE: Superfund/HUD data

Hi Sylvia,

Do you still need responses to the questions below?

Enesta Jones

U.S. EPA

Office of Media Relations

Office: 202.564.7873

Cell: Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy

"The root of all joy is gratefulness."

From: Carignan, Sylvia [mailto: Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy]
Sent: Wednesday, July 26, 2017 3:32 PM
To: Jones, Enesta <Jones.Enesta@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Superfund/HUD data

That's correct, and I believe Amy was working on another set of my questions, related to OSWER's climate change adaptation plan. Not sure where that ended up; I haven't heard from Amy on those.

On the questions you have below: I did receive the powerpoint presentation from Christie, but have not received responses to those questions.

From: Jones, Enesta [mailto:Jones.Enesta@epa.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, July 26, 2017 3:29 PM
To: Carignan, Sylvia < Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy >
Cc: Jones, Enesta <Jones.Enesta@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: Superfund/HUD data

Hi Sylvia,

I need your help here. This is the only open inquiry I have for you currently (and we are working on it).

--Could you provide a copy of her presentation?

--Her presentation notes that the Superfund office "is initiating a broader NPL review project." Could you provide further details on what that project is and what its goals are?

--What and where were the 10 prioritized NPL sites near HUD housing?

--Why were each of these sites considered top priorities?

--What were the dominant contaminants at those sites?

--Has EPA taken expedited actions at all 10 sites?

--When were those 10 sites identified?

--Alicia also noted that EPA is expanding site investigations to nearby communities. Is that only in the top 10 priority sites, or at all potential NPL sites?

On Jul 26, 2017, at 3:24 PM, Carignan, Sylvia <Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy> wrote:

Hi Enesta – Any luck with these today?

From: Jones, Enesta [mailto:Jones.Enesta@epa.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, July 26, 2017 9:48 AM
To: Carignan, Sylvia <Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy>
Cc: Press <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: Superfund/HUD data

Hi Sylvia,

I will look into this for you in Christie's absence.

Enesta Jones

U.S. EPA

Office of Media Relations

Office: 202.564.7873

Cell: Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy

"The root of all joy is gratefulness."

On Jul 26, 2017, at 9:47 AM, Carignan, Sylvia <Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy> wrote:

Hi all – Could you let me know who's handling these, and if there will be responses today? Thanks.

From: Carignan, Sylvia
Sent: Thursday, July 20, 2017 8:55 AM
To: 'Press' <Press@epa.gov>
Cc: 'frame.alicia@epa.gov' <frame.alicia@epa.gov>
Subject: Superfund/HUD data

Good morning EPA,

In addition to my other requests, I have a few questions about a presentation Alicia Frame of OSRTI gave yesterday. My deadline for these is today at 2 p.m.

--Could you provide a copy of her presentation?

--Her presentation notes that the Superfund office "is initiating a broader NPL review project." Could you provide further details on what that project is and what its goals are?

--What and where were the 10 prioritized NPL sites near HUD housing?

--Why were each of these sites considered top priorities?

--What were the dominant contaminants at those sites?

--Has EPA taken expedited actions at all 10 sites?

--When were those 10 sites identified?

--Alicia also noted that EPA is expanding site investigations to nearby communities. Is that only in the top 10 priority sites, or at all potential NPL sites?

Please give me a call if you need clarification.

Thanks,

Sylvia

>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>

Sylvia Carignan

Reporter, Superfund and Waste

Bloomberg BNA

1801 S Bell St, Arlington VA 22202

Direct Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy

Enesta Jones

U.S. EPA

Office of Media Relations

Office: 202.564.7873

Cell: Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy

"The root of all joy is gratefulness."

To: Press[Press@epa.gov]
From: Jones, Enesta
Sent: Mon 9/11/2017 12:42:19 PM
Subject: For Review: BNA (Sylvia Carignan) re: HUD residents and Superfund sites (Deadline: 9/11)

Background: BNA reporter has returned, seeking clarification on specific Superfund sites where HUD residents were at risk and which sites (and where) need to be prioritized for investigation and cleanup. Response input from OLEM. Sylvia Carignan, Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy

Suggested Response:

Ex. 5 - Deliberative Process

S

Ex. 5 - Deliberative Process

Ex. 5 - Deliberative Process

From: "Carignan, Sylvia" <Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy>
Date: August 3, 2017 at 12:59:23 PM EDT
To: "Jones, Enesta" <Jones.Enesta@epa.gov>
Cc: Press <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Superfund/HUD data

Hi Enesta – I'd like to get clarification on a couple pieces of the provided responses:

"At the majority of sites, EPA was able to confirm that HUD residents were not at any elevated risk"

--At which sites were HUD residents found to be at elevated risk due to their proximity to those Superfund sites?

"…project managers at several sites—not just the top 10 priorities—to identify nearby public housing that needed to be prioritized for investigation or cleanup."

--How many is "several," and where are those sites?

My deadline for these is 4:30 p.m. today.

From: Jones, Enesta [mailto:Jones.Enesta@epa.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, August 02, 2017 11:59 AM
To: Carignan, Sylvia <Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy>

Cc: Press <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Superfund/HUD data

Hi Sylvia,

Thanks for your patience. Our responses – attributable to an EPA spokesperson – are below.

1. Could you provide a copy of her presentation?

A copy is attached.

2. Her presentation notes that the Superfund office "is initiating a broader NPL review project." Could you provide further details on what that project is and what its goals are?

Superfund is initiating an ongoing review of current NPL sites to:

- Identify and address data gaps in our database (the Superfund Enterprise Management System, or SEMS) for contaminants data, environmental indicator status, remedies, and site size and location;

- Incorporate available data for the number of residents within site boundaries, or within a specified radius of the site, along with socioeconomic indicators to facilitate review prioritization; and

- Review sites for remedies selected, construction status, and exposure pathways to identify potential risks to human health, beyond those faced by HUD residents, and not solely limited to lead exposure.

Eventual goals:

- Collect up to date and accurate site specific data

- Update environmental indicator data

- Connect EPA regions with technical resources necessary
- Identify “hot sites” for regular updates with EPA HQ

3. What and where were the 10 prioritized NPL sites near HUD housing?

The 10 sites were:

- Omaha Lead (Omaha, NE)
- Brown’s Dump and Jacksonville Ash (Jacksonville, FL)
- Oronogo-Duenweg Mining Belt (Joplin, MO)
- Jacobsville Neighborhood Soil Contamination (Evansville, IN)
- Anniston PCB Site (Anniston, AL)
- Southwest Jefferson County Mining District (Jefferson County, MO)
- Welsbach & General Gas Mantle [Camden radiation] (Camden, NJ)
- Tar Creek (Ottawa County, OK)
- Raymark Industries (Stratford, CT)
- Colorado Smelter (Pueblo, CO)

The review also identified 3 Superfund removal actions:

- Pilsen Neighborhood Contamination (Chicago, IL)
- American Lead (Indianapolis, IN)
- Former Chattanooga Foundries (Chattanooga, TN)

4. Why were each of these sites considered top priorities?

EPA initially provided HUD data on the proximity of every HUD asset in the two publicly

available HUD datasets (Multifamily Assisted and Public Housing Buildings), with additional descriptors describing the type of contamination, construction status, and environmental indicators. Out of that universe of sites, HUD identified and prioritized 10 based on the presence of lead in soil, the potential for human exposure, construction status, and the number or residents potentially impacted. This identification was in the context of gathering more information.

5. What were the dominant contaminants at those sites?

The initial focus, as determined by HUD, was on lead-contaminated sites. Co-contaminants included arsenic, cadmium and PCBs, depending on the individual site.

6. Has EPA taken expedited actions at all 10 sites?

The only site identified by HUD in their initial list of priorities with expedited actions was Former Chattanooga Foundries. This site was highlighted in the presentation for completing its residential sampling and sending a confirmation letter to the local housing authority. In addition, EPA Region 4 reviewed the location of public housing assets at Jacobsville to ensure all yards had been sampled and necessary removal actions were taking place.

At the majority of sites, EPA was able to confirm that HUD residents were not at any elevated risk from their proximity to these sites.

For each site, EPA Headquarters worked with the EPA Regions to identify whether public housing was near an area of release, if it had been sampled, and what the lead levels were. Many of the sites that HUD flagged were large Superfund sites where properties fell within the site boundaries but were not impacted by contamination. Other sites had already had early action planned to address contamination, which EPA communicated to HUD HQ.

The impact of this review project and the MOU has been primarily in early-stage investigation sites where data were previously limited. We have informed our regional staff of the location of public housing assets, HUD's willingness to facilitate access agreements for sampling and cleanup, and expectations about communication between our agencies as well as with the residents.

7. When were those 10 sites identified?

HUD requested additional information on these 10 sites in late November 2016. EPA provided HUD with additional data in December 2016.

8. Alicia also noted that EPA is expanding site investigations to nearby communities. Is that only in the top 10 priority sites, or at all potential NPL sites?

OSRTI has communicated with regional staff at all levels about the importance of the MOU. This communication includes sharing data, for every NPL and many non-NPL sites, on HUD assets within a 1-mile radius. None of the sites initially identified by HUD had significant issues that were not being addressed, but EPA Regions have identified other sites for investigation.

Awareness of the proximity of public housing has enabled project managers at several sites – not just the top 10 priorities – to identify nearby public housing that needed to be prioritized for investigation or cleanup. Superfund cannot sample public housing that is not expected to be impacted by a release, or threat of a release, but we can prioritize identifying and sampling housing that falls within our authorities.

Enesta Jones

U.S. EPA

Office of Media Relations

Office: 202.564.7873

Cell: Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy

"The root of all joy is gratefulness."

From: Carignan, Sylvia [mailto: Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy]
Sent: Wednesday, August 02, 2017 10:50 AM
To: Jones, Enesta <Jones.Enesta@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Superfund/HUD data

Yes, please. I didn't realize you were still handling them – I sent Christie a note yesterday that I'm still looking for answers on those.

From: Jones, Enesta [mailto:Jones.Enesta@epa.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, August 02, 2017 10:49 AM
To: Carignan, Sylvia < Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy >
Subject: RE: Superfund/HUD data

Hi Sylvia,

Do you still need responses to the questions below?

Enesta Jones

U.S. EPA

Office of Media Relations

Office: 202.564.7873

Cell: Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy

"The root of all joy is gratefulness."

From: Carignan, Sylvia [mailto: Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy]
Sent: Wednesday, July 26, 2017 3:32 PM
To: Jones, Enesta <Jones.Enesta@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Superfund/HUD data

That's correct, and I believe Amy was working on another set of my questions, related to OSWER's climate change adaptation plan. Not sure where that ended up; I haven't heard from Amy on those.

On the questions you have below: I did receive the powerpoint presentation from Christie, but have not received responses to those questions.

From: Jones, Enesta [mailto:Jones.Enesta@epa.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, July 26, 2017 3:29 PM
To: Carignan, Sylvia <Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy>
Cc: Jones, Enesta <Jones.Enesta@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: Superfund/HUD data

Hi Sylvia,

I need your help here. This is the only open inquiry I have for you currently (and we are working on it).

--Could you provide a copy of her presentation?

--Her presentation notes that the Superfund office "is initiating a broader NPL review project." Could you provide further details on what that project is and what its goals are?

--What and where were the 10 prioritized NPL sites near HUD housing?

--Why were each of these sites considered top priorities?

--What were the dominant contaminants at those sites?

--Has EPA taken expedited actions at all 10 sites?

--When were those 10 sites identified?

--Alicia also noted that EPA is expanding site investigations to nearby communities. Is that only in the top 10 priority sites, or at all potential NPL sites?

On Jul 26, 2017, at 3:24 PM, Carignan, Sylvia <Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy> wrote:

Hi Enesta – Any luck with these today?

From: Jones, Enesta [mailto:Jones.Enesta@epa.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, July 26, 2017 9:48 AM
To: Carignan, Sylvia <Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy>
Cc: Press <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: Superfund/HUD data

Hi Sylvia,

I will look into this for you in Christie's absence.

Enesta Jones

U.S. EPA

Office of Media Relations

Office: 202.564.7873

Cell: Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy

"The root of all joy is gratefulness."

On Jul 26, 2017, at 9:47 AM, Carignan, Sylvia <Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy> wrote:

Hi all – Could you let me know who's handling these, and if there will be responses today? Thanks.

From: Carignan, Sylvia
Sent: Thursday, July 20, 2017 8:55 AM
To: 'Press' <Press@epa.gov>
Cc: 'frame.alicia@epa.gov' <frame.alicia@epa.gov>
Subject: Superfund/HUD data

Good morning EPA,

In addition to my other requests, I have a few questions about a presentation Alicia Frame of OSRTI gave yesterday. My deadline for these is today at 2 p.m.

--Could you provide a copy of her presentation?

--Her presentation notes that the Superfund office "is initiating a broader NPL review project." Could you provide further details on what that project is and what its goals are?

--What and where were the 10 prioritized NPL sites near HUD housing?

--Why were each of these sites considered top priorities?

--What were the dominant contaminants at those sites?

--Has EPA taken expedited actions at all 10 sites?

--When were those 10 sites identified?

--Alicia also noted that EPA is expanding site investigations to nearby communities. Is that only in the top 10 priority sites, or at all potential NPL sites?

Please give me a call if you need clarification.

Thanks,

Sylvia

>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>

Sylvia Carignan

Reporter, Superfund and Waste

Bloomberg BNA

1801 S Bell St, Arlington VA 22202

Direct Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy

Enesta Jones

U.S. EPA

Office of Media Relations

Office: 202.564.7873

Cell: Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy

"The root of all joy is gratefulness."

To: Carignan, Sylvia[Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy]
Cc: Press[Press@epa.gov]
From: Jones, Enesta
Sent: Thur 8/3/2017 5:04:12 PM
Subject: Re: Superfund/HUD data

Hi Sylvia, I am looking into this for you.

Enesta Jones
U.S. EPA
Office of Media Relations
Office: 202.564.7873
Cell: Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy

"The root of all joy is gratefulness."

On Aug 3, 2017, at 1:00 PM, Carignan, Sylvia <Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy> wrote:

Hi Enesta – I'd like to get clarification on a couple pieces of the provided responses:

"At the majority of sites, EPA was able to confirm that HUD residents were not at any elevated risk"

--At which sites were HUD residents found to be at elevated risk due to their proximity to those Superfund sites?

"…project managers at several sites—not just the top 10 priorities—to identify nearby public housing that needed to be prioritized for investigation or cleanup."

--How many is "several," and where are those sites?

My deadline for these is 4:30 p.m. today.

From: Jones, Enesta [mailto:Jones.Enesta@epa.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, August 02, 2017 11:59 AM
To: Carignan, Sylvia <Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy>
Cc: Press <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Superfund/HUD data

Hi Sylvia,

Thanks for your patience. Our responses – attributable to an EPA spokesperson – are below.

1. Could you provide a copy of her presentation?

A copy is attached.

2. Her presentation notes that the Superfund office "is initiating a broader NPL review project." Could you provide further details on what that project is and what its goals are?

Superfund is initiating an ongoing review of current NPL sites to:

- Identify and address data gaps in our database (the Superfund Enterprise Management System, or SEMS) for contaminants data, environmental indicator status, remedies, and site size and location;

- Incorporate available data for the number of residents within site boundaries, or within a specified radius of the site, along with socioeconomic indicators to facilitate review prioritization; and

- Review sites for remedies selected, construction status, and exposure pathways to identify potential risks to human health, beyond those faced by HUD residents, and not solely limited to lead exposure.

Eventual goals:

- Collect up to date and accurate site specific data

- Update environmental indicator data

- Connect EPA regions with technical resources necessary

- Identify “hot sites” for regular updates with EPA HQ

3. What and where were the 10 prioritized NPL sites near HUD housing?

The 10 sites were:

- Omaha Lead (Omaha, NE)
- Brown’s Dump and Jacksonville Ash (Jacksonville, FL)
- Oronogo-Duenweg Mining Belt (Joplin, MO)
- Jacobsville Neighborhood Soil Contamination (Evansville, IN)
- Anniston PCB Site (Anniston, AL)
- Southwest Jefferson County Mining District (Jefferson County, MO)
- Welsbach & General Gas Mantle [Camden radiation] (Camden, NJ)
- Tar Creek (Ottawa County, OK)
- Raymark Industries (Stratford, CT)
- Colorado Smelter (Pueblo, CO)

The review also identified 3 Superfund removal actions:

- Pilsen Neighborhood Contamination (Chicago, IL)
- American Lead (Indianapolis, IN)
- Former Chattanooga Foundries (Chattanooga, TN)

4. Why were each of these sites considered top priorities?

EPA initially provided HUD data on the proximity of every HUD asset in the two publicly available HUD datasets (Multifamily Assisted and Public Housing Buildings), with additional descriptors describing the type of contamination, construction status, and environmental indicators. Out of that universe of sites, HUD identified and prioritized 10 based on the presence

of lead in soil, the potential for human exposure, construction status, and the number or residents potentially impacted. This identification was in the context of gathering more information.

5. What were the dominant contaminants at those sites?

The initial focus, as determined by HUD, was on lead-contaminated sites. Co-contaminants included arsenic, cadmium and PCBs, depending on the individual site.

6. Has EPA taken expedited actions at all 10 sites?

The only site identified by HUD in their initial list of priorities with expedited actions was Former Chattanooga Foundries. This site was highlighted in the presentation for completing its residential sampling and sending a confirmation letter to the local housing authority. In addition, EPA Region 4 reviewed the location of public housing assets at Jacobsville to ensure all yards had been sampled and necessary removal actions were taking place.

At the majority of sites, EPA was able to confirm that HUD residents were not at any elevated risk from their proximity to these sites.

For each site, EPA Headquarters worked with the EPA Regions to identify whether public housing was near an area of release, if it had been sampled, and what the lead levels were. Many of the sites that HUD flagged were large Superfund sites where properties fell within the site boundaries but were not impacted by contamination. Other sites had already had early action planned to address contamination, which EPA communicated to HUD HQ.

The impact of this review project and the MOU has been primarily in early-stage investigation sites where data were previously limited. We have informed our regional staff of the location of public housing assets, HUD's willingness to facilitate access agreements for sampling and cleanup, and expectations about communication between our agencies as well as with the residents.

7. When were those 10 sites identified?

HUD requested additional information on these 10 sites in late November 2016. EPA provided HUD with additional data in December 2016.

8. Alicia also noted that EPA is expanding site investigations to nearby communities. Is that only in the top 10 priority sites, or at all potential NPL sites?

OSRTI has communicated with regional staff at all levels about the importance of the MOU. This communication includes sharing data, for every NPL and many non-NPL sites, on HUD assets within a 1-mile radius. None of the sites initially identified by HUD had significant issues that were not being addressed, but EPA Regions have identified other sites for investigation.

Awareness of the proximity of public housing has enabled project managers at several sites – not just the top 10 priorities – to identify nearby public housing that needed to be prioritized for investigation or cleanup. Superfund cannot sample public housing that is not expected to be impacted by a release, or threat of a release, but we can prioritize identifying and sampling housing that falls within our authorities.

Enesta Jones

U.S. EPA

Office of Media Relations

Office: 202.564.7873

Cell: Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy

"The root of all joy is gratefulness."

From: Carignan, Sylvia [mailto: Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy]
Sent: Wednesday, August 02, 2017 10:50 AM

To: Jones, Enesta <Jones.Enesta@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Superfund/HUD data

Yes, please. I didn't realize you were still handling them – I sent Christie a note yesterday that I'm still looking for answers on those.

From: Jones, Enesta [mailto:Jones.Enesta@epa.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, August 02, 2017 10:49 AM
To: Carignan, Sylvia <Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy>
Subject: RE: Superfund/HUD data

Hi Sylvia,

Do you still need responses to the questions below?

Enesta Jones

U.S. EPA

Office of Media Relations

Office: 202.564.7873

Cell: Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy

"The root of all joy is gratefulness."

From: Carignan, Sylvia [mailto: Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy
Sent: Wednesday, July 26, 2017 3:32 PM
To: Jones, Enesta <Jones.Enesta@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Superfund/HUD data

That's correct, and I believe Amy was working on another set of my questions, related to OSWER's climate change adaptation plan. Not sure where that ended up; I haven't heard from Amy on those.

On the questions you have below: I did receive the powerpoint presentation from Christie, but have not received responses to those questions.

From: Jones, Enesta [mailto:Jones.Enesta@epa.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, July 26, 2017 3:29 PM
To: Carignan, Sylvia <Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy>
Cc: Jones, Enesta <Jones.Enesta@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: Superfund/HUD data

Hi Sylvia,

I need your help here. This is the only open inquiry I have for you currently (and we are working on it).

--Could you provide a copy of her presentation?

--Her presentation notes that the Superfund office "is initiating a broader NPL review project." Could you provide further details on what that project is and what its goals are?

--What and where were the 10 prioritized NPL sites near HUD housing?

--Why were each of these sites considered top priorities?

--What were the dominant contaminants at those sites?

--Has EPA taken expedited actions at all 10 sites?

--When were those 10 sites identified?

--Alicia also noted that EPA is expanding site investigations to nearby communities. Is that only in the top 10 priority sites, or at all potential NPL sites?

On Jul 26, 2017, at 3:24 PM, Carignan, Sylvia <Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy> wrote:

Hi Enesta – Any luck with these today?

From: Jones, Enesta [mailto:Jones.Enesta@epa.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, July 26, 2017 9:48 AM
To: Carignan, Sylvia <Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy>
Cc: Press <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: Superfund/HUD data

Hi Sylvia,

I will look into this for you in Christie's absence.

Enesta Jones

U.S. EPA

Office of Media Relations

Office: 202.564.7873

Cell: Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy

"The root of all joy is gratefulness."

On Jul 26, 2017, at 9:47 AM, Carignan, Sylvia <Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy> wrote:

Hi all – Could you let me know who's handling these, and if there will be responses today? Thanks.

From: Carignan, Sylvia
Sent: Thursday, July 20, 2017 8:55 AM
To: 'Press' <Press@epa.gov>
Cc: 'frame.alicia@epa.gov' <frame.alicia@epa.gov>
Subject: Superfund/HUD data

Good morning EPA,

In addition to my other requests, I have a few questions about a presentation Alicia Frame of OSRTI gave yesterday. My deadline for these is today at 2 p.m.

--Could you provide a copy of her presentation?

--Her presentation notes that the Superfund office "is initiating a broader NPL review project." Could you provide further details on what that project is and what its goals are?

--What and where were the 10 prioritized NPL sites near HUD housing?

--Why were each of these sites considered top priorities?

--What were the dominant contaminants at those sites?

--Has EPA taken expedited actions at all 10 sites?

--When were those 10 sites identified?

--Alicia also noted that EPA is expanding site investigations to nearby communities. Is that only in the top 10 priority sites, or at all potential NPL sites?

Please give me a call if you need clarification.

Thanks,

Sylvia

>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>

Sylvia Carignan

Reporter, Superfund and Waste

Bloomberg BNA

1801 S Bell St, Arlington VA 22202

Direct Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy

Enesta Jones

U.S. EPA

Office of Media Relations

Office: 202.564.7873

Cell: Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy

"The root of all joy is gratefulness."

To: Jones, Enesta[Jones.Enesta@epa.gov]
Cc: Press[Press@epa.gov]
From: Carignan, Sylvia
Sent: Thur 8/3/2017 4:59:23 PM
Subject: RE: Superfund/HUD data

Hi Enesta – I'd like to get clarification on a couple pieces of the provided responses:

"At the majority of sites, EPA was able to confirm that HUD residents were not at any elevated risk"

--At which sites were HUD residents found to be at elevated risk due to their proximity to those Superfund sites?

"…project managers at several sites—not just the top 10 priorities—to identify nearby public housing that needed to be prioritized for investigation or cleanup."

--How many is "several," and where are those sites?

My deadline for these is 4:30 p.m. today.

From: Jones, Enesta [mailto:Jones.Enesta@epa.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, August 02, 2017 11:59 AM
To: Carignan, Sylvia <Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy>
Cc: Press <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Superfund/HUD data

Hi Sylvia,

Thanks for your patience. Our responses – attributable to an EPA spokesperson – are below.

1. Could you provide a copy of her presentation?

A copy is attached.

2. Her presentation notes that the Superfund office "is initiating a broader NPL review project." Could you provide further details on what that project is and what its goals are?

Superfund is initiating an ongoing review of current NPL sites to:

- Identify and address data gaps in our database (the Superfund Enterprise Management System, or SEMS) for contaminants data, environmental indicator status, remedies, and site size and location;

- Incorporate available data for the number of residents within site boundaries, or within a specified radius of the site, along with socioeconomic indicators to facilitate review prioritization; and

- Review sites for remedies selected, construction status, and exposure pathways to identify potential risks to human health, beyond those faced by HUD residents, and not solely limited to lead exposure.

Eventual goals:

- Collect up to date and accurate site specific data

- Update environmental indicator data

- Connect EPA regions with technical resources necessary

- Identify "hot sites" for regular updates with EPA HQ

3. What and where were the 10 prioritized NPL sites near HUD housing?

The 10 sites were:

- Omaha Lead (Omaha, NE)

- Brown's Dump and Jacksonville Ash (Jacksonville, FL)

- Oronogo-Duenweg Mining Belt (Joplin, MO)
- Jacobsville Neighborhood Soil Contamination (Evansville, IN)
- Anniston PCB Site (Anniston, AL)
- Southwest Jefferson County Mining District (Jefferson County, MO)
- Welsbach & General Gas Mantle [Camden radiation] (Camden, NJ)
- Tar Creek (Ottawa County, OK)
- Raymark Industries (Stratford, CT)
- Colorado Smelter (Pueblo, CO)

The review also identified 3 Superfund removal actions:

- Pilsen Neighborhood Contamination (Chicago, IL)
- American Lead (Indianapolis, IN)
- Former Chattanooga Foundries (Chattanooga, TN)

4. Why were each of these sites considered top priorities?

EPA initially provided HUD data on the proximity of every HUD asset in the two publicly available HUD datasets (Multifamily Assisted and Public Housing Buildings), with additional descriptors describing the type of contamination, construction status, and environmental indicators. Out of that universe of sites, HUD identified and prioritized 10 based on the presence of lead in soil, the potential for human exposure, construction status, and the number or residents potentially impacted. This identification was in the context of gathering more information.

5. What were the dominant contaminants at those sites?

The initial focus, as determined by HUD, was on lead-contaminated sites. Co-contaminants included arsenic, cadmium and PCBs, depending on the individual site.

6. Has EPA taken expedited actions at all 10 sites?

The only site identified by HUD in their initial list of priorities with expedited actions was Former Chattanooga Foundries. This site was highlighted in the presentation for completing its residential sampling and sending a confirmation letter to the local housing authority. In addition, EPA Region 4 reviewed the location of public housing assets at Jacobsville to ensure all yards had been sampled and necessary removal actions were taking place.

At the majority of sites, EPA was able to confirm that HUD residents were not at any elevated risk from their proximity to these sites.

For each site, EPA Headquarters worked with the EPA Regions to identify whether public housing was near an area of release, if it had been sampled, and what the lead levels were. Many of the sites that HUD flagged were large Superfund sites where properties fell within the site boundaries but were not impacted by contamination. Other sites had already had early action planned to address contamination, which EPA communicated to HUD HQ.

The impact of this review project and the MOU has been primarily in early-stage investigation sites where data were previously limited. We have informed our regional staff of the location of public housing assets, HUD's willingness to facilitate access agreements for sampling and cleanup, and expectations about communication between our agencies as well as with the residents.

7. When were those 10 sites identified?

HUD requested additional information on these 10 sites in late November 2016. EPA provided HUD with additional data in December 2016.

8. Alicia also noted that EPA is expanding site investigations to nearby communities. Is that only in the top 10 priority sites, or at all potential NPL sites?

OSRTI has communicated with regional staff at all levels about the importance of the MOU. This communication includes sharing data, for every NPL and many non-NPL sites, on HUD assets within a 1-mile radius. None of the sites initially identified by HUD had significant issues that were not being addressed, but EPA Regions have identified other sites for investigation.

Awareness of the proximity of public housing has enabled project managers at several sites – not just the top 10 priorities – to identify nearby public housing that needed to be prioritized for investigation or cleanup. Superfund cannot sample public housing that is not expected to be impacted by a release, or threat of a release, but we can prioritize identifying and sampling housing that falls within our authorities.

Enesta Jones

U.S. EPA

Office of Media Relations

Office: 202.564.7873

Cell: Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy

"The root of all joy is gratefulness."

From: Carignan, Sylvia [mailto: Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy
Sent: Wednesday, August 02, 2017 10:50 AM
To: Jones, Enesta <Jones.Enesta@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Superfund/HUD data

Yes, please. I didn't realize you were still handling them – I sent Christie a note yesterday that I'm still looking for answers on those.

From: Jones, Enesta [mailto:Jones.Enesta@epa.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, August 02, 2017 10:49 AM

To: Carignan, Sylvia <Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy>
Subject: RE: Superfund/HUD data

Hi Sylvia,

Do you still need responses to the questions below?

Enesta Jones

U.S. EPA

Office of Media Relations

Office: 202.564.7873

Cell: Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy

"The root of all joy is gratefulness."

From: Carignan, Sylvia [mailto: Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy]
Sent: Wednesday, July 26, 2017 3:32 PM
To: Jones, Enesta <Jones.Enesta@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Superfund/HUD data

That's correct, and I believe Amy was working on another set of my questions, related to OSWER's climate change adaptation plan. Not sure where that ended up; I haven't heard from Amy on those.

On the questions you have below: I did receive the powerpoint presentation from Christie, but have not received responses to those questions.

From: Jones, Enesta [mailto:Jones.Enesta@epa.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, July 26, 2017 3:29 PM
To: Carignan, Sylvia <Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy>
Cc: Jones, Enesta <Jones.Enesta@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: Superfund/HUD data

Hi Sylvia,

I need your help here. This is the only open inquiry I have for you currently (and we are working on it).

--Could you provide a copy of her presentation?

--Her presentation notes that the Superfund office "is initiating a broader NPL review project." Could you provide further details on what that project is and what its goals are?

--What and where were the 10 prioritized NPL sites near HUD housing?

--Why were each of these sites considered top priorities?

--What were the dominant contaminants at those sites?

--Has EPA taken expedited actions at all 10 sites?

--When were those 10 sites identified?

--Alicia also noted that EPA is expanding site investigations to nearby communities. Is that only in the top 10 priority sites, or at all potential NPL sites?

On Jul 26, 2017, at 3:24 PM, Carignan, Sylvia <Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy> wrote:

Hi Enesta – Any luck with these today?

From: Jones, Enesta [mailto:Jones.Enesta@epa.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, July 26, 2017 9:48 AM

To: Carignan, Sylvia <Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy>
Cc: Press <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: Superfund/HUD data

Hi Sylvia,

I will look into this for you in Christie's absence.

Enesta Jones

U.S. EPA

Office of Media Relations

Office: 202.564.7873

Cell: Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy

"The root of all joy is gratefulness."

On Jul 26, 2017, at 9:47 AM, Carignan, Sylvia <Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy> wrote:

Hi all – Could you let me know who's handling these, and if there will be responses today? Thanks.

From: Carignan, Sylvia
Sent: Thursday, July 20, 2017 8:55 AM
To: 'Press' <Press@epa.gov>
Cc: 'frame.alicia@epa.gov' <frame.alicia@epa.gov>
Subject: Superfund/HUD data

Good morning EPA,

In addition to my other requests, I have a few questions about a presentation Alicia Frame of

OSRTI gave yesterday. My deadline for these is today at 2 p.m.

--Could you provide a copy of her presentation?

--Her presentation notes that the Superfund office "is initiating a broader NPL review project." Could you provide further details on what that project is and what its goals are?

--What and where were the 10 prioritized NPL sites near HUD housing?

--Why were each of these sites considered top priorities?

--What were the dominant contaminants at those sites?

--Has EPA taken expedited actions at all 10 sites?

--When were those 10 sites identified?

--Alicia also noted that EPA is expanding site investigations to nearby communities. Is that only in the top 10 priority sites, or at all potential NPL sites?

Please give me a call if you need clarification.

Thanks,

Sylvia

>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>

Sylvia Carignan

Reporter, Superfund and Waste

Bloomberg BNA

1801 S Bell St, Arlington VA 22202

Direct Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy

Enesta Jones

U.S. EPA

Office of Media Relations

Office: 202.564.7873

Cell: Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy

"The root of all joy is gratefulness."

To: Jones, Enesta[Jones.Enesta@epa.gov]
Cc: Press[Press@epa.gov]
From: Carignan, Sylvia
Sent: Wed 8/2/2017 5:16:32 PM
Subject: RE: Superfund/HUD data

Got it – thanks, Enesta!

From: Jones, Enesta [mailto:Jones.Enesta@epa.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, August 02, 2017 11:59 AM
To: Carignan, Sylvia <Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy>
Cc: Press <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Superfund/HUD data

Hi Sylvia,

Thanks for your patience. Our responses – attributable to an EPA spokesperson – are below.

1. Could you provide a copy of her presentation?

A copy is attached.

2. Her presentation notes that the Superfund office "is initiating a broader NPL review project." Could you provide further details on what that project is and what its goals are?

Superfund is initiating an ongoing review of current NPL sites to:

- Identify and address data gaps in our database (the Superfund Enterprise Management System, or SEMS) for contaminants data, environmental indicator status, remedies, and site size and location;

- Incorporate available data for the number of residents within site boundaries, or within a specified radius of the site, along with socioeconomic indicators to facilitate review prioritization; and

- Review sites for remedies selected, construction status, and exposure pathways to identify potential risks to human health, beyond those faced by HUD residents, and not solely limited to lead exposure.

Eventual goals:

- Collect up to date and accurate site specific data

- Update environmental indicator data

- Connect EPA regions with technical resources necessary

- Identify "hot sites" for regular updates with EPA HQ

3. What and where were the 10 prioritized NPL sites near HUD housing?

The 10 sites were:

- Omaha Lead (Omaha, NE)
- Brown's Dump and Jacksonville Ash (Jacksonville, FL)
- Oronogo-Duenweg Mining Belt (Joplin, MO)
- Jacobsville Neighborhood Soil Contamination (Evansville, IN)
- Anniston PCB Site (Anniston, AL)
- Southwest Jefferson County Mining District (Jefferson County, MO)
- Welsbach & General Gas Mantle [Camden radiation] (Camden, NJ)
- Tar Creek (Ottawa County, OK)
- Raymark Industries (Stratford, CT)
- Colorado Smelter (Pueblo, CO)

The review also identified 3 Superfund removal actions:

- Pilsen Neighborhood Contamination (Chicago, IL)
- American Lead (Indianapolis, IN)
- Former Chattanooga Foundries (Chattanooga, TN)

4. Why were each of these sites considered top priorities?

EPA initially provided HUD data on the proximity of every HUD asset in the two publicly available HUD datasets (Multifamily Assisted and Public Housing Buildings), with additional descriptors describing the type of contamination, construction status, and environmental indicators. Out of that universe of sites, HUD identified and prioritized 10 based on the presence of lead in soil, the potential for human exposure, construction status, and the number or residents potentially impacted. This identification was in the context of gathering more information.

5. What were the dominant contaminants at those sites?

The initial focus, as determined by HUD, was on lead-contaminated sites. Co-contaminants included arsenic, cadmium and PCBs, depending on the individual site.

6. Has EPA taken expedited actions at all 10 sites?

The only site identified by HUD in their initial list of priorities with expedited actions was Former Chattanooga Foundries. This site was highlighted in the presentation for completing its residential sampling and sending a confirmation letter to the local housing authority. In addition, EPA Region 4 reviewed the location of public housing assets at Jacobsville to ensure all yards had been sampled and necessary removal actions were taking place.

At the majority of sites, EPA was able to confirm that HUD residents were not at any elevated risk from their proximity to these sites.

For each site, EPA Headquarters worked with the EPA Regions to identify whether public housing was near an area of release, if it had been sampled, and what the lead levels were. Many of the sites that HUD flagged were large Superfund sites where properties fell within the site boundaries but were not impacted by contamination. Other sites had already had early action planned to address contamination, which EPA communicated to HUD HQ.

The impact of this review project and the MOU has been primarily in early-stage investigation sites where data were previously limited. We have informed our regional staff of the location of public housing assets, HUD's willingness to facilitate access agreements for sampling and cleanup, and expectations about communication between our agencies as well as with the residents.

7. When were those 10 sites identified?

HUD requested additional information on these 10 sites in late November 2016. EPA provided HUD with additional data in December 2016.

8. Alicia also noted that EPA is expanding site investigations to nearby communities. Is that only in the top 10 priority sites, or at all potential NPL sites?

OSRTI has communicated with regional staff at all levels about the importance of the MOU. This communication includes sharing data, for every NPL and many non-NPL sites, on HUD assets within a 1-mile radius. None of the sites initially identified by HUD had significant issues that were not being addressed, but EPA Regions have identified other sites for investigation.

Awareness of the proximity of public housing has enabled project managers at several sites – not just the top 10 priorities – to identify nearby public housing that needed to be prioritized for investigation or cleanup. Superfund cannot sample public housing that is not expected to be impacted by a release, or threat of a release, but we can prioritize identifying and sampling housing that falls within our authorities.

Enesta Jones

U.S. EPA

Office of Media Relations

Office: 202.564.7873

Cell: Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy

"The root of all joy is gratefulness."

From: Carignan, Sylvia [mailto: Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy]
Sent: Wednesday, August 02, 2017 10:50 AM
To: Jones, Enesta <Jones.Enesta@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Superfund/HUD data

Yes, please. I didn't realize you were still handling them – I sent Christie a note yesterday that I'm still looking for answers on those.

From: Jones, Enesta [mailto:Jones.Enesta@epa.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, August 02, 2017 10:49 AM
To: Carignan, Sylvia < Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy >
Subject: RE: Superfund/HUD data

Hi Sylvia,

Do you still need responses to the questions below?

Enesta Jones

U.S. EPA

Office of Media Relations

Office: 202.564.7873

Cell: Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy

"The root of all joy is gratefulness."

From: Carignan, Sylvia [mailto: Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy]
Sent: Wednesday, July 26, 2017 3:32 PM
To: Jones, Enesta <Jones.Enesta@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Superfund/HUD data

That's correct, and I believe Amy was working on another set of my questions, related to OSWER's climate change adaptation plan. Not sure where that ended up; I haven't heard from Amy on those.

On the questions you have below: I did receive the powerpoint presentation from Christie, but have not received responses to those questions.

From: Jones, Enesta [mailto:Jones.Enesta@epa.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, July 26, 2017 3:29 PM
To: Carignan, Sylvia <Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy>
Cc: Jones, Enesta <Jones.Enesta@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: Superfund/HUD data

Hi Sylvia,

I need your help here. This is the only open inquiry I have for you currently (and we are working on it).

--Could you provide a copy of her presentation?

--Her presentation notes that the Superfund office "is initiating a broader NPL review project." Could you provide further details on what that project is and what its goals are?

--What and where were the 10 prioritized NPL sites near HUD housing?

--Why were each of these sites considered top priorities?

--What were the dominant contaminants at those sites?

--Has EPA taken expedited actions at all 10 sites?

--When were those 10 sites identified?

--Alicia also noted that EPA is expanding site investigations to nearby communities. Is that only in the top 10 priority sites, or at all potential NPL sites?

On Jul 26, 2017, at 3:24 PM, Carignan, Sylvia <Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy> wrote:

Hi Enesta – Any luck with these today?

From: Jones, Enesta [mailto:Jones.Enesta@epa.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, July 26, 2017 9:48 AM
To: Carignan, Sylvia <Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy>
Cc: Press <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: Superfund/HUD data

Hi Sylvia,

I will look into this for you in Christie's absence.

Enesta Jones

U.S. EPA

Office of Media Relations

Office: 202.564.7873

Cell: Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy

"The root of all joy is gratefulness."

On Jul 26, 2017, at 9:47 AM, Carignan, Sylvia <Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy> wrote:

Hi all – Could you let me know who's handling these, and if there will be responses today? Thanks.

From: Carignan, Sylvia
Sent: Thursday, July 20, 2017 8:55 AM
To: 'Press' <Press@epa.gov>
Cc: 'frame.alicia@epa.gov' <frame.alicia@epa.gov>
Subject: Superfund/HUD data

Good morning EPA,

In addition to my other requests, I have a few questions about a presentation Alicia Frame of OSRTI gave yesterday. My deadline for these is today at 2 p.m.

--Could you provide a copy of her presentation?

--Her presentation notes that the Superfund office "is initiating a broader NPL review project." Could you provide further details on what that project is and what its goals are?

--What and where were the 10 prioritized NPL sites near HUD housing?

--Why were each of these sites considered top priorities?

--What were the dominant contaminants at those sites?

--Has EPA taken expedited actions at all 10 sites?

--When were those 10 sites identified?

--Alicia also noted that EPA is expanding site investigations to nearby communities. Is that only in the top 10 priority sites, or at all potential NPL sites?

Please give me a call if you need clarification.

Thanks,

Sylvia

>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>

Sylvia Carignan

Reporter, Superfund and Waste

Bloomberg BNA

1801 S Bell St, Arlington VA 22202

Direct Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy

Enesta Jones

U.S. EPA

Office of Media Relations

Office: 202.564.7873

Cell: Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy

"The root of all joy is gratefulness."

To: Carignan, Sylvia[Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy]
Cc: Press[Press@epa.gov]
From: Jones, Enesta
Sent: Wed 8/2/2017 3:58:40 PM
Subject: RE: Superfund/HUD data
HUD MOU Slides - final.pdf
HUD EPA MOU January 2017.pdf

Hi Sylvia,

Thanks for your patience. Our responses – attributable to an EPA spokesperson – are below.

1. Could you provide a copy of her presentation?

A copy is attached.

2. Her presentation notes that the Superfund office "is initiating a broader NPL review project." Could you provide further details on what that project is and what its goals are?

Superfund is initiating an ongoing review of current NPL sites to:

- Identify and address data gaps in our database (the Superfund Enterprise Management System, or SEMS) for contaminants data, environmental indicator status, remedies, and site size and location;

- Incorporate available data for the number of residents within site boundaries, or within a specified radius of the site, along with socioeconomic indicators to facilitate review prioritization; and

- Review sites for remedies selected, construction status, and exposure pathways to identify potential risks to human health, beyond those faced by HUD residents, and not solely limited to lead exposure.

Eventual goals:

- Collect up to date and accurate site specific data
- Update environmental indicator data
- Connect EPA regions with technical resources necessary
- Identify “hot sites” for regular updates with EPA HQ

3. What and where were the 10 prioritized NPL sites near HUD housing?

The 10 sites were:

- Omaha Lead (Omaha, NE)
- Brown’s Dump and Jacksonville Ash (Jacksonville, FL)
- Oronogo-Duenweg Mining Belt (Joplin, MO)
- Jacobsville Neighborhood Soil Contamination (Evansville, IN)
- Anniston PCB Site (Anniston, AL)
- Southwest Jefferson County Mining District (Jefferson County, MO)
- Welsbach & General Gas Mantle [Camden radiation] (Camden, NJ)
- Tar Creek (Ottawa County, OK)
- Raymark Industries (Stratford, CT)
- Colorado Smelter (Pueblo, CO)

The review also identified 3 Superfund removal actions:

- Pilsen Neighborhood Contamination (Chicago, IL)
- American Lead (Indianapolis, IN)
- Former Chattanooga Foundries (Chattanooga, TN)

4. Why were each of these sites considered top priorities?

EPA initially provided HUD data on the proximity of every HUD asset in the two publicly available HUD datasets (Multifamily Assisted and Public Housing Buildings), with additional descriptors describing the type of contamination, construction status, and environmental indicators. Out of that universe of sites, HUD identified and prioritized 10 based on the presence of lead in soil, the potential for human exposure, construction status, and the number or residents potentially impacted. This identification was in the context of gathering more information.

5. What were the dominant contaminants at those sites?

The initial focus, as determined by HUD, was on lead-contaminated sites. Co-contaminants included arsenic, cadmium and PCBs, depending on the individual site.

6. Has EPA taken expedited actions at all 10 sites?

The only site identified by HUD in their initial list of priorities with expedited actions was Former Chattanooga Foundries. This site was highlighted in the presentation for completing its residential sampling and sending a confirmation letter to the local housing authority. In addition, EPA Region 4 reviewed the location of public housing assets at Jacobsville to ensure all yards had been sampled and necessary removal actions were taking place.

At the majority of sites, EPA was able to confirm that HUD residents were not at any elevated risk from their proximity to these sites.

For each site, EPA Headquarters worked with the EPA Regions to identify whether public housing was near an area of release, if it had been sampled, and what the lead levels were. Many of the sites that HUD flagged were large Superfund sites where properties fell within the site boundaries but were not impacted by contamination. Other sites had already had early action planned to address contamination, which EPA communicated to HUD HQ.

The impact of this review project and the MOU has been primarily in early-stage investigation sites where data were previously limited. We have informed our regional staff of the location of public housing assets, HUD's willingness to facilitate access agreements for sampling and cleanup, and expectations about communication between our agencies as well as with the residents.

7. When were those 10 sites identified?

HUD requested additional information on these 10 sites in late November 2016. EPA provided HUD with additional data in December 2016.

8. Alicia also noted that EPA is expanding site investigations to nearby communities. Is that only in the top 10 priority sites, or at all potential NPL sites?

OSRTI has communicated with regional staff at all levels about the importance of the MOU. This communication includes sharing data, for every NPL and many non-NPL sites, on HUD assets within a 1-mile radius. None of the sites initially identified by HUD had significant issues that were not being addressed, but EPA Regions have identified other sites for investigation.

Awareness of the proximity of public housing has enabled project managers at several sites – not just the top 10 priorities – to identify nearby public housing that needed to be prioritized for investigation or cleanup. Superfund cannot sample public housing that is not expected to be impacted by a release, or threat of a release, but we can prioritize identifying and sampling housing that falls within our authorities.

Enesta Jones

U.S. EPA

Office of Media Relations

Office: 202.564.7873

Cell: Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy

"The root of all joy is gratefulness."

From: Carignan, Sylvia [mailto: Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy]
Sent: Wednesday, August 02, 2017 10:50 AM
To: Jones, Enesta <Jones.Enesta@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Superfund/HUD data

Yes, please. I didn't realize you were still handling them – I sent Christie a note yesterday that I'm still looking for answers on those.

From: Jones, Enesta [mailto:Jones.Enesta@epa.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, August 02, 2017 10:49 AM
To: Carignan, Sylvia < Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy >
Subject: RE: Superfund/HUD data

Hi Sylvia,

Do you still need responses to the questions below?

Enesta Jones

U.S. EPA

Office of Media Relations

Office: 202.564.7873

Cell: Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy

"The root of all joy is gratefulness."

From: Carignan, Sylvia [mailto: Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy]
Sent: Wednesday, July 26, 2017 3:32 PM

To: Jones, Enesta <Jones.Enesta@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Superfund/HUD data

That's correct, and I believe Amy was working on another set of my questions, related to OSWER's climate change adaptation plan. Not sure where that ended up; I haven't heard from Amy on those.

On the questions you have below: I did receive the powerpoint presentation from Christie, but have not received responses to those questions.

From: Jones, Enesta [mailto:Jones.Enesta@epa.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, July 26, 2017 3:29 PM
To: Carignan, Sylvia <Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy>
Cc: Jones, Enesta <Jones.Enesta@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: Superfund/HUD data

Hi Sylvia,

I need your help here. This is the only open inquiry I have for you currently (and we are working on it).

--Could you provide a copy of her presentation?

--Her presentation notes that the Superfund office "is initiating a broader NPL review project." Could you provide further details on what that project is and what its goals are?

--What and where were the 10 prioritized NPL sites near HUD housing?

--Why were each of these sites considered top priorities?

--What were the dominant contaminants at those sites?

--Has EPA taken expedited actions at all 10 sites?

--When were those 10 sites identified?

--Alicia also noted that EPA is expanding site investigations to nearby communities. Is that only in the top 10 priority sites, or at all potential NPL sites?

On Jul 26, 2017, at 3:24 PM, Carignan, Sylvia <Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy> wrote:

Hi Enesta – Any luck with these today?

From: Jones, Enesta [mailto:Jones.Enesta@epa.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, July 26, 2017 9:48 AM
To: Carignan, Sylvia <Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy>
Cc: Press <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: Superfund/HUD data

Hi Sylvia,

I will look into this for you in Christie's absence.

Enesta Jones

U.S. EPA

Office of Media Relations

Office: 202.564.7873

Cell: Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy

"The root of all joy is gratefulness."

On Jul 26, 2017, at 9:47 AM, Carignan, Sylvia <Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy> wrote:

Hi all – Could you let me know who's handling these, and if there will be responses today?

Thanks.

From: Carignan, Sylvia
Sent: Thursday, July 20, 2017 8:55 AM
To: 'Press' <Press@epa.gov>
Cc: 'frame.alicia@epa.gov' <frame.alicia@epa.gov>
Subject: Superfund/HUD data

Good morning EPA,

In addition to my other requests, I have a few questions about a presentation Alicia Frame of OSRTI gave yesterday. My deadline for these is today at 2 p.m.

--Could you provide a copy of her presentation?

--Her presentation notes that the Superfund office "is initiating a broader NPL review project." Could you provide further details on what that project is and what its goals are?

--What and where were the 10 prioritized NPL sites near HUD housing?

--Why were each of these sites considered top priorities?

--What were the dominant contaminants at those sites?

--Has EPA taken expedited actions at all 10 sites?

--When were those 10 sites identified?

--Alicia also noted that EPA is expanding site investigations to nearby communities. Is that only in the top 10 priority sites, or at all potential NPL sites?

Please give me a call if you need clarification.

Thanks,

Sylvia

>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>

Sylvia Carignan

Reporter, Superfund and Waste

Bloomberg BNA

1801 S Bell St, Arlington VA 22202

Direct Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy

Enesta Jones

U.S. EPA

Office of Media Relations

Office: 202.564.7873

Cell: Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy

"The root of all joy is gratefulness."

To: Abboud, Michael[abboud.michael@epa.gov]
From: Graham, Amy
Sent: Thur 8/3/2017 12:13:46 AM
Subject: Re: FOR APPROVAL: EPA Evening News Highlights 8.2.17

Good w me

Sent from my iPhone

> On Aug 2, 2017, at 6:13 PM, Abboud, Michael <abboud.michael@epa.gov> wrote:
>
> Was this good to send out?
>
> Sent from my iPhone
>
>> On Aug 2, 2017, at 4:20 PM, Abboud, Michael <abboud.michael@epa.gov> wrote:
>>
>> EPA Evening News Highlights 8.2.17
>>
>> Utility Dive: EPA Grants Petitions Against Air Quality Permits For 2 Duke Coal Plants
>> The Trump administration is busily rolling back environmental regulatory standards, but not all enforcement of Obama-era rules has stopped. On June 30, Pruitt signed two orders granting petitions against permits issued by North Carolina environmental agencies. The orders were published in the Federal Register on Wednesday.
>>
>> E&E News: Industry To EPA: We Want Rule 'Fixed, Not Just Gone'
>> Industry has delivered a clear message to the Trump administration during a series of recent closed-door meetings: Don't completely gut the Obama-era Clean Power Plan. To be sure, leading industry associations are pushing White House and U.S. EPA officials to drastically roll back the landmark climate change rule. They're advocating a new approach that still limits power plants' emissions but is narrower than the one envisioned by President Obama's team.
>> The heavy-hitting U.S. Chamber of Commerce and the National Association of Manufacturers advocated an "inside-the-fence" approach to power plant regulations during a July meeting with the Office of Management and Budget and EPA staff, they told E&E News. Critics of the Obama rule have argued that it overstepped by allowing emissions reductions "outside the fence line" of coal-fired power plants.
>>
>> Bloomberg: Refiners Argue EPA Can Cut Biofuel Quota Despite Defeat in Court
>> Refiners told the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to cut biofuel quotas for 2018, arguing that a federal court decision against the agency shouldn't prevent it from setting targets below levels enshrined in law. The administration of President Donald Trump still has the authority to waive congressional biofuel levels to avert economic or environmental harm, refiner Valero Energy Corp. and oil industry trade groups said at an EPA hearing on the issue Tuesday in Washington. Economic harm could result, industry groups said, if refiners are forced to blend more than 10 percent ethanol into the fuel supply, a level the oil industry dubs the blend wall.
>>
>> National Evening News Highlights 8.2.17
>>
>> The Washington Post: Trump Signs What He Calls 'Seriously Flawed' Bill Imposing New Sanctions On Russia
>> President Trump on Wednesday signed a bill that imposes new sanctions on Russia, ending immediate hopes that he might be able to reset U.S. relations with the Kremlin as Congress overruled his opposition to the provisions' curb on his executive power. Trump's reluctant signing of the legislation came nearly a week after it was approved by an overwhelming, bipartisan majority in the Senate and after a similarly large majority in the House. The president issued two statements outlining his concerns with the bill, which he called "seriously flawed," primarily because it limits his ability to negotiate sanctions without congressional approval.

>>
>> The New York Times: Trump Supports Bill That Would Cut Legal Immigration By Half
>> President Trump embraced legislation on Wednesday that would cut legal immigration to the United States in half within a decade by sharply curtailing the ability of American citizens and legal residents to bring family members into the country. Arguing that the United States has taken in too many low-skilled immigrants for too long, Mr. Trump invited two Republican senators to the White House to put his weight behind their bill that would judge applicants for legal residency on the basis of education, language ability and job abilities that would benefit the country.
>>
>> Oklahoma Evening News Highlights 8.2.17
>>
>> The Oklahoman: Oklahoma Lt. Gov. Lamb Leads In Fundraising In Governor's Race
>> Lt. Gov. Todd Lamb raised more than $2 million in his bid to become the state's next governor, the most so far of the 13 candidates already in the 2018 race, their campaign reports show. Oklahoma City Mayor Mick Cornett reported raising $181,000. Lamb and Cornett are among six Republicans seeking the state's top elected position.
>>
>> TRUMP TWEETS
>> Utility Dive
>> http://www.utilitydive.com/news/epa-grants-petitions-against-air-quality-permits-for-2-duke-coal-plants/448446/
>> EPA Grants Petitions Against Air Quality Permits For 2 Duke Coal Plants
>> By Gavin Bade, 8/2/17
>>
>> The Trump administration is busily rolling back environmental regulatory standards, but not all enforcement of Obama-era rules has stopped.
>>
>> On June 30, Pruitt signed two orders granting petitions against permits issued by North Carolina environmental agencies. The orders were published in the Federal Register on Wednesday.
>>
>> In their petitions, the Sierra Club asserts that air quality permits issued by the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) for Roxboro and the Western North Carolina Regional Air Quality Agency (WNCRAQA) for the Asheville plant are incomplete and misdirected.
>>
>> North Carolina regulations require permits issued by state agencies to comply with the NAAQS to have specific accounting mechanisms for emissions, which the petitions argue both permits lack. And the permits, the Sierra Club says, only aim to attain the SO2 standards approved in the original NAAQS rules in 1971, not the updated standards finalized by the Obama administration in 2010.
>>
>> The difference is significant. The 2010 update tightened SO2 standards to 75 parts per billion (ppb) over a one-hour time period. The 1971 standard stood at 140 ppb over a 24-hour time period, almost double the current allowance.
>>
>> In their response to the petitions, WNCRAQA argued that because EPA is still reviewing compliance with the 2010 NAAQS standard, it cannot issue permits to comply with those updated standards. DEQ said that it has begun monitoring SO2 at the Roxboro plant to comply with the new standards.
>>
>> Those justifications aside, the EPA said the permits do not adequately explain when the 2010 standards will apply to the two coal plants and how they would be monitored. In granting the petitions, it directed the two agencies to better explain when the new standards apply in the permits and how they will be measured.
>>
>> Sierra Club staff attorney Bridget Lee said the EPA could have gone further by including more specific directions for the two state agencies on how to alter their permits. But she praised the agency for affirming that permits for NAAQS should reflect the most recent standards, even as compliance reviews of multiple jurisdictions are active.

>>
>> "To EPA's credit," she said, "they do say that argument doesn't hold water and these things operate in parallel."
>>
>> EPA did not respond to requests for comment.
>>
>> Duke spokesperson Danielle Peoples said the company appreciates "EPA's caution in granting the Sierra Club's petitions," and looks forward to reviewing the revised permits from each agency.
>> "It should be noted," she wrote in an email, "that EPA did not direct either agency to open or revise Duke Energy's air permits, but directed the agencies to discuss when facility-specific SO2 emissions controls might need to be placed into a facility's permit to avoid an exceedance of the 2010 SO2 NAAQS."
>>
>> Duke has begun a three-year monitoring period for NAAQS, she said, "that will be used to confirm we can meet the 2010 standard."
>> E&E News
>> https://www.eenews.net/stories/1060058186
>> Industry To EPA: We Want Rule 'Fixed, Not Just Gone'
>> By Zach Coleman, 8/1/17
>>
>> Industry has delivered a clear message to the Trump administration during a series of recent closed-door meetings: Don't completely gut the Obama-era Clean Power Plan.
>>
>> To be sure, leading industry associations are pushing White House and U.S. EPA officials to drastically roll back the landmark climate change rule. They're advocating a new approach that still limits power plants' emissions but is narrower than the one envisioned by President Obama's team.
>>
>> The heavy-hitting U.S. Chamber of Commerce and the National Association of Manufacturers advocated an "inside-the-fence" approach to power plant regulations during a July meeting with the Office of Management and Budget and EPA staff, they told E&E News. Critics of the Obama rule have argued that it overstepped by allowing emissions reductions "outside the fence line" of coal-fired power plants.
>>
>> "We were trying to also lay the foundation for what we think would be an acceptable replacement rule because we want to see this rule fixed, not just gone forever," Ross Eisenberg, vice president of energy and natural resources policy with NAM, said in an interview.
>>
>> Matt Letourneau, spokesman for the Chamber's Institute for 21st Century Energy, said in an email: "It's safe to say we" pushed for inside-the-fence-line.
>>
>> In rescinding the rule, EPA chief Scott Pruitt plans to argue that the Obama administration went too far in setting carbon reduction goals by looking at what the broader power system could achieve instead of focusing solely on improvements at coal plants, an administration official told E&E News in June (Climatewire, June 12).
>>
>> The recently publicized meetings with industry hint of a nearing Trump administration decision on how and whether to regulate carbon emissions from power plants, though devising a formal rule could take several months. While OMB and EPA meet with a variety of interest and business groups affected by pending regulations, the Chamber and NAM carry considerable weight in the business community that President Trump has courted.
>>
>> The Trump administration is facing pressure from conservatives to trash EPA's endangerment finding, which gives the agency the authority to regulate greenhouse gas emissions. If the Trump administration adopts an inside-the-fence approach, it would mean those angling to challenge the endangerment finding have lost a key battle.
>>
>> The meetings came after recent reports that EPA was planning to pursue a legal strategy known as

the "112 exclusion," which argued the agency couldn't regulate power plants under Section 111(d) of the Clean Air Act — as the Clean Power Plan proposed — because they were already hit with limits for mercury and air toxins under Section 112.
>>
>> Those pushing for a full Clean Power Plan repeal have acknowledged that a twin effort to scrub the endangerment finding may be necessary to ward off lawsuits that EPA wasn't doing enough to address emissions. A move to develop any carbon rules for power plants, however, would amount to an implicit admission that greenhouse gas emissions deserve curbing.
>>
>> "If they had already decided that's what they wanted to do, then there would be no reason to develop this inside-the-fence-line approach," Jeff Holmstead, a partner at Bracewell LLP and former EPA air chief under President George W. Bush, said in an interview.
>>
>> The White House referred E&E News to EPA, which did not return a request for comment.
>>
>> 'Skepticism' about axing endangerment finding
>>
>> EPA officials under Obama argued the electricity system required regulation as an interconnected entity, thereby achieving emissions reductions beyond power plants' physical parameters. Opponents, though, said that view was too expansive — some have argued regulations must apply to power plants themselves, while others maintain EPA lacks authority to regulate power plant carbon emissions because it already caps mercury emissions.
>>
>> Utilities have pushed for the inside-the-fence-line approach rather than a full dismantling of the Clean Power Plan because they say it provides more certainty. They argue that something like requiring on-site efficiency improvements could prevent future presidents from pursuing ever-more aggressive rules. Detractors in the environmental community note, however, that emissions reductions under this scenario would be small.
>>
>> The Edison Electric Institute, a trade group representing investor-owned utilities, declined to say what it advocated for in its July 26 meeting — for which White House energy adviser Mike Catanzaro was present — though it has in the past advocated for an inside-the-fence tactic.
>>
>> An industry source who wasn't present for that meeting noted Catanzaro had expressed "skepticism" about the administration's ability to overturn the endangerment finding. The source said Catanzaro was concerned about getting into endless litigation, as the administration would need to compile anthologies of climate change science that refuted greenhouse gas emissions' effects on a warming planet — a heady if not impossible task.
>>
>> That said, the industry source wasn't ready to take bets on where the administration would end up on the Clean Power Plan.
>>
>> "There's wide agreement among the utility industry that inside-the-fence-line would make more sense," the source said. "But there's certainly other people pushing for a different approach, including people who have sway with this White House. I'd be very cautious saying anything definitive."
>>
>> An inside-the-fence-line plan is "ultimately not enough in the long term" when it comes to restricting regulation on energy, said Tom Pyle, president of the conservative Institute for Energy Research. Pyle said in an interview that he's "not surprised" the business community is lobbying for that approach, though.
>>
>> "Obviously wherever as aggressively EPA could go is where I'd be comfortable with," said Pyle, who also ran Trump's Energy Department transition team, stating his desire to whack the endangerment finding.
>>
>> Some haven't given up hope on the Section 112 exclusion and an ultimate challenging of the

endangerment finding. Myron Ebell, director of the Competitive Enterprise Institute's Center for Energy and Environment, said in an email that the White House could ask for input on both the inside-the-fence-line approach and Section 112 exclusion in the public comment portion of the rulemaking process after rescinding the Clean Power Plan.
>>
>> To environmental groups, a move to regulate inside the fence line would signal that the administration is taking policy cues from industry rather than the far right. Utilities and manufacturers, after all, were chief advocates of such a plan when the Obama administration rolled out its regulation, which sought a 32 percent reduction of power plant emissions below 2005 levels by 2030. That largely relied on shifts from coal-fired power to natural gas and renewable energy.
>>
>> "An inside-the-fence-line approach with an argument in the alternative that industry lacks authority to regulate carbon emissions under Section 111 follows the industry talking points to a T," John Walke, senior attorney and clean air director with the Natural Resources Defense Council, said in an interview.
>> Bloomberg
>> https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2017-08-01/refiners-argue-epa-can-cut-biofuel-quota-despite-defeat-in-court
>> Refiners Argue EPA Can Cut Biofuel Quota Despite Defeat in Court
>> By Jennifer Dlouhy and Ari Natter, 8/1/17
>>
>> Refiners told the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to cut biofuel quotas for 2018, arguing that a federal court decision against the agency shouldn't prevent it from setting targets below levels enshrined in law.
>>
>> The administration of President Donald Trump still has the authority to waive congressional biofuel levels to avert economic or environmental harm, refiner Valero Energy Corp. and oil industry trade groups said at an EPA hearing on the issue Tuesday in Washington. Economic harm could result, industry groups said, if refiners are forced to blend more than 10 percent ethanol into the fuel supply, a level the oil industry dubs the blend wall.
>>
>> "The ethanol blend wall is a real constraint on today's fuel supply system that makes the statutory volumes unattainable and limits the use of ethanol," said Frank Macchiarola, a group director at the American Petroleum Institute, which represents oil companies such as Exxon Mobil Corp.
>>
>> Nothing in a ruling by a federal court in Washington last week "clips the wings of the EPA" to set lower biofuel quotas that avoid economic harm, said Scott Segal, a Bracewell LLP lobbyist representing Valero. "Severe harm can be established on a number of fronts."
>>
>> Biofuel producers such as Poet LLC, however, argued that ruling largely handcuffs the EPA, forcing the government to require the use of 15 billion gallons of ethanol and more next generation biofuel next year and for years to come.
>>
>> The dueling opinions illustrate the challenge facing Trump and EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt as they try to fulfill political promises to help corn farmers in the Midwest, appease oil companies eager to protect market share and live within the contours of a biofuel mandate created last decade when the U.S. was hooked on imports of Mideast crude.
>>
>> In a unanimous ruling Friday, a three-judge panel sided with ethanol producers in saying the EPA was wrong to justify setting lower quotas for 2016 based on constraints in demand, such as limited infrastructure to deliver the product to consumers or the availability of higher blended fuel mixes. For years, the oil industry has argued that the congressional target in the Renewable Fuel Standard push refiners past a 10 percent blend wall for ethanol in gasoline -- the amount that can be easily blended because it is acceptable in all cars and trucks. Ethanol producers argued that was the entire point of the law.
>>
>> Most gasoline sold in the U.S. is E10, or 10 percent ethanol. Higher ethanol blends, including E15 and

E85, are not available at all filling stations and not all vehicles can use them, oil industry leaders said Tuesday.
>>
>> Trump's EPA has proposed requiring the use of 15 billion gallons of conventional renewable fuels in 2018 -- the maximum allowed for that category in law -- while lowering proposed quotas for advanced alternatives that have been slow to commercialize, including cellulosic ethanol made from corn stalks and other non-edible materials. The agency is set to finalize the 2018 targets before the end of this year.
>>
>> The Side of Pessimism
>>
>> Biofuel groups complained that the reductions for advanced biofuel use will curtail growth in the market.
>>
>> "The agency has erred on the side of pessimism with regard to the potential for significant growth in cellulosic ethanol," said Bob Dinneen, head of the Renewable Fuels Association. The "spirit and intent" of the law was to "maximize the nation's use of these fuels, to drive marketplace innovation and investment in these new technologies, and to make the U.S. more energy diverse."
>>
>> Jan Koninckx, DuPont Co.'s global business director for advanced biofuels, said Trump's EPA used a flawed methodology to estimate potential cellulosic ethanol production and propose requiring 238 million gallons of it for 2018. That's down from 311 million gallons required this year.
>>
>> "EPA must revisit the process used in the current proposal for cellulosic ethanol and follow its own guidance and process used for the 2016 and 2017 cellulosic" quotas, Koninckx said.
>>
>> Higher advanced biofuel targets would help drive innovation and spur more production, said Pete Ricketts, the governor of Nebraska.
>>
>> Still, overall, EPA's "proposal is consistent with the president's statements of support for the corn ethanol industry," Ricketts said.
>> The Washington Post
>> https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/post-politics/wp/2017/08/02/trump-signs-bill-imposing-new-sanctions-on-russia-but-issues-a-statement-with-concerns/?hpid=hp_hp-top-table-main_trumprussia-1105a%3Ahomepage%2Fstory&utm_term=.0b1922766dca
>> Trump Signs What He Calls 'Seriously Flawed' Bill Imposing New Sanctions On Russia
>> By Abby Phillip, 8/2/17
>>
>> President Trump on Wednesday signed a bill that imposes new sanctions on Russia, ending immediate hopes that he might be able to reset U.S. relations with the Kremlin as Congress overruled his opposition to the provisions' curb on his executive power.
>>
>> Trump's reluctant signing of the legislation came nearly a week after it was approved by an overwhelming, bipartisan majority in the Senate and after a similarly large majority in the House. The president issued two statements outlining his concerns with the bill, which he called "seriously flawed," primarily because it limits his ability to negotiate sanctions without congressional approval.
>>
>> "By limiting the Executive's flexibility, this bill makes it harder for the United States to strike good deals for the American people, and will drive China, Russia, and North Korea much closer together," Trump said in a statement on Wednesday morning. "The Framers of our Constitution put foreign affairs in the hands of the President.
>>
>> "This bill will prove the wisdom of that choice," he added.
>>
>> The signing statement, long a controversial tool of president, expresses the president's concern with legislation but it does nothing to halt or amend it. The president had the ability to veto it, but it would likely have been overridden by majorities in Congress.

>>
>> Lawmakers' solidarity in tying Trump's hands on this issue reflects a deepening concern about the administration's posture toward Russia, which critics have characterized as naive. The new Russia sanctions expand on measures taken by the Obama administration to punish the Kremlin for its alleged efforts to interfere in the 2016 election. But Trump has continued to doubt that Russia was responsible and he has called the investigations in Congress and by the special counsel into Russian meddling a "witch hunt."
>>
>> The administration's lobbying of lawmakers in public and private to pull back the bill's requirement that Congress review any attempt by the president to amend sanctions against Moscow ultimately fell on deaf ears. The measure imposes a 30-day review period to give Congress a chance to vote down any of the president's proposed changes to Russia sanctions before they can be implemented.
>>
>> Despite Trump's considerable objections, House Speaker Paul D. Ryan (R-Wis.) praised the bill becoming law.
>>
>> "Today, the United States sent a powerful message to our adversaries that they will be held accountable for their actions," Ryan said. "These sanctions directly target the destructive and destabilizing activities of Iran, Russia, and North Korea.
>>
>> "We will continue to use every instrument of American power to defend this nation and the people we serve," he added.
>>
>> Trump said that he signed the bill despite his reservations for the sake of "national unity." In a second statement accompanying his signing of the legislation, Trump called some of the provisions in the legislation "clearly unconstitutional."
>>
>> And in a pointed jab at lawmakers in his own party, he questioned Congress's ability to negotiate sanctions based on its inability to approve the Republicans' health-care legislation.
>>
>> "The bill remains seriously flawed — particularly because it encroaches on the executive branch's authority to negotiate," Trump said. "Congress could not even negotiate a healthcare bill after seven years of talking."
>>
>> According to constitutional law experts, Congress rightfully asserted its own constitutional powers to serve as a check on the executive branch, even on matters of national security.
>>
>> Constitutional and national security expert Michael Glennon from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy said that Trump's statement was "gross misreading" of the case law he cited in his signing statement to bolster his claim that the congressional review provision had unconstitutionally robbed him of the power to negotiate.
>>
>> "That's obviously a misguided interpretation of his constitutional authority," Glennon said. "Congress has very broad authority over foreign commerce — it's explicitly given the power to regulate commerce with foreign nations.
>>
>> "It could have, if it desired, imposed those sanctions without giving the president any waiver authority whatsoever," he added.
>>
>> The measure also imposes sanctions against North Korea and Iran for those countries' weapons programs.
>> Russia has already retaliated against the United States for the new sanctions, announcing that it would order the U.S. Embassy to reduce its staff by 755 people and seize U.S. diplomatic properties.
>>
>> Trump noted that he supported tough measures to punish the three regimes, and said that he will honor the review period prescribed in the bill.

>>
>> But in a potential warning to lawmakers that he might not observe those parts of the law, Trump added that he would “give careful and respectful consideration” to other provisions that direct the administration to undertake diplomatic initiatives and require the administration to deny entry to the United States of certain foreign individuals, without exceptions for diplomats.
>>
>> “My Administration will give careful and respectful consideration to the preferences expressed by the Congress in these various provisions and will implement them in a manner consistent with the President's constitutional authority to conduct foreign relations,” Trump said.
>>
>> For now, Trump's desire to reset relations with Russia has hit a major speed bump at around the same time that Americans are expressing growing support for an adversarial approach toward the country, according to a survey released Wednesday by the Chicago Council on Global Affairs.
>>
>> The poll found 53 percent support actively working to limit Russia’s power compared with 43 percent who favor friendly cooperation and engagement, a sharp reversal from last year when 58 percent favored cooperative efforts. Over 4 in 10 say Russian influence in U.S. elections represents a “critical threat” to the country.
>>
>> The poll finds mixed support for imposing additional sanctions, with 38 percent saying they should be increased and 41 percent saying they should be kept about the same. Far fewer, 17 percent, said the U.S. should decrease or eliminate sanctions on Russia, according to the survey of a random sample of 2,020 adults conducted June 27-July 19.
>> In addition to concerns about the review component of the bill, the administration also said it was worried about the impact of the bill on U.S. businesses in Russia.
>>
>> In a statement late last week, the White House signaled that Trump would eventually sign the measure, and a White House official added that the administration had worked to renegotiate critical elements of it.
>>
>> Yet even as Putin moved quickly to retaliate against the United States, Trump has not issued any statement — written or otherwise — on the Kremlin's actions.
>>
>> Trump did argue, however, that he could negotiate deals on behalf of the American people far better than Congress.
>>
>> “I built a truly great company worth many billions of dollars,” Trump said. “That is a big part of the reason I was elected.
>>
>> “As President, I can make far better deals with foreign countries than Congress,” he added.
>> The New York Times
>> https://www.nytimes.com/2017/08/02/us/politics/trump-immigration.html
>> Trump Supports Bill That Would Cut Legal Immigration By Half
>> By Peter Baker, 8/2/17
>>
>> President Trump embraced legislation on Wednesday that would cut legal immigration to the United States in half within a decade by sharply curtailing the ability of American citizens and legal residents to bring family members into the country.
>>
>> Arguing that the United States has taken in too many low-skilled immigrants for too long, Mr. Trump invited two Republican senators to the White House to put his weight behind their bill that would judge applicants for legal residency on the basis of education, language ability and job abilities that would benefit the country.
>>
>> “This competitive application process will favor applicants who can speak English, financially support themselves and their families and demonstrate skills that will contribute to our economy,” Mr. Trump said.

>>
>> “This legislation,” he added, “will not only restore our competitive edge in the 21st century, but it will restore the sacred bonds of trust between America and its citizens. This legislation demonstrates our compassion for struggling American families who deserve an immigration system that puts their needs first and that puts America first.”
>>
>> The bill, sponsored by Senators Tom Cotton of Arkansas and David Perdue of Georgia, would reduce overall legal immigration by 41 percent in its first year and by 50 percent by its 10th year, according to projections cited by its authors. The reductions would come almost entirely from those brought in through family ties. The number of immigrants granted legal residency on the basis of job skills, about 140,000, would remain roughly the same, though a much higher proportion of the reduced overall number.
>>
>> The proposal revives an idea that was included in broader immigration legislation supported by President George W. Bush in 2007 but that failed in Congress. Republican supporters argued that it would modernize immigration policy that had not been updated significantly in half a century, but critics in both parties contended it would harm the economy by keeping out workers who filled low-wage jobs that Americans did not want.
>>
>> Under the current system, most legal immigrants are admitted to the United States based on family ties. American citizens can sponsor spouses, parents and minor children for visas that are not subject to any numerical caps, while siblings and adult children get preferences for a limited number of visas available to them. Legal permanent residents holding green cards can also sponsor spouses and children.
>>
>> In 2014, 64 percent of more than one million immigrants admitted with legal residency were immediate relatives of American citizens or sponsored by family members. Just 15 percent entered on the basis of employment-based preferences, according to the Migration Policy Institute, an independent research organization. But that does not mean that those who came in on family ties were necessarily low skilled or uneducated.
>>
>> The projections cited by the sponsors said legal immigration would decrease to 637,960 after a year and to 539,958 after a decade.
>>
>> The legislation would establish a system of skills points based on education, English speaking ability, high-paying job offers, age, record of achievement and entrepreneurial initiative. But while it would still allow the spouses and minor children of Americans and legal residents to come in, it would eliminate preference for other relatives, like siblings and adult children. The bill would create a renewable temporary visa for elderly parents who come for caretaking purposes.
>>
>> The legislation would limit refugees offered permanent residency to 50,000 a year and eliminate a diversity visa lottery that the sponsors said does not promote diversity. The senators said their bill is meant to emulate “merit-based” systems in Canada and Australia.
>>
>> “Our current system does not work,” Mr. Perdue said. “It keeps America from being competitive.”
>>
>> Mr. Cotton rejected the notion that the current system was a symbol of American compassion. “It’s a symbol that we’re not committed to working-class Americans and we need to change that,” he said.
>>
>> But Senator Lindsey Graham, Republican of South Carolina, criticized the measure, noting that agriculture is his state’s No. 1 industry and tourism is No. 2. “If this proposal were to become law, it would be devastating to our state’s economy, which relies on this immigrant work force,” he said.
>>
>> “Hotels, restaurants, golf courses and farmers,” he added, “will tell you this proposal to cut legal immigration in half would put their business in peril.”
>> The Oklahoman
>> http://newsok.com/who-has-raised-the-most-so-far-in-2018-governors-race/article/5558535

>> Oklahoma Lt. Gov. Lamb Leads In Fundraising In Governor's Race
>> By Nolan Clay, 8/2/17
>>
>> Lt. Gov. Todd Lamb raised more than $2 million in his bid to become the state's next governor, the most so far of the 13 candidates already in the 2018 race, their campaign reports show.
>>
>> Oklahoma City Mayor Mick Cornett reported raising $181,000.
>>
>> Lamb and Cornett are among six Republicans seeking the state's top elected position.
>>
>> Drew Edmondson, a former state attorney general, is the top fundraiser among the four Democrats in the race, collecting $300,211 so far.
>>
>> The campaign reports — filed at the Oklahoma Ethics Commission — cover donations and expenses through June 30. The deadline to file them was Monday.
>>
>> Most of the candidates were filing their first reports in the race that could become the most expensive in state history.
>>
>> Lamb on Monday reported collecting $1,089,273 in direct and in-kind contributions since starting his gubernatorial campaign in April. He added $1,004,772 in June that was left over from his 2014 lieutenant governor campaign.
>>
>> Lamb said last month he is pleased and humbled by his strong support so far.
>>
>> He said Tuesday he now has well over 700 contributors to his campaign.
>>
>> “It's not just about raising money," he said. "It is about building the infrastructure and the campaign team that will not only help us win the election, but will be ready to rebuild and renew Oklahoma.”
>>
>> Tulsa attorney Gary Richardson was second in fundraising among the GOP candidates. He reported raising $185,729 through June 30, mostly from personal loans to his campaign.
>>
>> He also already has spent most of that money, including $33,110 for polling, his report shows. His campaign only had $5,757 on hand June 30, according to his report.
>>
>> "With the ongoing budget crisis these past months, I made a conscious decision to delay my fundraising efforts in order to focus on preventing the proposed tax increases in our state," Richardson said Tuesday.
>>
>> "I am confident that, between our fundraising efforts and what I will put into the campaign personally, we will have more than enough money to get our conservative message out to the people of Oklahoma and be victorious in 2018," he said.
>>
>> Richardson ran for governor once before — in 2002 as an independent. That time, he raised $2.7 million, mostly from his own pocket.
>>
>> Cornett, who has been mayor of Oklahoma City for more than 13 years, said, “I have been amazed by the outpouring of support we have received statewide during the first few days of our campaign."
>>
>> Another well-known Republican, Gary Jones, had a much more modest fundraising total. Jones, the state auditor and inspector, reported collecting only $22,585 in his bid for governor.
>>
>> "I've got a job to do," Jones said Tuesday. "I've been working on my job. I knew that I probably wouldn't have as much as a lot of people."
>>

>> Jones said his goal is to win on Election Day "not travel around the state and spend all my time gathering up campaign contributions."
>>
>> "As we've seen, money doesn't always win it," he said.
>>
>> Two other GOP candidates, former state Rep. Dan Fisher and mortgage banker Kevin Stitt, have just begun campaign efforts and did not have to file reports yet.
>>
>> The Democrats
>>
>> Edmondson has run for governor before, too, narrowly losing in 2010 in the Democratic primary election.
>>
>> He said Monday his strong fundraising so far "shows that people are frustrated with our state's current leadership."
>>
>> "They're ready for a governor who will fight for them instead of the billion-dollar corporations that dictate business as usual at the state Capitol," he said.
>>
>> Second in fundraising among the Democrats was state Rep. Scott Inman, the House minority leader. He reported raising $99,566, more than a third coming from funds left over from his last legislative race.
>>
>> "We've always known that we're not going to have the famous name or the big fat cats behind us but we are determined to work harder than anybody else in the race," Inman said. "We were very encouraged by the overwhelming support we received from donors all across the state."
>>
>> Inman, of Del City, said many of his more than 300 donors are "middle-class folks" who can only afford $50 or so.
>>
>> In third was former state Sen. Connie Johnson, of Oklahoma City. She reported raising $21,057 through June 30.
>>
>> In fourth was Norman Brown, a retired mechanic from Oklahoma City. He reported raising $1,421.
>>
>> The Libertarians
>>
>> Three Libertarian candidates are in the race.
>>
>> Big cat breeder Joseph Maldonado, also known as Joe Exotic, reported raising $3,012.
>>
>> Most of his total was a $2,635 in-kind donation from the Greater Wynnewood Exotic Animal Park for the "purchase of T-shirts to be given away."
>>
>> Chris Powell, of Bethany, reported raising $234. Rex Lawhorn, of Broken Arrow, just registered his campaign committee with the Ethics Commission in July and did not have to report any contributions yet
>> TRUMP TWEETS
>>
[cid:image001.jpg@01D30BAB.4959EE60]<https://twitter.com/realDonaldTrump/status/892741272259133441>[cid:image002.jpg@01D30BAB.4959EE60]<https://twitter.com/realDonaldTrump/status/892749228291874816>
>>
[cid:image003.jpg@01D30BAB.4959EE60]<https://twitter.com/realDonaldTrump/status/892782712322437120>[cid:image004.jpg@01D30BAB.4959EE60]<https://twitter.com/realDonaldTrump/status/892814520942460928.>
>>
>>

>> Michael Abboud
>> U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
>> Office of Public Affairs
>> M: 202-564-6461
>>
>> <image001.jpg>
>> <image002.jpg>
>> <image003.jpg>
>> <image004.jpg>
>> <EPA Evening News Highlights 8.2.17.docx>

To: Greenwalt, Sarah[greenwalt.sarah@epa.gov]
From: Nishida, Jane
Sent: Mon 8/7/2017 3:31:28 PM
Subject: FW: Tulsa conference
Booklet_TLEF_2017_Final.pdf
Schedule Overview for TLEF.docx
Draft_TLEFschedule_2017_v5.docx

Sarah,

Per your request, here is the draft schedule for Monday, August 14, as well as the full TLEF schedule.

Jane

From: Wright, Felicia
Sent: Thursday, August 03, 2017 12:17 PM
To: Kelly, Albert <kelly.albert@epa.gov>
Cc: Dieu, Martin <Dieu.Martin@epa.gov>; Nishida, Jane <Nishida.Jane@epa.gov>; Snyder, Jessica <Snyder.Jessica@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: Tulsa conference

Hi Kell,

We are so pleased that you will be joining us in Tulsa! In response to your request to Jane for the Tribal Lands Environmental Forum agenda, please find the following attached information:

1) Overview of trip activities planned for Monday, August 14

2) TLEF Conference Booklet (contains agenda and additional information on the TLEF)

3) Agenda Summary (chart)

Head's up that the Executive Director of the Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals (ITEP) (who is host of the TLEF), Ann Marie Chischilly, would like to meet with you and Jane on Tuesday before the Plenary. From my understanding, she usually likes to meet the folks on the Plenary Panel before introducing them at the conference. Let me know if you would be interested in having a cup of coffee with Ann Marie on Tuesday at 10AM.

While it may be too late to update the conference booklet of your participation, we would like to provide ITEP with your bio for an addendum that can be provided to conference participants and added to the website, if you have that readily available.

Thank you,

Felicia

Felicia Wright, Acting Director

American Indian Environmental Office
Environmental Protection Agency
Phone: 202-566-1886

1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Mailcode 2690R
Washington, DC 20460

From: Nishida, Jane
Sent: Wednesday, August 02, 2017 9:52 AM
To: Kelly, Albert <kelly.albert@epa.gov>
Cc: Wright, Felicia <Wright.Felicia@epa.gov>; Breen, Barry <Breen.Barry@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: Tulsa conference

We are excited that you can join us in Tulsa. I have copied Felicia Wright in my office who can send you the draft agenda for August 14, and Barry Breen in OLEM who was preparing draft remarks for Patrick.

Sent from my iPhone

On Aug 2, 2017, at 4:44 PM, Kelly, Albert <kelly.albert@epa.gov> wrote:

> Hello Jane, I am pleased I can join you in Tulsa. I look forward to the program and the trip to Tar Creek. Would you have someone send me the agenda for the Tulsa event please. Also, what would you suggest that I say in my remarks?
>
> Albert Kelly
>
> Senior Advisor to the Administrator
>
> 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
>
> Washington, DC 20460
>
> Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy

Tribal Lands and Environment Forum: A National Conversation on Tribal Land and Water Resources

August 14-17, 2017

Tulsa, Oklahoma

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation's
Council Oak Tree in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

Conference Booklet

The Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals (ITEP) and the National Tribal Waste and Response Assistance Program (TWRAP) Steering Committee are proud to bring you the 2017 Tribal Lands and Environment: A National Conversation on Tribal Land and Water Resources. This event is made possible by a grant from the US Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Land and Emergency Management (OLEM) and Office of Water (OW).

Thank You to All the Local Tribe's

Who Assisted Us This Year!

The Tribal Lands and Environment Forum Team would like to sincerely thank the many Oklahoma Tribes that provided such wonderful assistance in planning this year's Forum.

Their assistance proved invaluable in planning many special field trips, providing a variety of artists who will be in the exhibitor/vendor area, participating in both our opening and closing plenaries, and sharing their stories in trainings and breakout sessions. Their generosity also made possible the many special events and activities we were able to add to this year's Forum. We sincerely appreciate their warm hospitality!

Modoc Tribe of Oklahoma

Wyandotte Tribe of Oklahoma

Table of Contents

Topic	Page
About the Tribal Lands and Environment Forum	3
Snapshot of Euchee Butterfly Farm and Grey Snow Eagle House	4
About ITEP, TWRAP, and the TWRAP Steering Committee	5-6
Agenda At-a-Glance	7-10
Detailed Agenda	11-36
Trainings/Field Trips Monday, August 14	11-13
Trainings/Field Trips Tuesday, August 15	14-15
Plenary/Breakout Sessions Tuesday, August 15	16-19
Breakout Sessions Wednesday, August 16	19-27
Breakout Sessions Thursday, August 17	28-36
Closing Plenary and Your On-Site ITEP Team	37
Meet Our Vendors	26
ITEP's 25th Anniversary Celebration	30
Sponsors and Save the Date for the 2018 TLEF	38
Speaker Bios	39-52
ITEP's Online Trainings and Onsite Mentoring	53
Cox Center Map	55

INSTITUTE for TRIBAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROFESSIONALS

About the Tribal Lands and Environment Forum

The 2017 Tribal Lands and Environment: A National Conversation on Tribal Land and Water Resources is a joint effort between the Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals (ITEP), The National Tribal Waste and Response Assistance Program (TWRAP) Steering Committee, and USEPA's Office of Land and Emergency Management (OLEM) and Office of Water (OW). This is the seventh annualforum for environmental professionals from tribes, EPA, State/Local/Federal agencies, and other interested parties to meet, share knowledge and learn from one another how to improve management and protection of tribal lands and human health. Opportunities for discussion of budget and policy issues as well as technical updates and information will be available throughout the conference. Additionally, training sessions, tribe-to-tribe sharing, educational outreach projects, and many more sessions will enhance both learning and networking among attendees. The Tribal Lands and Environment Forum is made possible by funding from the US Environmental Protection Agency.

Forum Staff

On-site support staff are available to assist you during the forum and will be available at the registration table located outside of the Tulsa Ballroom, near the North Ballroom Gallery.

Registration

The Forum Registration table is available Sunday from 4:00pm to 6:00pm, Monday 6:30am to 6:00pm, and Tuesday from 7:00am to 1:30pm, outside the Tulsa Ballroom. Attendees were asked to sign up in advance for trainings and field trips; however, sign-up sheets will be available at the Registration table for those trainings and field trips with space available.

Refreshments

Light refreshments will be provided in the mornings and afternoons of Monday through Thursday. Refreshments will be located with the vendors in the North Ballroom Gallery.

Raffle

Each attendee will receive one ticket when they register at the desk. Drawings will take place at the registration desk on Tuesday and Wednesday at noon. Winning numbers will be written up on the message board, so be sure to stop by the registration desk to see if you've won. A final raffle drawing will take place during the closing plenary on Thursday afternoon.

Photographs

Photographs will be taken during this publicly-sponsored event. Photos will be used for outreach by ITEP in the form of publications, websites, brochures, and other media.

Website for Conference Materials

After the conference, please visit ITEP's 2017 Tribal Lands and Environment Forum website to download pictures, presentations, handouts and other materials from the conference. A networking list of all attendees will also be available at nau.edu/itep/main/conferences/confr_tlef

Evaluations

Evaluations will be conducted online after the forum. Requests to complete evaluations will be emailed to all participants. You will also be able to access the evaluation through the Tribal Lands and Environment Forum website at nau.edu/itep/main/conferences/confr_tlef

ED_001863D_00010711-00004

Euchee Butterfly Farm and Natives Raising Natives

The Euchee Butterfly Farm specializes in the rearing of butterflies native to Oklahoma, and is operated by citizens of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. The Farm is also a founding member of the **Tribal Environmental Action for Monarchs** coalition, the only tribal partnership currently engaged in the fight to save the monarch butterfly.

The mission of the Euchee Butterfly Farm is:

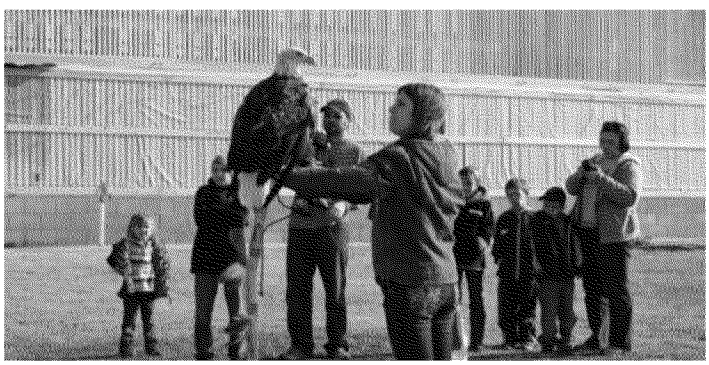
- To create economic independence for the tribal people of Oklahoma through ecologically sustainable butterfly farming;
- To restore habitat and promote conservation of native species of butterflies;
- To use butterflies as a hands-on educational tool to get youth excited about science.

Their flagship program is the **Natives Raising Natives Project**. This unique initiative is providing 100 tribal members in Oklahoma with all of the necessary training, supplies and equipment at no-cost to raise native butterflies on their own land. The Farm will process the sales -- with payments going directly to the farmers -- providing employment which is otherwise scarce in economically depressed rural areas. The Euchee Butterfly Farm is located on original Creek allotment land which has been in Jane Breckinridge's (the director) family for five generations, and she and her team want to make that land economically productive - but not at the expense of the environment. They see butterfly farming as the perfect opportunity to conserve native Oklahoma plants and animals, and to honor their own Native heritage and lands. For more information please visit www.nativebutterflies.org/.

Grey Snow Eagle House

The Iowa Tribe of Oklahoma's Grey Snow Eagle House first opened in January 2006 through funds provided by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services and the Iowa Tribe of Oklahoma. The Grey Snow Eagle House operates under several U.S. Fish and Wildlife permits which allow it to successfully conduct four distinct programs. The Grey Snow Eagle House is the only facility in the country that possesses this combination of permits thereby allowing them to complete their mission. The **Rehabilitation** program allows them to bring in injured eagles from Oklahoma and work with their vet, Dr. Paul Welch, to release them back into the wild. The **Religious Use** permit allows them to provide homes to eagles from around the country that are non-releasable because of their injuries, but still have quality of life, so that they can live out their life in peace. It also allows for naturally molted feathers to be distributed out to Iowa Tribal members. The **Education** permit allows them to take trained raptors around the state to teach the public about the conservation of eagles, raptors, and American Indian beliefs. Finally, the **Research** permit allows them to have a partnership with Oklahoma State University for the conservation of eagles. This research includes detailed population genetics and genomics research done on eagles from throughout their North American range so that new information can be discovered and used to aid in management decisions.

Currently, they have had over 12,000 visitors from all over the US and the world visit their facility, while offsite presentations have provided education for at least another 10,000. As of April 2016, the eagle aviary has successfully released 20 eagles back into the wild. These had various eagle injuries that were caused by gun shots, broken bones, or soft tissue injuries. The eagle aviary currently consists of six large cages built to accommodate the needs of eagles, an ICU room, quarantine cages, education cages, and feeder animal operations. For more information visit eagles.iowanation.org/.



About ITEP

The Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals

The Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals (ITEP) was created to act as a catalyst among tribal governments, research and technical resources at Northern Arizona University (NAU), various federal, state and local governments, and the private sector, in support of environmental protection of Native American natural resources. ITEP was established at NAU in 1992, and accomplishes its mission through several programs.

Tribal Waste and Response Assistance Program (TWRAP):
TWRAP provides training and assistance to tribes in the areas of concern such as solid waste, brownfields, contaminated sites, hazardous materials, underground storage tanks, and emergency response. TWRAP also provides targeted assistance to Alaska Native Villages.

Tribal Solid Waste Education and Assistance Program (TSWEAP):
TSWEAP is dedicated to providing tribal professionals working in the field of solid waste with trainings, technical assistance, peer-to-peer matching, and on-site mentoring opportunities. Assistance is provided with developing and implementing Tribal Integrated Solid Waste Management Plans, Tribal solid waste codes, and a variety of source reduction and waste diversion strategies.

Air Quality:
ITEP's American Indian Air Quality Training Program (AIAQTP) provides training and educational outreach for tribal environmental staff all over the United States, including Alaska. The various projects and services provided by AIAQTP include: Assisting in the building of tribal capacity for air quality management; Providing high-quality, up-to-date training that is immediately relevant to tribes; Enhancing communication skills to promote collaboration and networking.

Tribal Air Monitoring Support (TAMS) Center:
One of the key components of ITEP's air quality program is the TAMS Center which was created through a partnership between tribes, ITEP and the US EPA. It is the first technical training center designed specifically to meet the needs of tribes involved in air quality management and offers an array of training and support services to tribal air professionals.

Climate Change:
ITEP has developed a resource and training program to address tribal climate change issues. ITEP's efforts strive to help tribes to better understand climate change and to develop strategies for dealing with changing climate patterns through adaptation and mitigation, and emphasizes both science and traditional knowledge.

NEIEN:
ITEP is working with the Tribal Governance Group (TGG) and EPA's Office of Environmental Information (OEI) to support tribal involvement in the National Environmental Information Exchange Network (NEIEN or " Network"). The NEIEN is a collaborative endeavor that strives to support better environmental decisions through improved exchange of, and access to, environmental data and information. This effort will focus on expanding tribal participation in the NEIEN, which is guided by representatives from States, Territories, Tribes, and EPA. ITEP will work with tribes to facilitate a unified tribal voice amongst the NEIEN partners, and identify ways to help foster projects and initiatives that are both relevant and sustainable for tribes.

Education and Outreach:
The purpose of the Environmental Education Outreach Program (EEOP) is to interest Native American students in environmental careers and to assist schools in improving environmental science literacy.

Resources:
ITEP provides a large number of resources for tribes on a variety of environmental issues. Many of these resources have been collected from federal agencies, non-profit organizations, and other tribes. The resource clearinghouse is an invaluable asset to tribes as they develop their environmental program capacity. ITEP programs rely heavily on tribal input and participation. Tribal environmental professionals are recruited as instructors, researchers, advocates and collaborators, where their expertise and experience serves as a valuable resource and contributes significantly to ITEP's success.

ED_001863D_00010711-00006

About TWRAP

The Tribal Waste and Response Assistance Program

Since 2008 ITEP has worked in cooperation with the USEPA's Office of Land and Emergency Management (OLEM) under the Tribal Waste and Response Assistance Program (TWRAP). The activities of this program include:

- Working with the TWRAP Steering Committee, a Tribal Partnership Group composed of tribal professionals working in the fields of waste management, contaminated sites (including Superfund and federal facilities), Underground Storage Tanks, brownfields, and emergency response programs. This steering committee works closely with ITEP on all tasks associated with this program, and ensure a two-way communication between tribes and OLEM.
- Delivering the annual Tribal Lands and Environment Forum, as well as special trainings. You are at the seventh Forum and we hope you find it interesting and useful!
- Working with the Tribal Superfund Working Group, by coordinating national conference calls, developing special online resources to assist tribal professionals working on Superfund-related issues, and conducting special trainings at Superfund sites affecting tribal lands.
- Conducting ongoing outreach to tribes, through our listserv, the bi-monthly e-newsletter *Full Circle*, and by developing special online resources and mentoring opportunities, including our onsite mentoring project. To learn more about onsite mentoring visit our website at: http://www7.nau.edu/itep/main/Waste/waste_mentors

The TWRAP National Steering Committee

Since 2009, ITEP has been assisted in our work by the national Tribal Waste and Response Assistance Program (TWRAP) Steering Committee. Through in-person meetings, conference calls, and attendance at ITEP events, committee members make sure that both ITEP and OLEM are aware of tribal priorities and concerns. To this end they produce an annual Priority Document that is shared with the National Tribal Caucus and senior management at USEPA. Steering committee members also serve as instructors at ITEP courses, work as mentors to other tribal professionals, provide feedback to ITEP and OLEM on program activities, and make this Forum possible! Thank you to all the steering committee members—past and present—for all their hard work.

- Victoria Flowers, Oneida Nation
- Katie Kruse, Keweenaw Bay Indian Community
- Virginia LeClere, Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation (vice-chair)
- Cynthia Naha, Santo Domingo Tribe
- Arvind Patel, Pueblo of Acoma (chair)
- Rob Roy, La Jolla Band of Luiseno Indians
- Rebecca Stevens, Coeur d'Alene Tribe
- John Wheaton, Nez Perce Tribe
- Ann Wyatt, Klawock Native Village

ED_001863D_00010711-00007

Agenda ~ At a Glance

Monday, August 14: Training Sessions and Field Trips

Greenwood/Cherry Street	10:00 am to 12:00 pm: A Grant Writing Blueprint 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm: Developing and Implementing an EPA-Tribal ETEP and Strategic Plan for Tribal Environmental Programs
Brookside/Blue Dome	8:00 am to 12:00 pm: Brownfield Tribal Response Programs 101—Establishing a TRP 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm: Enhancing a Brownfield 128(a) Tribal Response Program
Utica	8:00 am to 5:00 pm: Eight Hour HAZWOPER Refresher
Brady	8:00 am to 12:00 pm: ENIPC's UST Owner/ Operator Training 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm: Above Ground Tank Spill Prevention Inspector Short Course
Tulsa Room B-3	8:00 am to 5:00: Tribal-FERST Your Environment, Your Health
Tulsa Room B-2	8:00 am to 5:00 pm: Approaching Community Engagement and Redevelopment through Indigenous Planning
Tulsa Room B-1	8:00 am to 5:00 pm: Water and Wastewater Utility Operation, Maintenance, and Management (CEUs Provided) - Please note this training continues on Tuesday with a field trip
Field Trips Meet the buses outside the North Ballroom Gallery	8:00 am to 5:00 pm: Visits to the Modoc, Eastern Shawnee and Wyandotte Recycling Facilities 8:00 am to 5:00 pm: Trip to the Euchee Butterfly Farm and "Natives Helping Natives" Project 8:00 am to 5:00 pm: Tour of the Quapaw Tribe's Tar Creek Superfund Site Activities 8:00 am to 5:00 pm: Osage Nation's Water Quality and Community Engagement Projects

Tuesday Morning, August 15: Training Sessions

Greenwood/Cherry Street	8:00 am to 12:00 pm: Hazardous Waste Program Inspections and Emergency Response
Brookside/Blue Dome	8:00 am to 12:00 pm: Brownfields Tools to Engage Community and Assess Health Risk
Utica	8:00 am to 12:00 pm: USEPA Munitions Response Training
Brady	Strengthening Tribal Self-Determination and Self-Governance by Administering Environmental Protection Programs: The Continuing Relevance of EPA's 1984 Indian Policy & 1992 GAP Statute
Tulsa Room B-3	8:00 am to 12:00 pm: Emergency Response Planning for Tribes
Tulsa Room B-2	8:00 am to 12:00 pm: Communicating Sustainability Through Tribal Environmental Programs
Field Trips Meet the buses outside the North Ballroom Gallery	8:00 am to 12:00 pm: A tour of the Lower Bird Creek Wastewater Treatment facility. This field trip is being offered in conjunction with the Monday Water & Wastewater Utility training on Monday. It is open to those not participating in the training, space permitting. 8:00 am to 12:00 pm: A tour of multiple sustainability projects by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, including composting/gardening, sustainable building, recycling, and energy efficiency 8:00 am to 12:00 pm: A visit to UST Containment Solutions, a UST manufacturing facility in Tulsa

ED_001863D_00010711-00008

Agenda ~ At a Glance

Tuesday Afternoon, August 15: Opening Plenary

1:30 PM-3:00 PM: Tulsa Ballroom

Tulsa Ballroom	Osage Nation Color Guard Invocation by Chuck Hoskin Jr. Cherokee Nation Secretary of State Welcoming remarks by: Ann Marie Chischilly, Executive Director of ITEP Arvind Patel, Pueblo of Acoma and Chair of the TWRAP Steering Committee Ken Norton, Hoopa Valley Tribe and Chair of the National Tribal Water Council Patrick Davis, Deputy Assistant Administrator of USEPA's Office of Land and Emergency Management Sam Coleman, USEPA Region 6 Administrator Plenary Presentation by: Del Beaver, Representative of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Council James Williams, Muscogee (Creek) Nation Environmental Director

Tuesday Afternoon, August 15: Breakout Sessions

3:30 PM-5:00 PM Break-Out Sessions

Greenwood/Cherry Street	Training for Hazardous Waste Operations
Brookside/Blue Dome	Technical Assistance to Tribal Brownfields Communities **and** Get All you Can Out of the Brownfields Inventory Tool (BIT) and EPA ACRES Databases
Utica	Grants Mining District - Legacy Uranium Update **and** When the CWA and CERCLA Collide in the Coeur d'Alene Basin
Brady	Elements and History of UST Equipment Functionality Testing
Tulsa Room B-3	Understanding ETEPs and the Power of Planning to Protect the Environment and Public Health in Indian Country
Tulsa Room B-2	Climate Change and TEK: Why It Matters **and** Up an E.coli Creek Without a Paddle
Tulsa Room B-1	From Restoration to Relationship

Wednesday Morning, August 16: Breakout Sessions

8:30 AM-10:00 AM Break-Out Sessions

Greenwood/Cherry Street	Comparison of Developing & Underdeveloped Countries' Waste Management v. Rural Alaska's Village Landfills **and** Backhaul Alaska: Building a Self-Sustaining Waste Removal Program for Rural Alaska
Brookside/Blue Dome	EPA and Tribal Emergency Management 101 **and** Chemical Facility Security and Safety
Utica	A Forum for Discussing How Tribes and USEPA Can work Together to Consider TEK in the Cleanup Process
Brady	UST Program Update and Future Directions Including a Discussion of UST Regulatory Requirements and PEI Standards
Tulsa Room B-3	Photography: Telling your Tribe's Story
Tulsa Room B-2	Underground Injection Control and Tribal Lands **and** Working as a Group: A Collaborative Effort to Focus Less on Data Entry, and More on Data Quality
Tulsa Room B-1	Establishing Tribal Water Quality and Drinking Water Programs under EPA's Indian Environmental General Assistance Program (GAP)

ED_001863D_00010711-00009

Agenda ~ At a Glance

Wednesday Morning, August 16: Breakout Sessions

10:30 AM –12:00 PM: Break-Out Sessions

Greenwood/Cherry Street	Developing and Implementing Tribal Solid Waste Programs under EPA's Indian Environmental General Assistance Program (GAP)
Brookside/Blue Dome	The Quest for Potable Water **and** NEPA & Brownfield Redevelopment
Utica	Tribal Superfund Working Group (TSFWG) Meeting
Brady	Gas Stations in Your Community: A Panel Discussion on What You Need To Know
Tulsa Room B-3	Code Writing for Tribal Environmental Programs
Tulsa Room B-2	Using Geospatial Technology to Visualize Environmental Data **and** Know Before You Fly
Tulsa Room B-1	Establishing Clean Water Act Water Quality Standards **and** Tribal Treaty Rights: Experiences and Implications for Water Quality Standards Programs

Wednesday Afternoon, August 16: Breakout Sessions

1:30 PM-3:00 PM: Break-Out Sessions

Greenwood/Cherry Street	Developing and Operating Tribal Transfer Stations: Stories, Experiences, and Opportunities for Partnership
Brookside/Blue Dome	Lessons Learned: What To Do & What Not To Do When Applying For A Cleanup Grant
Utica	Superfund and the National Historic Preservation Act in Indian Country **and** An Introduction to CERCLA from a Legal Perspective
Brady	Abandoned UST's on the Nez Perce Reservation **and** Building Capacity for UST Compliance Assistance
Tulsa Room B-3	AIEO and Tribes Working Together to Improve Human Health and the Environment
Tulsa Room B-2	Leveraging Funding and Working on Large River Restoration Projects **and** GIS Application for Drinking Water Protection
Tulsa Room B-1	Exploring the Water Finance Clearinghouse

Wednesday Afternoon, August 16: Multi Media Meetup

3:30 PM-5:00 PM : Tulsa Ballroom

Join us in the Tulsa ballroom during this breakout period for the Multi Media Meetup. Numerous information tables, demonstrations, and poster presentations will be available for you during this special networking and educational event. See page 27 for more information.

Thursday Morning, August 17: Breakout Sessions

8:30 AM-10:00 AM Break-Out Sessions

Greenwood/Cherry Street	Developing and Implementing a Successful Hazardous Waste Management Project through the Hazardous Waste Management Grant Program for Tribes
Brookside/Blue Dome	HazMat Spill Response at the Corner of TRP and OPA **and** Tribal Emergency Response Application
Utica	Remedial Strategies at the Tar Creek Superfund Site
Brady	What's New in Emerging Fuels: Corrosion Concerns and Compatibility Determinations
Tulsa Room B-3	Maximizing Sustainability and Profit: A Winning Combination at Tribal Casinos
Tulsa Room B-2	Tribal Exposures to Toxic Substances
Tulsa Room B-1	Managing Nonpoint Source Pollution: How to Get From "A" (Assessment) to "B" (Best Management Practices)

ED_001863D_00010711-00010

Agenda ~ At a Glance

Thursday Morning, August 17: Breakout Sessions

10:30 AM-12:00 PM Break-Out Sessions

Greenwood/Cherry Street	Mother Earth Recycles: Because What You've Got is Not Waste
Brookside/Blue Dome	Financial Literacy
Utica	A Coeur d'Alene Tribe's Engineer's Perspective On Reservation Creosote Clean-up & Coordination **and** Cultural Sensitivity to the Navajo People When Addressing Abandoned Uranium Mines Clean-Up
Brady	Advanced Tools and Strategies to Develop Conceptual Site Models for Effective Remediation
Tulsa Room B-3	Benefits of Meaningful Public Engagement in Tribal Environmental Programs
Tulsa Room B-2	E-Enterprise – Collaborative Environmental Leadership
Tulsa Room B-1	Integrating Art and Culture into Water Infrastructure Sustainability: Key Insights from the Water is Life Project **and** Green Building in the Gila River Indian Community

Thursday Afternoon, August 17: Breakout Sessions

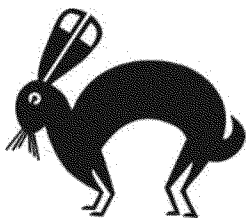
1:30 PM-3:00 PM Break-Out Sessions

Greenwood/Cherry Street	Developing a Zero Waste Vision and Strategy **and** Planning and Designing Community Engagement Approaches for Tribal Integrated Waste Management Programs
Brookside/Blue Dome	EPA Regions 1 & 2 Tribal Brownfields Priorities
Utica	State and Tribal Perspectives on ANCSA Contaminated Lands
Brady	The Importance of Adequate Financial Responsibility: A Focus on Private Insurance and State Funds **and** An Informal Q&A Discussion About the UST Program
Tulsa Room B-3	Tribal Food Systems: Taking Care of the Land, Water and Community
Tulsa Room B-2	Building Tribal Capacity for Data Management and Exchange
Tulsa Room B-1	Building Tribal Drinking Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Systems with EPA's Drinking Water and Clean Water Tribal Set-Aside Programs: A History, How to Apply for Funds, and Future Outlook **and** ITCA Tribal Operator Certification Program Overview & Updates

Thursday Afternoon, August 16: Closing Plenary

3:30 PM-5:00 PM: Tulsa Ballroom

3:30—4:00 pm	Final raffle, closing remarks, refreshments
4-00—5:00 pm	Special presentation by the Grey Snow Eagle House, a raptor rehabilitation facility managed by the Iowa Tribe



ED_001863D_00010711-00011

Detailed Agenda ~ Monday, August 14

Time	Topic	Location
10:00 am - 12:00 pm	**A Grant Writing Blueprint**	**Greenwood/Cherry Street**

Details: Clear, well written laws are often needed to effectively manage ongoing environmental issues within Indian Country. Many tribes currently need to create or revise water, waste, air, or other environmental codes to address the unique issues and objectives within their community. This session provides a summary of a step-by-step approach to developing tribal environmental codes regularly taught in multiday workshops on behalf of organizations such as ITEP. Examples of how this approach has been applied will be shared from specific tribal projects.
Instructor: Joshua Simmons, Prosper Sustainably

1:00 pm—5:00 pm	**Developing and Implementing an EPA-Tribal ETEP And Strategic Plans for Tribal Environmental Programs**	**Greenwood/Cherry Street**

Details: An EPA-Tribal Environmental Plan (ETEP) can and should be a powerful tool that helps a tribe accomplish its environmental goals and objectives in the most efficient and effective manner possible. This workshop will offer a blueprint on how to develop (or revise) and implement an ETEP that is a living, adaptable (yet simple) strategic planning and management system. Participants will receive hands-on training on how to prepare (or revise) clear mission and vision statements, core values, long-term goals, and intermediate objectives to guide their tribal environmental programs. Training will also be provided on how to implement an ETEP strategic work plan to develop grant work plans, oversee programs, manage staff, obtain buy-in from leadership, develop partnerships, and more. This workshop will be supplemented with case studies and examples from the Pala Band of Mission Indians and Yavapai Apache Nation.
Instructor: Joshua Simmons, Prosper Sustainably

8:00 am—12:00 pm	**Brownfield Tribal Response Programs 101 Establishing a TRP**	**Brookside/ Blue Dome**

Details: Basic training on the Brownfields 128(a) Tribal Response Program (TRP) for tribal staff that are relatively new to the program or seeking to start a TRP program. Outcome: knowledge of what is expected to establish and implement a TRP and some concepts on how to do that. No previous knowledge of the TRP is required.
Instructors: Mickey Hartnett and Oral Saulters, KSU-Tribal TAB

1:00 pm– 5:00 pm	**Enhancing a Brownfield 128(a) Tribal Response Program**	**Brookside/ Blue Dome**

Details: How to Enhance your 128(a) Tribal Response Program: Going beyond the 4 Element Basics. Outcome: Ideas, Experiences and Discussion of how to build upon the basics of the 4 Elements of TRP to meet tribal needs and priorities. Knowledge of the basic TRP 4 Elements and some TRP implementation experience needed.
Instructor: Mickey Hartnett, KSU-Tribal TAB

8:00 am—5:00 pm	**Eight-Hour HAZWOPER Refresher**	**Utica**

Details: At the end of this training the participant will be able to: 1. Identify the training requirements to meet the five levels of the HAZWOPER Standard 2. Understand the requirement of the employer and the employee under the HAZWOPER Standard 3. Able to use the 2016 ERG and NIOSH Handbook of Chemical Hazards 4. Will know the components of a Site-Specific Safety Plan 5. Complete a chemical evaluation 6. Complete a job hazard analysis 7. Understand how to select PPE 8. Understand the HAZCOM/GHS regulation 9. Understand basic air monitoring Instrumentation 10. Have a basic understanding of the incident command system.
Instructor: Eric Lindeman

ED_001863D_00010711-00012

Detailed Agenda ~ Monday, August 14

Time	Topic	Location
8:00 am – 12:00 pm	**ENIPC's UST Owner/Operator Training**	**Brady**

Details: ENIPC is pleased to announce UST Owner/Operator Training at the Tribal Lands and Environment Forum in Tulsa, OK. The training shall cover the following topics: tank and piping leak test requirements, safety, federal regulations, reporting, recordkeeping, financial responsibility, UST operations and Maintenance, Compliance Issues, New Regulations. This training explains and demonstrates to UST owners and operators the proper operation and maintenance of UST facility equipment; identifies and addresses existing compliance issues; and reviews federal UST regulations.
Instructors: Leonard Sabatino and Rebecca Martin, Eight Northern Indian Pueblos Council

1:00 pm – 5:00 pm	**Above Ground Storage Tank Spill Prevention Inspections**	**Brady**

Details: Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasures regulations and inspection program will be discussed in detail. While not a delegated program, EPA relies on tribes to be aware of oil storage facilities that EPA inspects and what is required for facilities to prevent spills and plan for spill mitigation. Tribes that are more informed can better report issues to regional inspectors.
Instructor: Mark Howard, USEPA Office of Emergency Management

8:00 am– 5:00 pm	**Tribal-FERST—Your Environment, Your Health**	**Tulsa Room B-3**

Details: USEPA's Tribal-Focused Environmental Risk and Sustainability Tool (Tribal-FERST) is a web-based geospatial decision support tool designed to serve as a research framework to provide tribes with easy access to the best available human health and ecological science. Tribal-focused tools are needed to: Prioritize Environmental Issues, Understand exposure pathways, and Conduct comprehensive impact assessments, all of which are important in decisions to improve public health and the environment. Participants will learn how to follow step-by-step guidance for identifying priority issues, compile data, rank and address risks, and assess impacts. The Tribal -FERST geospatial mapping component will enable the participant to view and overlay demographic information with publicly available date including Environmental concentration, Human exposures, Health risks, Ecosystem services, Sustainability indicators, and Sources of pollution. Tribal-FERST is intended to empower tribes by providing access to relevant science that can be used to develop sustainable, cost-effective solutions for reducing environmental exposures and health risks. Using this web-based geospatial decision support tool, tribes may employ a holistic approach to address environmental concerns and plan for the future. Participants will need to bring a laptop with wifi capability. A limited number of laptops will be available for use. Participants will need a minimum skill set on operating a computer and some knowledge of the environment. We are seeking participant feedback to produce a Tribal oriented Tool.
Instructors: Steve Terry and Harrell French, United South and Eastern Tribes

8:00 am– 5:00 pm	**Approaching Community Engagement and Redevelopment Through Indigenous Planning**	**Tulsa Room B-2**

Details: This session will introduce participants to the Intra-Tribal Redevelopment Visioning Roundtables, which are one-day events facilitated by the University of New Mexico Indigenous Design and Planning Institute (UNM iD+Pi), and Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCUs) as collaborators. The goal is to develop capacity in tribal community engagement, in a neutral setting, using Indigenous participatory techniques that can leverage Tribal Response Programs (TRP) resources and tools. For example, the approach can help stakeholders scope, plan, and implement land re-use decisions based on an agreed set of principles and input from all generations. This and other values-based methods can generate consensus in meeting environmental, economic, cultural and social needs with brownfields sites involving existing infrastructure, greenspace, and strategic visioning.
Instructors: Theodore Jojola and Michaela Paulette Shirley, University of New Mexico Design and Planning Institute

ED_001863D_00010711-00013

Detailed Agenda ~ Monday, August 14

Time	Topic	Location
8:00 am – 5:00 pm	**Water and Wastewater Utility Operations, Maintenance, and Management (CEUs Provided)**	**Tulsa Room B-1**

Details: A well run tribal water utility saves money, protects public health, and keeps streams, lakes, pond and coastal waters clean. This training is intended for utility operators, managers, and leaders. The workshop will use presentations, case studies, and group exercises to promote utility sustainability and instruct participants on how best to operate, troubleshoot, maintain and manage drinking water & wastewater collection treatment and disposal systems, covering: Water & wastewater collection system management; Water & wastewater treatment system operation and maintenance; Decentralized system O&M and management; Operator and management roles and responsibilities; Developing rate structures to support operations; Asset management to ensure system sustainability; and Resiliency planning to respond to and recover from extreme events. This training will continue on Tuesday morning with a field trip to a local wastewater treatment facility.
Instructor: Mark Nelson, P.G. with Horsley Witten Group, Inc.

8:00 am—5:00 pm	**FIELD TRIP of Three Tribal Recycling Facilities**	**North Ballroom Gallery**

Details: This special all-day tour will visit the recycling facilities of the Modoc Tribe, Wyandotte Nation, and Eastern Shawnee Tribe. This is an excellent opportunity to see three different approaches to recycling and talk to onsite staff about equipment, operations, administration, and markets. Attendees will purchase lunch onsite for $5 for this tour.

8:00 am—5:00 pm	**FIELD TRIP of In-Stream Monitoring And Community Engagement Strategies**	**North Ballroom Gallery**

Details: This all-day tour, led by staff from the Osage Nation and Blue Thumb Oklahoma, will allow attendees to learn about, and practice in-stream water quality monitoring techniques. Participants will also learn about citizen science and community education and engagement projects being conducted by the tribe and their partners. Lunch will be provided on this tour.

8:00 am—5:00 pm	**FIELD TRIP Tar Creek Superfund Site and a Passive Treatment System**	**North Ballroom Gallery**

Details: This all-day tour will provide attendees with an introduction to the Tar Creek Superfund site by staff from the Quapaw Tribe as well as visits to the Fischer Pile, the Catholic 40 site, Douthit Bridge, and Distal 10/Distal 12. Attendees will then visit the innovative Mayer Ranch Passive Treatment System before returning to Tulsa. Attendees will purchase lunch onsite for $5 for this tour.

8:00 am—12:00 pm	**FIELD TRIP of Euchee Butterfly Farm**	**North Ballroom Gallery**

Details: Attendees on this half-day tour will visit the Euchee Butterfly Farm, which includes a greenhouse, butterfly raising facility, and collections of native seeds. Their "Natives Helping Natives" project is looking for additional tribal partners around the country, and they currently work with seven tribes in Oklahoma to save, and plant, native seeds as well as spread native pollinators. This will be an excellent opportunity to learn about how you can work with native pollinators and plants, including on remediation projects.

ED_001863D_00010711-00014

Detailed Agenda ~ Tuesday, August 15

Time	Topic	Location
8:00 am – 12:00 pm	**Hazardous Waste Program Inspections and Emergency Response**	**Greenwood/Cherry Street**

Details: In this session GRIC DEQ will present information on how to conduct hazardous waste and chemical safety inspections. This will include what we have learned from our experience with program development, environmental law enforcement, safety, emergency response and other aspects of implementing U.S. EPA and tribal programs. Information will include: • Common hazardous chemicals and where they are found. • How to identify chemicals, chemical wastes, and their hazards. • How to safely store chemicals and their wastes. • How to plan for and prevent chemical emergencies • How to clean up chemicals when they spill or catch fire. • How to respond to chemical emergencies, spills, fires, explosions and other releases. • Personnel safety and sampling considerations. • EPA and tribal laws for site access and inspections. • How to conduct chemical waste and safety inspections. • Designing tribal waste laws and integrated waste management plans. • Practical examples and plans.
Instructors: Rudy Mix and Dale Anderson, Gila River Indian Community

8:00 am – 12:00 pm	**Brownfields Tools to Engage Community And Assess Health Risk**	**Brookside/ Blue Dome**

Details: In this interactive session, participants will learn about three tools created by ATSDR Land Reuse Health Program. The first tool is the ATSDR Land Reuse Action Model, a four-step framework to engage communities in land reuse planning. The second tool is the ATSDR Land Reuse Site tool. This tool is an inventory database and a rapid site screening/multiple chemical evaluation tool that allows users to assess sites by past/future use, institutional controls, sensitive populations, and suspected or confirmed contamination. The third resource is the ATSDR Comparison Value Viewer. That tool is a computer program that allows users to quickly view ATSDR health-based comparison values for chemicals in three media (air, soil, and water).
Instructor: Gary Perlman, ATSDR
Moderator: Rebecca Stevens, Nez Perce Tribe and TWRAP Steering Committee member

8:00 am—12:00 pm	**USEPA Munitions Response Training**	**Utica**

Details: This entry-level course, is designed to provide an overview of key environmental issues associated with munitions cleanup. Participants will be introduced to terminology, munitions identification and safety concerns, regulatory requirements, conventional and innovative technology, site characterization, and remediation. It will provide introductory background on key munitions cleanup issues relevant to regulators, federal environmental program managers, and community stakeholders. Course instructors will combine lecture, case studies, and class participation to provide an interesting and interactive training experience.
Instructor: Andy Schwartz, USACE/USEPA

8:00 am—12:00 pm	**Emergency Response Planning for Tribes**	**Tulsa Room B-1**

Details: Some tribes have already completed or are in the process of completing such Emergency Response plans. The purpose of this training is to help attendees understand their needs and how to craft emergency response plans relevant to their communities. This training will be a time to share examples from various tribes, as well as discussing emergency planning guidance materials from multiple USEPA Regions.
Instructors: John Wheaton, Nez Perce Tribe and TWRAP Steering Committee member; Nick Nichols, USEPA

ED_001863D_00010711-00015

Detailed Agenda ~ Tuesday, August 15

Time	Topic	Location
8:00 am – 12:00 pm	**Communicating Sustainability Through Tribal Environmental Programs** **Details:** This workshop is designed to: a) improve participant's ability to turn dry numbers and facts into a compelling story, and b) help students create the key elements of an effective messaging campaign so they can build their story and take it to the Tribal Community and Council. The workshop will be broken into the three following sessions. Connecting with Others Through Story: What makes an effective story? Why is story important to moving your audience and how does it trigger action? How can digital story be used by Tribal Utility and Environmental Programs to aid in telling a better story and delivering a stronger message to their communities? 2. Crafting a Presentation That Inspires: Learn what you have been doing wrong all these years and how you can make a more effective and powerful electronic presentations. 3. Framing Your Message: Learn techniques to develop a strong and persuasive message, framed for your audience. Build on the techniques above to create a message that will motivate your community. In addition, Cynthia Naha will share her digital story, focused on solid waste and tribal communities. Ms. Naha will highlight the process she went through to create a message utilizing photos, music and narration to connect to her audience. **Presenters:** Sarah Diefendorf, EFCWest and Cynthia Naha, Santo Domingo Tribe and TWRAP Steering Committee member	**Tulsa Room B-2**
8:00 am—12:00 pm	**Strengthening Tribal Self-Determination and Self-Governance by Administering Environmental Protection Programs: The Continuing Relevance of EPA's 1984 Indian Policy & 1992 GAP Statute** **Details:** The 1984 "EPA Policy for the Administration of Environmental Programs on Indian Reservations" and the 1992 "Indian Environmental General Assistance Program Act" (GAP) are based on the notion that tribal governments are the appropriate non-Federal parties for carrying out environmental program implementation responsibilities for Indian country. These documents continue to guide EPA in its work with tribes and help EPA fulfill its mission in a manner that promotes tribal "self-government." This training session will cover the history and content of the 1984 Indian Policy and the 1992 GAP statute. Participants will learn: (1) The legal basis for EPA's tribal program as expressed through the 1984 Indian Policy; (2) The authority to fund tribal capacity to administer environmental protection programs under the GAP statute; and (3) How these foundational documents continue to support tribal self-governance today. **Presenter**: Professor James Grijalva, Director Northern Plains Indian Law Center's Tribal Environmental Law Project, University of North Dakota School of Law	**Brady**
8:00 am—12:00 pm	**FILED TRIP of Lower Bird Creek Wastewater Treatment Facility** **Details**: Attendees will spend the morning visiting the Lower Bird Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant in Northeast Tulsa. This is a continuation of the training started on Monday. Those not participating in the training are welcome to take part in the field trip, space permitting .	**North Gallery**
8:00 am—12:00 pm	**FIELD TRIP of UST Containment Solutions Facility** **Details:** This large-scale production facility will afford attendees the opportunity to see how a variety of sizes of USTs are constructed. Participants will get a walk-through tour of the factory and have the opportunity to talk with onsite staff about the latest developments in USTs.	**North Gallery**
8:00 am—12:00 pm	**FIELD TRIP of Muscogee (Creek) Nation** **Details:** Participants on this tour will visit a series of special projects undertaken by MCN, including energy-efficient tribal homes, renewable energy projects at the tribal college, buildings constructed with recycled and repurposed materials, composting and garden projects, and other environmentally friendly initiatives rooted in the Nation's culture and values.	**North Gallery**

ED_001863D_00010711-00016

Detailed Agenda ~ Tuesday, August 15

1:30 pm - 3:00 pm ..... Opening Plenary Session ..... 1:30 pm - 3:00 pm

1:30 - 1:45 pm	**Osage Nation Color Guard**	**Tulsa Ballroom**
1:45 - 2:25 pm	**Welcoming Remarks and Invocation** Chuck Hoskin Jr., Cherokee Nation Secretary of State Ann Marie Chischilly, ITEP Executive Director Arvind Patel, Pueblo of Acoma and Chair of the TWRAP Steering Committee Ken Norton, Hoopa Valley Tribe and Chair of the National Tribal Water Council Patrick Davis, Deputy Assistant Administrator of USEPA OLEM Sam Coleman, USEPA Region 6 Administrator	**Tulsa Ballroom**
2:25 - 3:00 pm	**Featured Speakers** Del Beaver, Representative of Muscogee (Creek) Nation Council James Williams, Muscogee (Creek) Nation Environmental Director	**Tulsa Ballroom**

3:30 pm - 5:00 pm ..... Breakout Sessions ..... 3:30 pm - 5:00 pm

Training for Hazardous Waste Operations

~ Greenwood/Cherry Street~

Details: This course is designed for tribal employees working in and around waste disposal facilities (transfer stations, landfills) for information on how to properly manage hazardous wastes arriving. Are there are wastes being stored for transfer and proper disposal, but they are not being properly managed in the sense, for example, incompatibles (acids and bases) being stored together, or reactives that are not stored under cover? Are unknown hazardous wastes being tested or categorized and, again, may not be properly stored? Also, is there is a need for employees to know how to manifest these types of wastes for shipment and disposal? This session will help guide environmental personnel on how to properly manage, categorize, store, and prepare for transport to a proper facility, those wastes they may encounter in day-to-day operations.

Presenters: Bobbie Anne Barnowsky and Kami Snowden, TSWAN

Moderator: Rob Roy, La Jolla Band of Luiseno Indians and TWRAP Steering Committee Member

Grants Mining District—Legacy Uranium Update AND When the CWA and CERCLA Collide in the Coeur d'Alene Basin

~ Utica~

Details: Work continues in the Grants Mining District in New Mexico from impacts of legacy uranium mining. This session will provide an update of EPA Region 6 progress and activities within the GMD.
Presenter: LaDonna Turner, USEPA

Details: This session will be based around a common reality that a lot of Tribe's experience when it comes to wearing both Clean Water Act (CWA) and Comprehensive Environmental Response Compensation Liability Act (CERCLA) 'hats'. Typically, States & Regions separate those two authorities which have proven to be somewhat problematic for the Coeur d'Alenes. Come hear about some of the challenges that the Tribe faces as the Superfund remedy does not apply to the Lake and water quality protection relies solely on the Tribe and States CWA authorities.
Presenter: Rebecca Stevens, Coeur d'Alene Tribe and TWRAP Steering Committee Member

Moderator: Arvind Patel, Pueblo of Acoma and TWRAP Steering Committee chair

ED_001863D_00010711-00017

3:30 pm - 5:00 pm ..... Breakout Sessions ..... 3:30 pm - 5:00 pm

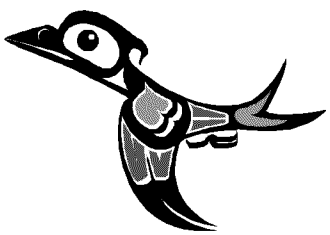
Technical Assistance to Tribal Brownfields Communities AND Get All You Can Out of the Brownfields Inventory Tool and USEPA ACRES Databases

~ Brookside/Blue Dome~

Details: An introduction to the EPA funded Technical Assistance to Brownfields (TAB) Programs and the new for 2017 Tribal TAB Program from KSU. Learn how these TABs can assist the establishment and enhancement of your 128(a) Tribal Response Program and provide technical assistance with your brownfields projects and activities. No previous brownfields knowledge required. An outcome may be free assistance with implementing your brownfields program from inventory to redevelopment and reuse of sites from experienced persons that understand how to get things done in a tribal environment.
Presenters: Oral Saulters and Mickey Hartnet, KSU-TAB; Kelly Gorini

Details: How to gather and store brownfield site information, generate maps, enforce codes and regulations, report assessment and cleanup accomplishments to EPA (if you are a grantee), and meet EPA's public notice requirement. Experts using the Brownfields Inventory Tool (BIT) and the EPA ACRES (Assessment, Cleanup & Redevelopment Exchange System) databases will show you how to do this. Brownfields coordinators can use BIT for their own internal purposes, including everything listed above, plus more. BIT also has a web interface for reporting progress, on sites assessed and cleaned up with EPA funds, into ACRES (which is an EPA grantee requirement). Site data in ACRES, including EPA Targeted Brownfields Assessment Data, can also be easily accessed and moved into an individual's BIT account. Other ways to exchange data, collect site information in the field, and a smartphone app, will be discussed.
Presenters: Oral Saulters and Blasé Leven, KSU-TAB; Kelly Gorini

Moderator: Cynthia Naha, Santo Domingo Tribe and TWRAP Steering Committee Member



Elements and History of UST Equipment Functionality Testing

~ Brady~

Details: Since the first functionality test was conducted by Mr. William Purpora in 1972 to determine the cause of an inventory loss to using equipment and technology to find leaks today, we will discuss the importance of functionality testing. We will examine the history and evolution of functionality testing along with the issues uncovered throughout the history of testing.
Presenter: Stephen Purpora, Purpora Engineering

Understanding ETEPs and the Power of Planning to Protect the Environment and Public Health in Indian Country

~ Tulsa Room B-1~

Details: An EPA-Tribal Environmental Plan (ETEP) is an intergovernmental strategic planning agreement that defines mutual roles and responsibilities for the development and implementation of environmental protection programs. This session will explore the opportunities afforded by this joint planning process and how ETEPs bolster the government-to-government relationship and support EPA's 1984 Indian Policy. It will include discussion of practical approaches for developing, refining and implementing ETEPs. The session will also feature examples of how ETEPs have set the stage for stronger environmental and public health protection in tribal communities. Attendees will have a chance to ask specific questions related to ETEP development and are encouraged to bring a copy of their draft or final ETEP to this session.
Presenters: Felicia Wright, Rebecca Roose, and Treda Grayson, USEPA AIEO

NOTES:

ED_001863D_00010711-00018

3:30 pm - 5:00 pm ..... Breakout Sessions ..... 3:30 pm - 5:00 pm

Climate Change and TEK: Why It Matters AND Up An E.coli Creek Without a Paddle

~ Tulsa Room B-2~

Details: Across the United States, tribes have long practiced and maintained their culture while adapting to the continual changes of the environment, surviving in conditions that many people would consider hard and at times, impossible. Tribes have documented environmental changes through their stories and cultural practices, many of which are still evident today. This unique connection is one factor that makes tribes more vulnerable to the impacts that stem from changes caused by humans, weather, and the climate. In addition, many tribes still live in small, close-knit communities within government mandated reservation boundaries that have created geographic isolation from and decreased access to basic infrastructures and services. Some tribes have communities that are more rural than urban, and often border non-tribal lands. All combined can or has created vulnerabilities to the challenges that climate change brings upon affected people and communities.
Presenter: Nikki Cooley, ITEP

Details: The predominately-rural landscape of the Sac and Fox Nation enables profitable agricultural activities, which can have an impact on the reservation waters. Agricultural activities combined with the seasonal rain events influence E.coli levels at all of our creeks, streams, and rivers. Walnut Creek, a waterway on the western boundary of the reservation, is listed in the state of Kansas as impaired and all sampling sites have varying amounts of E.coli. The quality of the watershed within the reservation is important to residents because it provides the people and the wildlife with subsistence that is necessary to continue a healthy way of life. The Sac and Fox Nation has a mature water program due to record keeping since 2001. CWA 106 is being utilized on the reservation to sample sites in a strategic manner to find water pollution and eradicate the problem. During the last three years a medium sized confined animal feeding operation was found to be contributing large amounts of E.coli to a stream that flows directly into the Nemaha River. Data collected and submitted to the EPA as well as the state of Nebraska resulted in a house call from these two entities. The interagency relationships that the Sac and Fox Nation CWA 106 program has formed with various public and private sector entities helps ensure the protection of waters and wetlands for the benefit of current and future generations of Sac and Fox as well as the surrounding communities.
Presenter: Mickey Sigmon, Sac and Fox Nation of Missouri in Kansas and Nebraska

Moderator: John Wheaton, Nez Perce Tribe and TWRAP Steering Committee member

From Restoration to Relationship

~ Tulsa Room B-3~

Details: The Coeur d'Alene Tribe actively extends beyond a Western science approach to restoration to actively facilitate relationships between its members and their environment. Embracing and promoting traditional epistemologies, community leadership, and community learning can bridge the gap between western conservation/restoration and the needs of tribal communities. This can lead to the true restoration of lost tribal services in injured environments.
Presenters: Caj Matheson, Coeur d'Alene Tribe

Moderator: Ann Wyatt, Klawock Native Village and TWRAP Steering Committee member

NOTES:

ED_001863D_00010711-00019

8:30 am - 10:00 am ..... Breakout Sessions ..... 8:30 am- 10:00 am

Comparison of Developing and Underdeveloped Countries' Waste Management v. Rural Alaskan Villages' Landfills AND Backhaul Alaska: Building a Self-Sustaining Waste Removal Program for Rural Alaska

~ Greenwood/Cherry Street~

Details: This presentation will focus on Developing Country's and Rural Alaska's Village Waste Management. It will compare their similarities and/or differences, and project what Climate and Environmental Challenges we will face in the future. It will contain a call to action for global waste management. It will address the importance of protecting the World's Environment for all living things. Topics to include: huge islands of plastic in the oceans; mercury from coal burning circling the globe in the wind, and; uncontrolled dumping into rivers and oceans. We are in this together. Continual dumping of ecologically harmful waste is only making clean water, clean air, and clean land harder to find or protect. Join me for this presentation and other shared observations from those willing to contribute.
Presenters: Ted Jacobson, USEPA/SEE

Details: Landfills in rural Alaska are unlined, ill-equipped for consolidation and cover, and often near-capacity, which leaves rural Alaskan communities without a safe way to dispose of hazardous waste, nor good options to dispose of bulky materials. Rather than dispose of these wastes in the landfill, many rural communities backhaul waste, which is to ship the waste back from Alaska's remote tribal communities by outbound airplanes, trucks, and barges. Backhaul is expensive and a cost-effective, long-term backhaul program is needed to stretch rural Alaska's limited financial resources and to protect the public and the environment. EPA Region 10, the Solid Waste Alaska Taskforce, the state, tribes, industry, and other leaders have contributed to a plan to develop a statewide backhaul service program. The program aims to reduce the cost of backhaul statewide and generate revenue through a waste handling and backhaul coordination service. Participants in this session will learn about the work to date to establish the "Backhaul Alaska" program. The program is being developed throughout 2017 with the input of a wide range of stakeholders. Pilot projects are planned for 2018 and 2019, and the program will be launched in 2020. Presenters will share the process for developing the plan as well as current project challenges and invite participants to provide ideas for ensuring the program's success.
Presenters: Lynn Zender, Zender Environmental Health and Research Group

Moderator: Nikki Cooley, ITEP

A Forum for Discussing How Tribes and USEPA Can work Together to Consider TEK in the Cleanup Process

~ Utica ~

Details: The purpose of this session is to discuss how EPA's Office of Land and Emergency Management can work in partnership with federally-recognized tribes to better understand Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK), when willingly shared, and how it can be used in site cleanups and revitalization efforts. During a cleanup on or near tribal lands, whether it be a Superfund or Brownfields site, open dump, or a response to spills, EPA engages the community and conducts outreach activities with tribes to ensure a successful cleanup. EPA's consultation and coordination process offers tribal officials an opportunity to provide information, including TEK, for the EPA to consider in a decision. Because these discussions are likely to touch on issues of unique tribal sensitivity such as cultural practices, environmental resource use, and locations of cultural resources, EPA is interested in learning ways to improve the process for collecting, using, and/or documenting TEK, when tribes offer this information willingly. In this session, the panel will provide a brief overview and history of joint tribal/federal initiatives and workgroups focused on TEK, as well as an example from the St. Regis Mohawk Tribe, who worked with the community to use tribal knowledge, as well as GIS, to prioritize areas for cleanup and revitalization under its tribal response program. USEPA will discuss the 2017 initiative that ensures OLEM offices are considering TEK and we invite TLEF participants to share best practices of how governments work collaboratively to incorporate traditional knowledge into a decision during our session discussion.
Presenters: Julia Jacobs, Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe; Ann Marie Chischilly, ITEP; David Lloyd and Jessica Snyder, USEPA
Moderator: Christine Poore, USEPA

Photography: Telling Your Tribe's Story

~ Tulsa Room B-1 ~

Details: This session will focus on helping you discover how you can tell your tribe's story through photography. We will cover the basics of photography, how to use photo essays as part of your story telling efforts, and cover the art and science of composition.

Presenter: , John Parker, USEPA Region 7 Social Media Director and Photographer

8:30 am - 10:00 am ..... Breakout Sessions ..... 8:30 am - 10:00 am

USEPA and Tribal Emergency Management 101 AND Chemical Facility Security and Safety

~ Brookside/Blue Dome~

Details: Emergency Management in Indian Country from EPA perspective. Including discussion of (chemical and oil) regulations, policy and accomplishments in prevention, preparedness, and response. Tribal emergency responder perspective is planned. Case study discussions on incidents since the last TLEF.
Presenter: Nick Nichols, USEPA

Details: Under the Executive Order 13650 – Improving Chemical Facility Safety and Security, the Department of Homeland Security, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Department of Labor, the Department of Justice, the Department of Agriculture, and the Department of Transportation established a Working Group to improve chemical facility safety and security in coordination with State, Local, Tribal and Territorial stakeholders; emergency responders; chemical facility owners and operators. On June 6, 2014, the Working Group's report to the President, entitled "Actions to Improve Chemical Facility Safety and Security – A Shared Commitment" was released. The report highlights activities undertaken to improve chemical facility safety and security and provides a consolidated plan of actions to further minimize safety and security risks. The report discusses topics such as improving operation coordination between State, Local, Tribal and Territorial partners; improving information collection and sharing; stakeholder outreach; and identifying best practices. This session will provide an update on activities and steps taken since the release of the report and will include topics on obtaining and interpreting risk information, identifying avenues for information sharing, Chemical-terrorism Vulnerability Information and best practices.
Presenter: Doug Collins, Glenn Moore, and George Renteria, Department of Homeland Security

Moderator: John Wheaton, Nez Perce Tribe and TWRAP Steering Committee member

UST Program Updates & Future Directions, Including a Discussion of Regulatory Requirements and PEI Standards

~ Brady ~

Details: This session will provide a brief introduction and orientation of the underground storage tank (UST) program. This will include an overview of the implementation of the new UST regulations, such as the upcoming due dates; challenges and lessons learned to date; a discussion of some of the key questions and answers; and plans for operator training. One critical component of the EPA regulations is the reliance on recommended practices (RPs) developed by industry organizations. The Petroleum Equipment Institute (PEI) has developed a series of RPs directly applicable to the UST regulations. PEI's Rick Long will discuss the foundation for PEI's RPs --what they are, where they come from, how they are produced, and why they are helpful. He will then provide an overview of two newly updated standards regarding testing and verification (RP 1200) and installation and maintenance (RP 900).

Presenters: Mark Barolo, USEPA and Rick Long, Petroleum Equipment Institute (PEI)

NOTES:

ED_001863D_00010711-00021

8:30 am - 10:00 am ..... Breakout Sessions ..... 8:30 am - 10:00 am

Underground Injection Control and Tribal Lands AND Working as a Group: A Collaborative Effort to Focus Less On Data Entry and More on Data Quality

~ Tulsa Room B-2 ~

Details: Underground Injection Control: This discussion will provide attendees with an overview of the Underground Injection Control (UIC) Program with an emphasis on tribal UIC activity. The UIC program is intended to protect underground sources of drinking water and regulates the subsurface emplacement of fluids including those that are oil and gas related. Most UIC tribal programs are directly implemented by EPA. A perspective from a tribal UIC inspector will be included.
Presenters: Beth Hall, USEPA

Details: In February 2017, the Pueblo of Sandia initiated a New Mexico Tribal Water Quality Working Group. The purpose of this working group was to convene the New Mexico Pueblos and Tribes together on a quarterly basis to discuss water quality issues they face together and separately. The working group would also foster tribal partnerships. One idea that has been proposed and is being investigated is a joint sampling event for all the Pueblos on the Rio Grande River. This portion of the presentation will focus on the formation of the working group and the coordinated sampling idea to this point. The second portion of the presentation will explain how the Ambient Water Quality Monitoring System (AWQMS) can assist with the data entry, analysis, graphs and reporting of this joint sampling to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).
Presenters: Scott Bulgrin, Pueblo of Sandia and Alex Heppner, Gold Systems

Moderator: Lydia Scheer, ITEP

Establishing Tribal Water Quality and Drinking Water Programs Under USEPA's Indian Environmental General Assistance Program

~ Tulsa Room B-3 ~

Details: Tribes can use General Assistance Program (GAP) funds to plan, develop, and establish their capacity to implement tribal water quality and drinking water programs, consistent with the Clean Water Act (CWA) and the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). This interactive session will cover the water quality and drinking water program capacities tribes can establish under GAP, as documented under Section D.3 of EPA's GAP guidance. These indicators provide an essential foundation for successful tribal program implementation and improve leveraging opportunities between GAP and other EPA grant programs. The session will feature examples of successful tribal water quality and drinking water programs to illustrate effective program planning and grant fund utilization. EPA will invite tribal personnel in the audience to share first-hand experiences that illustrate how effective strategic planning can help achieve tribal program goals. Presenters will field questions from attendees and reference EPA grant guidance documents.
Presenter: Rebecca Roose and Treda Grayson, USEPA AIEO

NOTES:

Developing & Implementing Tribal Solid Waste Programs Under USEPA's Indian Environmental General Assistance Program

~ Greenwood/Cherry Street ~

Details: Developing and Implementing Tribal Solid Waste Programs under EPA's Indian Environmental General Assistance Program (GAP): Tribes can use GAP funds to develop and implement solid and hazardous waste management programs consistent with the Solid Waste Disposal Act (also known as the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act). This interactive session will cover the tribal waste management program capacities that can be established under GAP, as documented under Section E.3 of EPA's GAP program guidance. These indicators provide an essential foundation for successful tribal solid waste program implementation. The session will feature examples of successful tribal solid waste management program development activities and describe allowable solid waste program implementation activities under GAP. EPA will invite tribal personnel in the audience to share first-hand experiences that illustrate how effective strategic planning for tribal waste management and source separation program development and implementation can help achieve tribal program goals. Presenters will field questions from attendees and reference EPA grant guidance documents.
Presenters: Rebecca Roose, and Treda Grayson, USEPA AIEO

Tribal Superfund Working Group Meeting

~ Utica ~

Details: This year's meeting of the Tribal Superfund Working Group will feature several small discussion circles, with each circle being focused on a particular theme. Attendees will pick the circle they wish to join, and will engage their tribal colleagues in sharing and discussing challenges, as well as successes, they have encountered. Each discussion circle will report back to the whole group toward the end of the session, so that everyone can benefit and learn from each circle and apply new strategies and ideas to their own program. All are welcome to attend and participate in this interactive meeting.

Moderators: Julie Jurkowski and Todd Barnell, ITEP

The Quest for Potable Water AND NEPA and Brownfields Redevelopment

~ Brookside/Blue Dome ~

Details: Tribal Unit (TU)-45 is a 38.9 acre property located 1.3 miles southeast of Orofino, Idaho, along the south bank of the Clearwater River. The property has potential to generate jobs, income, and housing. In this session, lessons learned and accomplishments are presented as the Phase II ESA is nearing completion.
Presenter: Judy Goodson, Nez Perce Tribe

Details: Brownfield redevelopment is not just cleanup but also siting a new use. Federal involvement triggers NEPA (Natl Env Policy Act) & a host of other federal requirements for every aspect of the overall development (e.g. floodplain management, historic preservation). The NEPA Environmental Assessment provides a framework for environmental planning for the new use which both opportunities (to be more sustainable) & responsibility (to meet minimum requirements).
Presenters: Eugene Goldfarb, KSU-TAB/University of Illinois Chicago

Moderator: Katie Kruse, Keweenaw Bay Indian Community and TWRAP Steering Committee member

Gas Stations in Your Community: A Panel Discussion on What Your Need To Know

~ Brady~

Details: This session will be a facilitated panel discussion of Tribal Environmental Professionals, not UST professionals. The panelists will discuss the challenges, successes and lessons learned they have had dealing with USTs on their Tribal lands; in particular, how each of their Tribes address them and how to incorporate them into existing Tribal environmental program structures.

Presenters: Mark Junker, Sac and Fox Nation of Missouri in Kansas and Nebraska; Georja Kriebs and Paige Hingst, Santee Sioux Nation; Emily Luscombe, Coyote Valley Band of Pomo; Rob Roy, La Jolla Band of Luiseno Indians and TWRAP Steering Committee member

Moderator: Victoria Flowers, Oneida Nation and TWRAP Steering Committee member

ED_001863D_00010711-00023

10:30 am - 12:00 pm ..... Breakout Sessions ..... 10:30 am– 12:00 pm

Code Writing for Tribal Environmental Programs

~ Tulsa Room B-1~

Details: Code drafting can be a difficult and daunting task due to the complexity of legal writing. However, anyone can do it! Familiarity with tribal law is helpful, but not required. This session will start with an overview of places to begin looking at and reading tribal code. We will then discuss how to begin writing law for your tribe that matches your tribe's needs. Before ending, each participant will practice writing a piece of law on a topic important to his/her work and we will discuss how to continue that work to completion.
Presenter: Annie Perry, Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe
Moderator: Ann Wyatt, Klawock Native Village and TWRAP Steering Committee member

Using Geospatial Technology to Visualize Environmental Data AND Know Before You Fly

~ Tulsa Room B-2 ~

Details: The Muscogee (Creek) Nation through its Geospatial Department has been able to use the EPA Exchange Network Grant Program to further its sharing capabilities and centralizing data within the tribe. Together using database and geospatial technologies, the integration of information has led the tribe to better managing its resources and good decision making that has not only benefited our tribal citizens but the departments within the tribe too. By providing mechanisms for sharing and displaying geographical information, the data collected by our environmental programs and other partners provide has led to identifying critical land and water issues within our tribal jurisdictional boundary. Our planning and grants team uses the information to assist them in identifying future tribal projects and obtaining the necessary funding. This session will look at the technology behind the data that provides the visual analysis.
Presenter: Frank Harjo, Muscogee (Creek) Nation

Details: This session will give the participants information on current FAA regulations for small unmanned aerial vehicle (sUAV) or "drones". It will also provide guidance on preparing to take the FAA's part 107 Remote Pilot Certification Test. This session is for individuals thinking of adding sUAV's or "drones" to their programs and what considerations should be taken into account beforehand.
Presenter: Mike Arce, Oneida Nation
Moderator: Virginia LeClere, Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation and TWRAP Steering Committee vice chair

Establishing Clean Water Act Water Quality Standards—Requirements and Resources AND Tribal Treaty Rights: Experiences and Implications for WQS Programs

~ Tulsa Room B-3~

Details: This session will present information on the process for authorized tribes to establish EPA-approved water quality standards (WQS) protected by the Clean Water Act. The focus will be on the requirements necessary to establish and run the CWA programs for Section 303(c) water quality standards and CWA Section 401 certification of federal licenses and permits for facilities discharging into navigable waters. Participants in this session will also learn about the resources and tools EPA provides to further assist tribes in developing CWA WQS, including the Model WQS Template.
Presenter: Zoe Ruge, USEPA

Details: This session will focus on tribal treaty rights, EPA's roles and responsibilities regarding those rights, and incorporation of treaty rights in Clean Water Act (CWA) decisions. This session will present information and case examples on how applicable treaty rights have informed water quality standards (WQS) actions.
Presenter: Zoe Ruge, USEPA

Moderator: Cynthia Naha, Santo Domingo Tribe and TWRAP Steering Committee member

NOTES:

1:30 pm - 3:00 pm ..... Breakout Sessions ..... 1:30 pm - 3:00 pm

Developing and Operating Tribal Transfer Stations: Stories, Experiences, and Opportunities for Partnership

~ Greenwood/Cherry Street ~

Details: Establishing and operating a tribal transfer station is a key part of managing solid waste on tribal lands, from the smallest rancherias to the largest reservations. In this session, the presenters will provide background on the integration of transfer stations into their tribal communities. The Pala Band of Mission Indians established their large, full-service transfer station in 2006, and have subsequently provided visiting tribes with tours and training that they can apply to their own facilities. The Pueblo of Sandia is in the process of expanding their small, basic facility into a larger operation that will better serve Sandia's needs. As part of this process, ITEP facilitated an onsite mentoring match between Pala and Sandia. This session will include the lessons learned by both Pala and Sandia as they developed their facilities, and will also discuss lessons learned from the peer mentoring process and will discuss how that experience can help other participants. Session participants should come away with a better understanding of what transfer stations do, why they are important, how to determine their communities' solid waste needs, and how to leverage partnerships with other tribes to open and/or improve their solid waste programs.
Presenters: Shasta Gaughen, Pala Band of Mission Indians and Scott Bulgrin, Pueblo of Sandia
Moderator: Todd Barnell, ITEP

Lessons Learned: What to Do & What Not to Do When Applying for a Cleanup Grant AND Office Hours with the Office of Brownfields and Land Revitalization

~ Brookside/Blue Dome ~

Details: Participants will learn the "Do's" and "Don'ts" when applying for a Cleanup grant by experiences of the White Mountain Apache Tribe Environmental Protection Office.
Presenters: Brenda Begay and Marco Burnette, White Mountain Apache Tribe

Details: Participants and attendees will receive up to date information on brownfields and land revitalization priorities, tribal response program funding, new tribal technical assistance and research and emerging issues to track brownfield and tribal response program progress.
Presenters: David Lloyd, OBLR Director

Moderator: John Wheaton, Nez Perce Tribe and TWRAP Steering Committee member

Superfund and the National Historic Preservation Act in Indian Country AND An Introduction to CERCLA from a Legal Standpoint

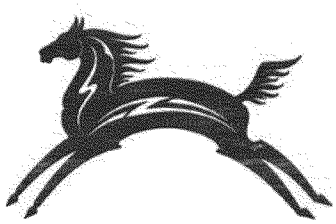
~ Uttica ~

Details: EPA's Office of Land and Emergency Management and Regional Superfund program work with Tribes to consider tribal cultural, historic and archaeological resources that may be affected by Superfund response actions. EPA considers the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) as a potential Applicable or Relevant and Appropriate Requirement (ARAR) for Superfund sites. The NHPA provides protections for tribal resources and Tribal governments have specific roles under NHPA. The presentation will describe the NHPA Section 106 process and the role of tribal governments and the Tribal Historic Preservation Officer. By sharing the statutory and regulatory basis as well as a Coeur d'Alene Tribe case study, participants will gain an overview of the National Historic Preservation Act requirements as they relate to Superfund response actions in Indian country.
Presenters: Rebecca Stevens, Coeur d'Alene Tribe and Anne Dailey, USEPA

Details: This presentation will provide a legal perspective on the process of dealing with a Superfund site on or near tribal land. It will give a basic overview of the CERCLA process, including the designation of applicable or relevant and appropriate requirements (ARARS) based upon tribal laws and regulations. Participants also will learn about practical issues, such as working with legal counsel and EPA and the types of issues that may arise in the Superfund remedial process. Examples of tribal involvement in Superfund site remediation will be provided.

Presenters: Jill Grant and Gussie Lord, Jill Grant & Associates, LLC

Moderator: Riley Smith, ITEP



ED_001863D_00010711-00025

Abandoned USTs on the Nez Perce Reservation AND Building Capacity for UST Compliance Assistance

~ Brady ~

Details: The Nez Perce Tribe, LUST Assessment Program objectives are to identify, characterize, prioritize, and ultimately recommend properties for environmental cleanups. This is a sharing discussion about how the Tribal Response Program quest for information on long forgotten gas stations has been successful.
Presenter: Judy Goodson, Nez Perce Tribe

Details: A look at the Tribe's failed tank, a cautionary tale for documentation and the progress made in implementing a compliance assistance program.
Presenter: Mark Junker, Sac and Fox Nation of Missouri in Kansas and Missouri

Moderator: Victoria Flowers, Oneida Nation and TWRAP Steering Committee member

AIEO and Tribes Working Together to Improve Human Health and the Environment Priorities

~Tulsa Room B-1~

Details: One of the most frequent questions AIEO gets in our meetings with tribal leaders, tribal representatives and tribal environmental and natural resource officials is: What does AIEO do and how does it benefit tribes? This session will cover AIEO from top to bottom. Representatives from AIEO and the National Tribal Caucus will discuss the many roles each plays and how their collaborative efforts lead to better protection of human health and the environment for tribes. The presentations from both the EPA and Tribal perspectives will provide TLEF participants with a comprehensive picture of AIEO, the EPA Tribal Program and the many layers of interaction that improve human health and the environments of tribes. There will be ample time allotted for folks to ask questions and explore the functions and roles of AIEO and tribes as co-regulators of Indian country.
Presenters: Panel Style Discussion with the NTC Chair and Staff from AIEO and EPA Tribal Programs

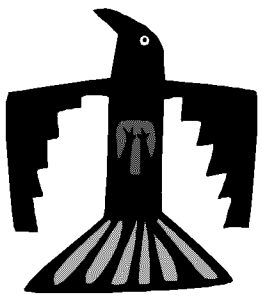
Leveraging Funding and Working on Large River Restoration Projects AND GIS Application for Drinking Water Protection

~Tulsa Room B-2~

Details: This is a section suitable for all knowledge levels. This is looking at how to approach a large restoration project. This includes breaking the project in to manageable phases and finding ways to leverage money in those phases to assist in other phases.
Presenter: Emily Luscombe, Coyote Valley Band of Pomo Indians

Details: Publicly-Available GIS Application for Drinking Water Protection. Protection of surface and groundwater sources is an essential and cost-effective first line of defense in an integrated, multi-barrier approach to public health protection. It is far more effective and potentially cheaper to prevent or reduce contaminants at their source than it is to treat them at a public water system. A number of web-based GIS applications, data resources, and analytical tools are publicly-available for use by federal and state agencies, water utilities, and others to inform source water protection actions. This presentation describes the Drinking Water Mapping Application to Protect Source Waters (DWMAPS), and showcased how it can be applied to update source water assessments and protection plans, prepare utilities for emergency situations, and support partnerships efforts.
Presenter: Beth Hall, USEPA

Moderator: Cynthia Naha, Santo Domingo Tribe and TWRAP Steering Committee member



ED_001863D_00010711-00026

Exploring the Water Finance Clearinghouse

~Tulsa Room B-3~

Details: Communities need easy and efficient access to water infrastructure finance information. EPA's Water Infrastructure and Resiliency Finance Center has developed a "Water Finance Clearinghouse" to help community and utility leaders make informed decisions for their drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater infrastructure needs. The Clearinghouse allows users to search for available water funding sources (federal, state, foundation sources, etc.) and water financing resources (reports, case studies, training, and other tools) that can be used to access capital to meet water infrastructure needs. Topics such as state and federal funding, bonds, public-private partnerships, affordability, customer assistance programs, and other revenue generating financial approaches are included in the clearinghouse. Session attendees will have the opportunity to learn how to navigate the Clearinghouse and provide critical feedback for future improvements.

Presenter: Kristyn Abhold, USEPA

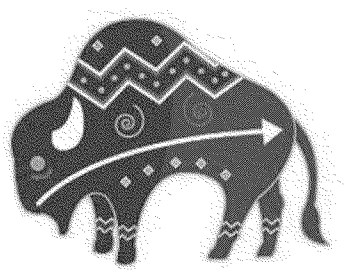
NOTES:

Meet Our Vendors!

~North Ballroom Gallery~

We want to give our vendors a very big thank you for attending this year's TLEF. The following groups and businesses will have tables set up in the North Ballroom Gallery throughout the TLEF, and many will also participate in the Multi Media Meetup.

- Oklahoma University –Tulsa College of Professional and Continuing Studies
- Native Hands
- Wind Environmental Services
- Prosper Sustainably
- US Department of Homeland Security
- Marie Nelson Jewelry
- National Indian Carbon Coalition
- Inter Tribal Council of Arizona, Inc.
- US Fish and Wildlife Service, Oklahoma Ecological Services
- University of Tulsa, College of Law
- Zender Environmental Health & Research Group
- RIDOLFI Environmental
- AWQMS/Gold Systems
- Emilio & Marguerite Chavez Jewelers
- TK Authentic Arts & Crafts
- Kansas State University—Tribal TAB Program
- Cassy's Arts and Crafts



Detailed Agenda ~ Wednesday, August 16

3:30 pm - 5:00 pm ..... Multi Media Meetup ..... 3:30 pm - 5:00 pm

Please join us in the Tulsa Ballroom for our Multi Media Meetup. This special networking and educational gathering will feature many of the vendors and exhibitors at this year's TLEF, as well as numerous special information tables, demonstrations, and poster presentations by your fellow attendees. This is an excellent opportunity to network with others as well as learn about some of the services, projects, and activities taking place around the country to help protect Tribal lands, waters, and communities. Following are just some of the tribes, agencies, and organizations who will be at this year's Multi Media Meetup:

Tribal Alliance for Pollinators
Grey Snow Eagle House
Tonkawa Tribe of Oklahoma
National Tribal Toxics Council
Pueblo of San Felipe
Chickaloon Native Village
Santo Domingo Tribe
Oneida Nation
American Samoa Environmental Protection Agency
Oklahoma Conservation Commission
National Tribal Water Center
Campbell Environmental Group, Inc.
AWQMS/ Gold Systems
RIDOLFI Environmental
Zender Environmental Health & Research Group
University of Tulsa College of Law
USEPA SEE Program—Alaska
Inter Tribal Council of Arizona, Inc.
USEPA Office of Emergency Management
US Government Accountability Office
US Department of Homeland Security
Prosper Sustainably
Tribal FERST Demonstration (USET and USEPA)
Kansas State University Tribal TAB
USEPA Office of Land & Emergency Management
USEPA's Sample UST Operator Exam
Oklahoma University—Tulsa College of Professional & Continuing Studies

Tribal Listening Session:
Proposal to Revise the Definition of Waters of the United States
~Tulsa B-2~

Please note this listening session takes place at the same time as the Multi Media Meetup

EPA and the Department of Army are following a two-step rulemaking process to develop a revised definition of "waters of the United States." This action follows a February 2017 Presidential Executive Order directing the agencies to review and rescind or revise the 2015 Clean Water Rule, consistent with the principles that Justice Scalia outlined in the plurality opinion in the 2006 Supreme Court decision for *Rapanos,* indicating that Clean Water Act (CWA) jurisdiction includes relatively permanent waters and wetlands with a continuous surface connection to such waters. In step 1, the agencies plan to recodify the previous, longstanding regulatory definition of "waters of the U.S.," and in step 2, the agencies plan to propose a new definition that would replace the approach in the 2015 Clean Water Rule. The agencies are aware that the scope of CWA jurisdiction is of intense interest to many tribes and, therefore, want to provide time for appropriate consideration and deliberations on the ultimate regulation. Tribal staff and officials are invited to participate in this session to learn more about the agencies' actions and to provide feedback on how different rulemaking options might affect tribes

ED_001863D_00010711-00028

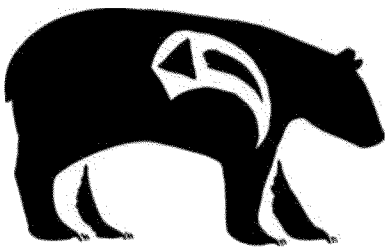
8:30 am - 10:00 am ..... Breakout Sessions ..... 8:30 am - 10:00 am

Developing and Implementing a Successful Hazardous Waste Management Project Through the Hazardous Waste Management Grant Program

~ Greenwood/Cherry Street~

Details: The Hazardous Waste Management Grant Program for Tribes provides financial assistance to tribal governments and tribal consortia for the development and implementation of hazardous waste programs; for building capacity to improve and maintain regulatory compliance; and for developing solutions to address improper management of hazardous waste on tribal lands. During this session, award winning grantees will provide an overview of their hazardous waste management projects, first-hand knowledge on how to write a successful hazardous waste grant application which will include the "dos and don'ts" of writing an awarding winning grant application, and how to incorporate hazardous waste into their integrated waste management programs. In addition, the grantees will discuss the challenges and lessons learned while addressing hazardous waste as well as developing and implementing a hazardous waste management program.
Presenter: Bobbie Anne Barnowsky, Native Village of Old Harbor; Kami Snowden, TSWAN

Moderator: Kim Katonica, USEPA



HazMat Spill Response at the Corner of TRP and OPA AND Tribal Emergency Response Application

~ Brookside/Blue Dome~

Details: In Indian Country, medium-large scale spills of hazardous materials occur at the intersection of the Oil Pollution Act/CERCLA and 128(a) Tribal Response Programs. Federal, State and private sector spill response teams are ready to roll when the phone rings - this presentation will examine how a TRP can ensure they plug into time-critical response actions not merely as a observer but as a fully vested member of Unified Command.
Presenter: Don Hurst, Colville Confederated Tribes

Details: The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Geospatial Department received an EPA Exchange Network Grant to collaborate and work with other partner tribes to develop an Emergency Response Application. This application has a desktop and mobile component that is designed to document incidents within the field and assign resources to those incidents. Because tribal areas are located in rural locations, disconnected use and synchronization were important tools that were built into the application. Tribes can collaborate and share information across jurisdictions and can decide how that information is shared. This presentation will cover how this open source software application can be used by others and a demo will show how the application works.
Presenters: Frank Harjo, Muscogee (Creek) Nation

Moderator: Rebecca Stevens, Coeur d'Alene Tribe and TWRAP Steering Committee member

Remedial Strategies at the Tar Creek Superfund Site

~ Uttica ~

Details: Several new remedial strategies have been implemented at the Tar Creek Superfund Site including soil amendment activities and a moving window approach for evaluating a more real ecological risk scenario. These new strategies are being tested against tried and true record of decision remedial strategies in hopes of having several alternatives in cleaning up these complex sites on a case-by-case basis.
Presenters: Tim Kent, Craig Kreman, and Summer King, Quapaw Tribe

ED_001863D_00010711-00029

What's New in Emerging Fuels: Corrosion Concerns and Compatibility Determinations

~ Brady ~

Details: Three topics will be covered in this session: corrosion concerns in submersible turbine sumps for USTs containing ethanol blends, corrosion taking place inside USTs containing diesel, and a how to exercise on what's needed to complete a compatibility determination for USTs storing biofuels. The target audience for this session will be tribal environmental officials and operators of USTs containing E10, diesel, and other biofuels. Those attending this session will receive the latest information on corrosion concerns and compatibility determinations.
Presenters: John LeBlanc, Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians and Michael Pomes, USEPA Region 7

Moderator: Victoria Flowers, Oneida Nation and TWRAP Steering Committee member

Tribal Exposure to Toxic Substances

~Tulsa Room B-2~

Details: This session will introduce the National Tribal Toxics Council, their report "Understanding Tribal Exposures to Toxics", the Toxic Substances Control Act, and EJ 2020 Lead Disparity Challenges.
Presenters: Dianne Barton, NTTC Chair, Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fisheries Commission; Fred Corey, NTTC Vice-Chair, Aroostook Band of Micmacs; Clifford Banuelos, Elko Band Council; Suzanne Fluharty, Yurok Tribe; Gary Hay, Chickaloon Village Traditional Council; Russell Hepfer, Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe; Jolene Keplin, Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians; Shavonne Smith, Shinnecock Indian Nation; Rebecca Stevens, Coeur d'Alene Tribe; Laurie Suter, Tohono O'odham Nation; Sharri Venno, Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians; Kelly Wright, Shoshone Bannock Tribes; Jubin Cheruvelil, Ex-Officio, Michigan State University; BJ Howerton, Ex-Officio, BIA; Doug Stevens, Salish Kootenai College

Maximizing Sustainability and Profit: A Winning Combination at Tribal Casinos

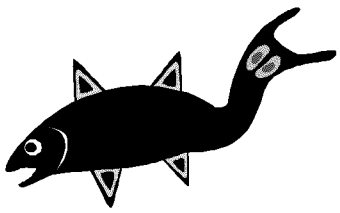
~Tulsa Room B-1~

Details: Sustainable Materials Management (SMM) is a systemic approach to using and reusing materials more productively over their entire life cycles. In many cases, casinos are the largest waste generators and energy consumers in tribal communities. These establishments also offer many opportunities to operate more sustainably by reducing waste, saving energy and water, reducing toxic chemical usage and release, and saving money. Implementing green practices at tribal casinos, affiliated hotels, motels, resorts, and bingo halls provides environmental and economic benefits that support tribes towards achieving a more sustainable future that conserves natural resources. In this session, participants will hear from several Tribes about how they have put into practice the principles of SMM in their materials and waste management programs, what it takes to implement these practices, and the benefits to their community and the environment.
Presenters: Mark Funkhouser, Chumash Tribe; Jean McInnis, Mohegan Tribe; Kristina Torres, USEPA

Managing Nonpoint Source Pollution: How to Get to A (Assessment) to B (Best Management Practices)

~Tulsa Room B-3~

Details: This session will highlight the role that the Clean Water Act Section 319 program can play in managing nonpoint source pollution on tribal lands. It will provide best practices and tribal case studies pertaining to three different phases in the development and implementation of a Tribal Nonpoint Source (NPS) program. Specifically, the session will help attendees answer the following questions: 1. When should my Tribe develop a NPS Program? 2. How can my Tribe use assessment information to target our water protection and restoration efforts? 3. What are some best practices in designing and implementing a NPS project?
Presenters: Allison Smart, Little River Band of Ottawa Indians; Britini Bauer, Kickapoo Tribe; Kelton Kersey, Pawnee Nation; Heather Duncan, Janette Marsh, and Steve Epting, USEPA



ED_001863D_00010711-00030

September 11, 2017
Northern Arizona University
Flagstaff, Arizona

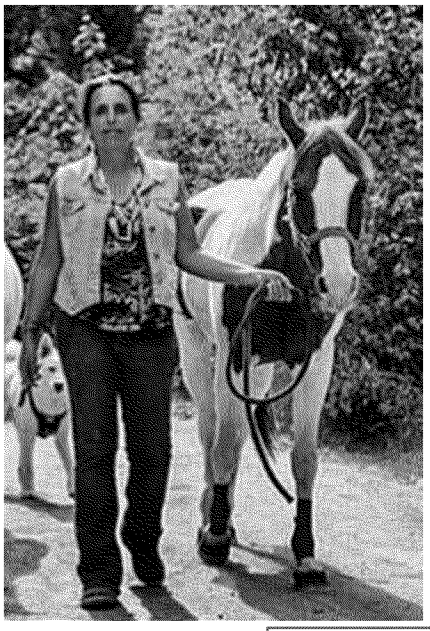
Please Join ITEP, USEPA and NAU in celebrating 25 years of collaboration and service to tribal environmental programs!

Since 1992, ITEP, under a Memorandum of Understanding between USEPA and NAU, has committed itself to serving tribes through outstanding, culturally-relevant education and training programs that increase environmental capacity and strengthen sovereignty. ITEP's work throughout the years includes numerous projects and activities including work on air quality, solid and hazardous waste, climate change, emergency response, and educational outreach.

We will be celebrating with a special event the evening of September 11. We are pleased to announce that our honored guest and featured speaker will be **Winona LaDuke**.

For more information please call 928-523-9555 or visit our website at www7.nau.edu/itep/main/Home/

INSTITUTE for TRIBAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROFESSIONALS
1992 - 2017
25th ANNIVERSARY



Mother Earth Recycles: Because What You've Got is Not Waste

~ Greenwood/Cherry Street ~

Details: Sustainable Materials Management (SMM) is a systemic approach to using and reusing materials more productively over their entire life cycles. Composting is one option in a materials management strategy to return essential materials to good use. Composting offers many benefits to the environment. Compost adds nutrients and organic matter back to soil, which benefits agriculture, reduces our reliance on synthetic fertilizers, diverts methane-producing organic materials from landfills, and improves soil's water retention capacity so you do not need to water as much. Composting can provide local jobs, be used locally, and is part of a closed-loop food system and well-rounded resource recovery program. This session will highlight successful community and commercial composting operations. Participants will learn from other Tribes what it takes to design and implement a composting program that is economically viable and supports the environment.
Presenter: Michael Northbird, Minnesota Chippewa Tribe; Stan Ellison, Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community; Kristina Torres, USEPA

Financial Literacy

~ Brookside/Blue Dome ~

Details: This course is about financial literacy. The course will cover: developing your budget, no cost extension, 50 % waiver, transferring funds within your budget. Indirect rates and hourly wages and invoice review and payment.
Presenters: Georgia Underwood and Cindy Marley, Penobscot Indian Nation; Glenn Daukas, Campbell Environmental; AmyJean McKeown, USEPA Region 1

NOTES:

A Coeur d'Alene Tribe Engineer's Perspective on Reservation Creosote Cleanup and Coordination AND Cultural Sensitivity to the Navajo People When Addressing Abandoned Uranium Mines Clean-Up

~ Utica ~

Details: The St. Maries creosote site clean-up in located on the St. Joe River in St. Maries, ID within the Coeur d'Alene Reservation. The site consisted of a pole treatment creosote facility from approximately 1930 until 1960 when it became a pole storage facility. In the winter of 1998/1999 sheen was reported on the river at the site. This triggered an emergency response action followed by a clean-up investigation and action. The creosote contaminated the upland soils as well as migrating into the river sediments. During the process of investigation, a volunteer remediation party came on board to complete the sampling, design and construction of the site. Based on studies and findings, the proposed plan outlined actions to take place to clean-up the site. In 2014 construction began on the site to remove and remediate the creosote contamination. These activities included: In-situ stabilization, storm water pipe relocation, dredging of the river, and ex-situ thermal treatment of contaminated soils. There have been many lessons learned through this project. Ms. Raskell and Ms. Laija will touch on the history of the site, changes to the ROD, design of the site, construction activities and lessons learned from this project. This project can showcase how Tribes can effectively coordinate with USEPA on Superfund sites.
Presenters: Sandra Raskell, Coeur d'Alene Tribe and Emerald Laija, USEPA

Details: Diné cultural sensitivity is vital for promoting outreach on risk and health to our people. Navajo Nation Superfund Program can achieve their goals by respecting cultural beliefs, values and speaking in the Navajo language during outreach and community involvement planning. In many cases, when conversing with the community members, their choice of words and speaking may be slower, so not interrupting and letting them finish their comments are important. Non-verbal communication also plays an important role when conducting outreach to Navajo people. Diné Fundamental Law is a guiding principles in the Navajo Nation Code for all involved in the uranium clean-up work, including the newly formation of the Diné Uranium Remediation Advisory Commission. Cultural sensitivity involves the land, water, air, plants and animals which all hold great importance and a holistic notion to the people. Presently, American history has affected Navajos people into evolving and adapting to the changes in the environment ,specifically abandon uranium mine and its clean-up.
Presenter: Vivian Craig and Darlene Jenkins, Navajo Nation Superfund Program

Moderator: Rebecca Stevens, Coeur d'Alene Tribe and TWRAP Steering Committee member

ED_001863D_00010711-00032

10:30 am - 12:00 pm ..... Breakout Sessions ..... 10:30 am - 12:00 pm

Advanced Tools and Strategies to Develop Conceptual Site Models for Effective Remediation

~ Brady ~

Details: Conceptual Site Models (CSMs) are a key component of the investigation and remediation process for a variety of regulatory frameworks. This session will highlight cost effective and scalable tools and strategies for developing robust, CSMs for small to large, complex Leaking Underground Storage Tanks (LUST) sites. Using case studies, research, and technical support examples from a variety of cleanup programs, the concepts of high resolution site characterization (HRSC) and CSM lifecycle updates will be introduced to Tribal environmental professionals

Presenter: Stephen Dyment, USEPA, Region 8

NOTES:

Benefits of Meaningful Public Engagement in Tribal Environmental Programs— A Panel Discussion

~ Tulsa Room B-1 ~

Details: Federal environmental laws call for opportunities for the public to participate in the development and administration of federal/federally-authorized environmental programs. In recent years, partly due to the EPA Policy on Environmental Justice for Working with Federally Recognized Tribes and Indigenous Peoples and the identification of meaningful public engagement programs as a core capacity for federally-authorized tribal environmental programs, more tribes have been enhancing their public participation and community engagement processes and procedures. This panel will discuss how enhanced tribal meaningful public engagement processes and procedure and collaborations with community-based organizations have resulted in better tribal solutions for environmental and public health protection on tribal lands. Participants will hear how two tribes created effective meaningful public engagement processes and established collaborations with indigenous community-based organizations to improve the environment and public health on their tribal lands. They will also discuss some of the challenges and offer suggestions for how to enhance the usefulness and benefits of meaningfully engaging the public and collaborating with community-based organizations. In addition, participants will hear from two tribal/indigenous community-based organizations on their experiences working with their respective tribal government's environmental program and suggestions for how tribal governments can effectively and meaningfully engage and collaborate with community-based organizations. This session will provide practical advice and recommendations that tribes can use to meet a core capacity for federally authorized environmental programs.

Presenters: Danny Gogal, USEPA Office of Environmental Justice

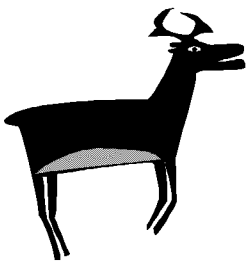
ED_001863D_00010711-00033

E-Enterprise—Collaborative Environmental Leadership

~ Tulsa Room B-2 ~

Details: *E-Enterprise for the Environment* puts into practice a collaborative approach among Tribes, States, Territories, and U.S. EPA to accelerate the development, implementation, and improvement of environmental and public health protection programs. E-Enterprise uses innovative strategies, process streamlining, and technological solutions to deliver better environmental results, often with lower costs and less burden, for the benefit of the public, the regulated community, and co-regulators. The session includes: an update on shared governance for E-Enterprise where Tribes, States and EPA have equal membership on an executive leadership council; updates on existing projects including the Tribal Water Quality Roadmap and the Assessment TMDL Tracking and Implementation System (ATTAINS); and a round-table discussion.

Presenters: Micco Emarthla, Seneca-Cayuga Nation; Scott Thompson, Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality; Andy Battin, USEPA



NOTES:

Integrating Art and Culture Into Water Infrastructure Sustainability: Key Insights From the Water Is Life Project AND Green Building in Gila River Indian Community

~ Tulsa Room B-3 ~

Details: Clean water is key to public health, yet the infrastructure that delivers clean water and wastewater service is not glamorous and is often overlooked. In small, rural communities such as those commonly inhabited in Indian Country, water infrastructure faces unique barriers to sustainability. Rural utilities often find it particularly challenging to generate sufficient revenue to cover recurrent system costs due to smaller economies of scale. The Water is Life project is a collaborative outreach project that incorporates art and culture to address such issues and improve sustainable access to safe water. The project has the following objectives: 1. Increase knowledge and behavior that optimizes health benefits of clean water use. 2. Improve sustainability of local water infrastructure (ex: increased customer satisfaction, improved financial planning and/or billing, increased sense of confident ownership of system amongst leadership). 3. Preserve and share local water cultural knowledge. In this project, art, in the form of large scale public murals, serves as an exciting tool to engage the wider community in the conversation surrounding water. As a professional Native artist creates a mural representative of the community's traditional ties to water, educational activities, many also rooted in art and culture, are offered to community members as part of a Water Week celebration. The activities are tailored to local water culture and sustainability needs. This presentation will summarize the project and insight gained through pilot runs in three communities.
Presenter: James Temte, National Tribal Water Center/ Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium

Details: Tribes – America's first green builders – are using innovative, affordable, culturally appropriate green building approaches where state and local codes don't apply. The Gila River Indian Community and U.S. EPA will share information on: • The benefits of tribal green building, • GRIC's adoption of building codes that are more stringent than the State of Arizona's energy codes, • GRIC's LEED Certified green buildings projects, and • EPA's Tribal Green Building Toolkit. Participants will learn about the tremendous environmental and health impacts of buildings, free tools available to support tribal green building, and inspiring tribal green building projects and policies. No prior knowledge or skills are required.
Presenter: Althea Walker, Gila River Indian Community and Sebastian Beshk, USEPA Region 9

Moderator: Rob Roy, La Jolla Band of Luiseno Indians and TWRAP Steering Committee member

ED_001863D_00010711-00034

1:30 pm - 3:00 pm ..... Breakout Sessions ..... 1:30 pm - 3:00 pm

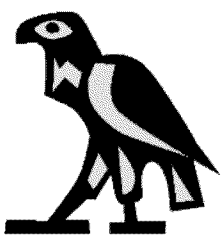
Developing a Zero Waste Vision and Strategy AND Planning and Designing Community Engagement Approaches for Tribal Integrated Waste Management Programs

~ Greenwood/Cherry Street ~

Details: Creating a compelling, culturally appropriate approach to zero waste can help tribal communities move from managing waste to a more holistic approach of sustainable materials management. The Gila River Indian Community will share their zero waste vision and experience in developing a zero waste plan. Participants will gain ideas of how to approach implementing zero waste in their communities and get a first look at an EPA developed template for zero waste elements that can be easily incorporated into tribal Integrated Solid Waste Management plans.
Presenters: Althea Walker, Gila River Indian Community and Sebastian Beshk, USEPA Region 9

Details: It is difficult to create and implement an integrated waste management program or project without outside assistance and support from the tribal community. This issue was analyzed, and in Fall 2016, the Infrastructure Task Force (ITF) Waste Programs Sub-workgroup released a tool entitled the Community Engagement Strategy, which provides a resource for tribal environmental professionals to address barriers, which may exist within their communities, to successfully implement a tribal integrated waste management program (IWMP). This session will dive deep into the Community Engagement Strategy, and provide tribal environmental professionals the resources they need to empower community members, and keep them informed and part of the solutions to address waste management. By integrating your tribal members, including tribal governments, youth, and elders, into the implementation of your IWMP, your tribal community is one step closer to deliver a sustaining program.
Presenter: Kami Snowden, TSWAN and Jessica Snyder, USEPA

Moderator: Virginia LeClere, Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation and TWRAP Steering Committee vice chair



USEPA Regions 1 and 2 Tribal Brownfields Priorities

~ Brookside/Blue Dome ~

Details: Learn how the tribes in EPA Regions 1 and 2 are administering their Brownfields Programs. How they are determining their priorities, what type of sites are they focusing on, and how are they finding additional funding to meet their objectives.
Presenters: Georgia Underwood, Penobscot Indian Nation; Dale Mitchell, Passamaquoddy Tribe; Rich Campbell and Aaron Brignull Campbell Environmental

The Importance of Adequate Financial Responsibility: A Focus on Private Insurance and State Funds AND Informal Q&A Discussion About the UST Program

~ Brady ~

Details: Proper financial assurance continues to be one of the most challenging compliance issues for the UST program in Indian country. This session will include a discussion on how tribal environmental professionals can feel reassured that owners and operators have adequate financial assurance to address UST releases and cleanups. It will review acceptable financial insurance options and their pros and cons, and what to look for in a financial assurance document, such as an insurance policy to ensure that you have the coverage that you need. The session will also include discussion of some current issues including, challenges getting coverage for older tank systems and what types of policies give coverage and at what prices.
Presenter: Mark Barolo, USEPA

Details: For those interested in the UST Program, this session is an opportunity to build on any issues that came up during the Forum, ask questions, engage fellow attendees, and have an informal, interactive discussion about the UST Program.
Moderators: John LeBlanc, Red Lake Band of Chippewa and Mark Barolo and Judy Barrows, USEPA

ED_001863D_00010711-00035

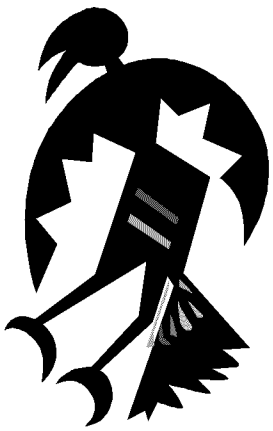
State and Tribal Perspectives on ANCSA Contaminated Lands

~ Utica~

Details: In 1971 the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) was signed into law to address long standing issues surrounding aboriginal land claims in Alaska. The Act provided Alaska Natives with 44 million acres of land and a cash settlement of $963 million, unfortunately some of transferred land contained contamination which poses a significant threat to human health and the environment in Alaska Native communities. The recent 2016 Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Report to Congress provides the most comprehensive inventory of contaminated lands transferred under ANCSA. State, Federal, and Tribal organizations have opened a dialogue to discuss this inventory, and are dedicated to working towards a solution. This session will discuss ANCSA contaminated lands from the State and Tribal perspective, highlight recent efforts, challenges, next steps, and some of the resources that may be able to provide some assistance.

Presenters: Joy Britt, Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium and Christy Howard, Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation

Moderator: Ann Wyatt, Klawock Native Village and TWRAP Steering Committee member



Tribal Food Systems: Taking Care of the Land, Water, and Community

~ Tulsa Room B-1 ~

Details: This session will include a history of two tribal food systems. Topics will include a discussion on food sovereignty, traditional agriculture, and tribal food economies, seed saving, soil science, pollinator conservation, season extension, food preservation, and marketing. Participants will learn the process of beginning and maintaining a tribal food system; collaborating with outside agencies and landowners to assist with equipment, supplies, conservation practices, and educating producers and beginning farmers. Participants will learn how growing food ultimately takes care of the land, water and community. Participants will sample local and traditionally harvested foods. Participants can choose to bring open pollinated/ heirloom seeds for trade or local traditional foods to share and/or trade.

Presenters: Nikki Crowe, Fond du Lac Tribal College's 13 Moons and Bimaaji'idiwin Ojibwe Garden Program; Shannon Judd, Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa; Jeff Mears, Oneida Nation

NOTES:

ED_001863D_00010711-00036

1:30 pm - 3:00 pm ..... Breakout Sessions ..... 1:30 pm - 3:00 pm

Building Tribal Capacity for Data Management and Exchange

~ Tulsa Room B-2 ~

Details: This session will discuss how tribal environmental data management activities can be reinforced and enhanced through participation in the Exchange Network, a valuable resource for tribes looking to expand their environmental management capabilities. Presenters will provide an overview of the Exchange Network, including funding opportunities, project examples and useful resources for tribes.
Presenter: Lydia Scheer, ITEP; Lynn Capuano, Exchange Network and E-Enterprise

NOTES:

Building Tribal Drinking Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Systems with USEPA's Drinking Water and Clean Water Tribal Set-Aside Programs: A History, How to Apply for Funds, and Future Outlooks AND ITCA Tribal Operator Certification Program Overview and Updates

~ Tulsa Room B-3 ~

Details: The session will walk through a short history of program achievements and share some online resources. We will then talk about how an individual tribal utility can apply for funds by either working with their local Indian Health Service (HIS) Area office or responding to Regional solicitations. Community water systems and non-profit, non-community water systems that serve a tribal population are eligible to have projects funded, in whole or in part, with DWIG-TSA funds. To be considered for CWISA program funding, tribes must identify their wastewater needs to the IHS Sanitation Deficiency System. EPA uses the IHS Sanitation Deficiency System priority lists to identify and select projects for CWISA program funding. Ranking factors include health impact, existing deficiency level, previous service, capital cost, operations and maintenance capability, financial contributions from the community, local tribal priority, and local conditions. The session will conclude with a discussion about recent changes to the programs and the future outlook. Through EPA funding, investments in tribal water and wastewater infrastructure protect communities and the societal and cultural values of water resources and improves ecosystem health. Improved wastewater infrastructure protects and restores water quality, thereby reducing the risk of infectious disease morbidity and mortality in Indian Country.
Presenter: Matthew Richardson, USEPA

Details: The National Tribal Water & Wastewater Operator Certification Program at the Inter Tribal Council of Arizona, Inc. (ITCA) serves to meet the needs of drinking water and wastewater operators working on Tribal lands and to provide a jurisdictionally-correct alternative to state certification programs. The ITCA is a U.S. EPA-approved provider of certification services under the U.S. EPA Tribal Drinking Water Operator Certification Program Guidelines and makes its services available to all Tribal water and wastewater system operators working in Indian Country. This session will provide an overview and update of training and certification services provided by ITCA.
Presenters: Brian Bennon and Quannee Oosahwe, Inter Tribal Council of Arizona

Moderator: Arvind Patel, Pueblo of Acoma and TWRAP Steering Committee chair

ED_001863D_00010711-00037

Closing Plenary: Tulsa Ballroom
3:30 pm - 5:00 pm

SPECIAL PRESENTATION BY THE IOWA TRIBE'S GREY SNOW EAGLE HOUSE RAPTOR REHIBILITATION PROGRAM

FINAL RAFFLE

Thank you all for joining us at this seventh TLEF. We hope your experience was filled with beneficial conversations, and useful information, and that you return home with some new ideas and inspiration. We wish you all safe and pleasant travels.

Meet Your OnSite ITEP Staff

All of us at ITEP want to thank you for your attendance and participation in the Tribal Lands and Environment Forum. We hope you find it useful in your ongoing work protecting tribal lands, water, and people.

Ann Marie Chischilly, Executive Director

Todd Barnell, Program Manager
John Mead, Program Coordinator Sr.
Riley Smith, Research Assistant
Lydia Scheer, Air Quality Program Manager
Ty Jones, Application Systems Analyst
Julie Jurkowski, Program Coordinator Sr.
Jennifer Williams, Program Coordinator Sr.
Melinda Yaiva, Accountant
Nikki Cooley, Climate Change Co-Manager

ED_001863D_00010711-00038

Thank You to Our Sponsor & Save the Date

Comprehensive Environmental & Sustainability Consulting & Legal Services

Program Development● Drafting Codes● Grant Writing

ETEPs● Strategic Planning● Resource Management Plans

Feasibility Studies● Project Management● Training

Prosper Sustainably offers a wide range of consulting, legal, and training services. Since 2014, Prosper Sustainably has assisted over a hundred tribes and other organizations on wide variety of projects and trainings. In our work with clients, we always seek to build capacity, increase self-sufficiency, and develop lasting solutions.

Prosper Sustainably's clients have included: Pala Band of Mission Indians, Yavapai Apache Nation, USEPA American Indian Environmental Office (subcontracted by Syststalex), Washoe Tribe, Santa Rosa Band of Cahuilla Indians, Kickapoo Tribe of Kansas, Tachi Yokut Tribe, San Pasqual Band of Mission Indians, Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals, Buena Vista Rancheria of Me Wuk Indians, Owens Valley Indian Water Commission, Intertribal Council of Arizona, La Jolla Band of Luiseno Indians, Rincon Band of Luiseno Indians, Chemehuevi Indian Tribe, Cabazon Band of Mission Indians, Morongo Band of Mission Indians, Bear River Band of Rohnerville Rancheria, Native Village of Nuiqsut, Susanville Indian Rancheria, Reno Sparks Indian Colony, Scotts Valley Pomo, Tetlin Village Council, Pueblo of Isleta, Pauma Band of Mission Indians, and White Mountain Apache Tribe.

Please contact us to learn more, sign up for our email list, or schedule a free initial consultation.

www.prospersustainably.com | (805) 694-8089 | info@prospersustainably.com

Save the Date for the 2018 TLEF

Next year the
Tribal Lands and Environment Forum
will take place August 13-16, 2018
In Spokane, Washington

More details will be coming soon.
We hope to see you there!

ED_001863D_00010711-00039

Abhold, Kristyn. Kristyn Abhold is a Financial Analyst with EPA's Water Infrastructure and Resiliency Center, where she helps manage WaterCARE, a financial technical assistance project, organizes regional Finance Forums, and leads the Center's efforts in conservation financing. Kristyn has considerable experience in the urban water policy arena. As the former Vice President of the US Water Alliance she directed projects and programs that brought together diverse stakeholders to advance urban water sustainability though collaboration. Kristyn also has experience working on western water issues. She consulted with EPA Region 9 on opportunities and barriers to co-digestion at wastewater utilities. She also consulted with the Union of Concerned Scientists and the California Water Foundation to develop a set of recommendations on the implementation of California's 2014 Sustainable Groundwater Management Act. Kristyn has a Master of Public Policy degree from the Goldman School of Public Policy at the University of California, Berkeley and a Bachelor of Economics and Environmental Studies from the University of California, Santa Cruz.

Anderson, Dale. Mr. Anderson has served as an Environmental Health Specialist for GRIC DEQ since 2009. He previously served with the Arizona DEQ, with over 20 years as manager of the Hazardous Waste Inspections, Emergency Response, and Pollution Prevention units. He has conducted hundreds of hazardous waste inspections, emergency responses and enforcement investigations.

Arce, Michael. Mike is a Natural Resource Technician for the Oneida Environmental, Health and Safety Division since 2012. He is a licensed Remote Pilot Operator and uses the sUAS or "drone" for invasive species monitoring, wetland restoration projects, and mapping.

Barnell, Todd. Todd joined ITEP in 2002, after stints in climate change, forest ecology, and public relations for an opera theater. He manages TWRAP and TSWEAP activities for ITEP. When not working with his excellent team at ITEP, and terrific Tribal colleagues, you can find him gardening, birding, or with his nose stuck in a book.

Barnowsky, Bobbi Anne. Ms. Barnowsky is the Program Coordinator for the Tribal Solid Waste Advisory Network. She served the Alutiiq Tribe of Old Harbor as their Tribal Administrator for 5 years and as one of Alaska's Region X RTOC representative. As the former Old Harbor Environmental Director, she led her community to be a model class III Landfill as well as instituted an Air Quality Program and Tribal Emergency Response Team. She served two years as an AmeriCorps RAVEN member working with youth and community members in Old Harbor focused on increasing volunteering and fostering youth involvement through environmental awareness and projects. As a veteran teacher and elder advocate, she has vast experience working with youth and elders of varying cultures. Working together with the youth and elders to bridge the gap between them has common concerns. Ms. Barnowsky currently holds a Master's degree from University of Alaska Southeast and San Jose State University. She was awarded the Alaska Forum on the Environment Environmental Excellence Award and led her community to receive the Alaska Tribal Environmental Management Community Environmental Excellence Award. She was recently awarded the 1st Ladies Volunteer of Year Awards for the State of Alaska. Currently, she is using her knowledge and experience to write tribal grants for new and innovative ideas for tribes in need.

Barolo, Mark. Mark is the Deputy Director of EPA's Office of Underground Storage Tanks (OUST), which is responsible for implementing the national UST/LUST program to prevent and clean up UST releases. OUST works closely with its tribal, state, and industry partners to develop practical solutions to the ever-evolving program challenges and opportunities. Mark has worked in OUST since 1993 in a variety of capacities and appreciates the opportunity to talk with and learn from tribal partners and other professionals in the industry.

Barrows, Judy. Judy Barrows has worked in USEPA's Office of Underground Storage Tanks (OUST) in various capacities including as a senior policy analyst, program manager and advisor on budget, communication, program management, leaking underground storage tank cleanup, and Indian country issues. Currently, Ms. Barrows is OUST's Tribal Team Leader and welcomes all opportunities to collaborate on ways to improve the UST Program.

Battin, Andy. Mr. Battin is the Director of the E-Enterprise for the Environment at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in Washington, DC. He is a member of the Senior Executive Service and has over 28 years of information technology experience. Previously he was the Director of EPA's Office of Information Collection where his responsibilities included the National Environmental Information Exchange Network, EPA's Central Data Exchange, as well as EPA's Records, FOIA, eDiscovery and Privacy Programs. He has a Bachelor's degree in Geo-environmental Studies from Shippensburg University of Pennsylvania, and a Chief Information Officer (CIO) certificate from the National Defense University.

Bauer, Britini. Britini Bauer is the Water Quality Monitoring Specialist for the Kickapoo Tribe in Kansas. She holds a Bachelor's of Science in Environmental Studies from the University of Kansas. She currently oversees the Clean Water Act Section 106 Water Quality Monitoring Program and is the GIS Specialist for the Kickapoo Tribe.

ED_001863D_00010711-00040

Begay, Brenda P. Ms. Begay is a member of the White Mountain Apache Tribe who is striving to "Keep Apache Land Beautiful." She has been work with the Environmental Protection Office since 2001 as the program manager. She is familiar with the Cleanup grant and has overseen a Brownfields grant which was utilized to cleanup a site on her reservation.

Bennon, Brian. Brian is the Director of the Tribal Water Department at the Inter Tribal Council of Arizona, Inc. (ITCA). He oversees ITCA's Tribal Water & Wastewater Operator Certification Program and the ITCA Tribal Compliance Assistance Program, as well as secures continued grant funding for those programs. Brian holds a Bachelor's of Science degree in Hydrology & Water Resources from the University of Arizona. He has worked directly for tribes in managing and protecting Tribal water resources for over 20 years.

Beshk, Sebastian. Mr. Beshk works in EPA's Region 9 office in the Office of Pollution Prevention, and Tribal Solid Waste. He has training, and project management work in the field of Community-Based Social Marketing specifically working with California and Arizona tribes on effective outreach around zero waste initiatives. He is the solid waste liaison for Arizona tribes, and one of the region 9 contacts for tribes interested in pollution prevention work. Before joining the EPA Sebastian was a Peace Corps Volunteer in Gambia, West Africa.

Besougloff, Jeff. Jeff Besougloff is the Senior Advisor for the Policy and Communications Team at EPA's American Indian Environmental Office. Before joining EPA in 2000, he worked from 1992-2000 as the Director of Environmental Programs for the Upper Sioux and Lower Sioux Indian Communities in Minnesota. With the tribes, Jeff was responsible for a broad range of environmental capacity building and program implementation activities including administering federally delegated lead-based paint programs, water and wastewater infrastructure development, wetlands programs, and an energy efficiency and wind power program. At EPA he works under EPA's 1984 Indian Policy and AIEO's Mission Statement to ensure that EPA services and resources are available to tribes to meet joint EPA and tribal priorities. Jeff also has five years of experience practicing law in Washington DC.

Brignull, Aaron. Mr. Brignull is an Environmental Scientist for Campbell Environmental Group and has been working with tribal partners since 2007. He has experience in a variety of environmental projects including assisting on more than 50 Brownfields Sites in the State of Maine. He regularly conducts Phase I and II Environmental Site Assessments, develops quality assurance project plans, and prepares technical reports. He has worked closely with the Passamaquoddy Tribe to develop, support, and perpetuate both their 128(a) Tribal Response Grants and 104(k) Hazardous Substance Grants.

Britt, Joy. Joy Britt is the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium's Brownfields /Tribal Response Program Manager. In this role, she leads the support of identification, remediation and prevention of contaminated sites in Alaska. Joy holds a Master in Public Health Practice, a Bachelor of Science in Biology and a minor in Chemistry. Joy is passionate about preserving the environment and the environmental links to better public health, as well as promoting equal access to healthcare. Joy is from the island of Guam in the Northern Marianas. She enjoys all outdoor activities and eating outrageous foods.

Brown, Levi. Mr. Brown has 11 years of experience working on many issues within Indian country including; Environmental permitting (NEPA), right of way, civil regulatory jurisdiction Environmental Justice and partnership building. He was born and raised on the Leech Lake Indian Reservation and is an enrolled member. He also was educated at Minnesota State University of Mankato. Mr. Brown has been an invited presenter for; U.S. Forest service, MN DOT on civil regulatory issues within Indian Country, State of Minnesota Tribal Relation training, U.S. EPA revisiting 1984 Indian Policy and has done many smaller presentations for other government entities.

Bulgrin, Scott. Mr. Bulgrin works for the Pueblo of Sandia Environment Department as their Water Quality Manager. Scott has worked for the Pueblo of Sandia for the past 17 years. He has been involved with various environmental activities which include: surface water quality monitoring, water quality standards, endangered species surveys, biological and vegetative surveys, NPDES permits, compliance and enforcement Mr. Bulgrin has Federal Credentials under the CWA, storm water issues, Rio Grande Bosque restoration, wetland restoration, other water quality issues, and a variety of environmental activities (USTs, illegal dumping, recycling, and air).

Burnette, Marco J. Mr. Burnette is the Environmental Assistant and has been with the Environmental Protection Office since 2014. He has gained a lot of knowledge by working with his colleagues as he works under the 128a grant.

Camilli, Geraldine. P.E. Geraldine Camilli is an Environmental Engineer with over 15 years of professional experience and has worked on water and wastewater infrastructure projects, funding, and sustainability. She has led prior workshops in this series for the USEPA.

Campbell, Rich. A Geologist for Campbell Environmental Group, Rich has supported Brownfields programs in tribal communities in EPA Regions 1, 2, 4, 5, 8, and 10. Has been conducting environmental investigation and remedial projects since 1988.

ED_001863D_00010711-00041

Carroll, Ann. Ann Carroll has worked for over 30 years on environmental and public health protection including contaminated site cleanup, risk communication and lead poisoning prevention here and abroad. Since 2002, Ann has been with the US EPA Office of Brownfields and Land Revitalization in Washington DC working on contaminant specific issues, public health, research and training, health improvement through revitalization, and as liaison with EPA and other health programs. Ann began her career with EPA New England's Office of Underground Storage Tanks in 1989 and served as Lead (Pb) Coordinator until 1996 before leaving EPA to support lead poisoning prevention activities in Australia, India, Indonesia and elsewhere. Ann has a BS in biology (Va Tech), an MPH in environmental health (BU) and is a doctoral candidate in Environmental Health Sciences and Policy at the Johns Hopkins University, Bloomberg School of Public Health. Ann's only pets at present are her worms but she is happy to be followed by robins as she gardens.

Chavez, Margaret. Margaret Chavez is from Santo Domingo Pueblo, one of nineteen in New Mexico. She is a graduate of the University of New Mexico with a Bachelor of Business Administration. She has been working in the environmental field for over 20 years starting with the Superfund Program as the Community Relations Coordinator. Over the years she has worked in various capacities including Solid Waste, Brownfields, Superfund, Pesticides, and Hazardous Waste but her passion is working with tribal governments and tribal communities. She enjoys interacting with youth and talking with the elders. Under the Eight Northern Indian Pueblos Council, Inc. she helps organize and coordinate the annual Tribal Youth Environmental Summer Camp for high school students. She leads many solid waste efforts (trainings, events, projects) amongst New Mexico pueblos and tribes.

Chischilly, Ann Marie. Ann Marie is the Executive Director of ITEP, and serves on a variety of boards and commissions, including the Indian Law Section Executive Board of the Arizona State Bar, First Stewards on Climate Change Founding Board, and Federal Advisory Committee on Climate Change and Natural Resources Science. Prior to coming to ITEP she served as the Senior Assistant General Counsel to the Gila River Indian Community, where she assisted the Community in implementing the historic Arizona Water Settlement Act and founded the Gila River Indian Community Renewable Energy Team. Ms. Chischilly is an enrolled member of the Navajo Nation (Diné). She earned her Juris Doctorate (J.D.) degree from St. Mary's University School of Law and a Masters in Environmental Law (LL.M) from Vermont Law School.

Collins, Douglas E. Mr. Collins is currently employed as a Chemical Security Inspector for Infrastructure Protection at the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). In this capacity he serves as a technical authority and subject matter expert on the Chemical Facility Anti-terrorism Standards regulation. He is responsible for providing advice and counsel to industry facilities, corporations and governmental entities in the Department of Homeland Security. He has extensive experience in reviewing and applying governmental regulations, conducting stakeholder outreach visits, industry presentations, regulatory inspections, physical security assessments and reviews. Additionally he is an authority on writing and evaluating site security plans, alternate security plans, security vulnerability assessments and evaluations of regulated high-risk chemical facilities. In 2010 he was certified through the government as a hazmat technician. Prior to this current position his experience includes: 6 years as a Transportation Security Inspector with TSA (aviation, rail & cargo), 2 years as a Transportation Security Screening Supervisor and 4 years as a Bomb Appraisal Officer. He has taught classes on x-ray interpretation, explosive trace detection and search techniques along with IED recognition to thousands of security and law enforcement personnel. He has over 12 years as a Law Enforcement patrol officer in Oklahoma including 6 years at University of Oklahoma Police Department, 3 years on the Oklahoma County Bomb Squad. Mr. Collins also spent 4 years in the US Army as an Explosive Ordnance Disposal Technician and 11 years in the Oklahoma National Guard as an infantry squad leader. As an EOD technician he was considered an integral part of the US Secret Service dignitary protection division utilizing his expert knowledge of improvised explosive devices search techniques including K-9 operations. His formal education includes having a B.S. in Criminal Justice Management and Ethics from Mid-American Christian University and an A.A.S. in Police Science from Oklahoma State University.

Cooley, Nikki: Nikki is the co-manager for ITEP's Tribal Climate Change Program. She is of the Diné Nation by way of Shonto and Blue Gap, AZ, and is of the Towering House Clan, born for the Reed People Clan, maternal grandfathers are of the Water that Flows Together Clan, and paternal grandfathers are of the Manygoats Clan. Her undergraduate and Masters studies includes extensive work with the Cherokee Tribe of North Carolina, and has worked with various tribes including the Kaibab Paiute tribe. Nikki's current work takes her all over the United States working with regional, national, tribal and federal partners to address climate change impacts on tribal culture and resources.

Craig, Vivian. Vivian works for the Navajo Nation Superfund program as an environmental specialist.

Dailey, Anne. Anne Dailey is a senior environmental scientist with the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Office of

Superfund Remediation and Technology Innovation. Anne serves as an OSRTI Superfund Tribal Coordinator and works with the Tribal Superfund Working Group. Anne also works on Superfund climate change issues, groundwater challenges and is the Superfund Completions Coordinator. Prior to joining EPA Headquarters six years ago, Anne worked for more than 20 years in EPA Region 10 (Seattle) in both the Superfund and Water programs. In Region 10, she was a Superfund Remedial Project Manager for more than a decade and worked on a broad array of remediation challenges. Anne has a Bachelor of Science in Geology and a Master's of Science in Oceanography from the University of Washington.

Davis, Patrick. Patrick Davis joined the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in January 2017 as part of the "beach head" team, and became the Deputy Assistant Administrator for the Office of Land and Emergency Management (OLEM) in May 2017. OLEM provides policy, guidance, and direction for the Agency's emergency response and waste programs. Prior to coming to EPA, Mr. Davis served as the Colorado Senior Advisor to the Donald Trump for President campaign. In January 2005, Mr. Davis founded Patrick Davis Consulting, LLC, a firm dedicated to serving candidates, campaigns, corporations, and clients in the areas of public affairs, political consulting, strategy and public relations. Mr. Davis served as the Executive Director of the South Dakota Republican Party from 1995 to 1999. During the 1992 Bush-Quayle Presidential campaign, he served as the field desk coordinator for eleven northwestern states, and in 1990, Mr. Davis served as the Assistant to the Deputy Director of White House Political Affairs in the George Bush "41" administration. Outside of work, Patrick is a fly fisherman and enjoys spending time with his family in Colorado.

Daukas, Glenn. Glenn Daukas is an environmental contractor for Penobscot Indian Nation.

Diefendorf, Sarah. Sarah is the Executive Director of the Environmental Finance Center West, housed at Earth Island Institute in Berkeley, California. She has founded and managed numerous nonprofit organizations throughout her career and has specialized in building financial, communications and leadership capacity in the US and abroad. For the past three years Sarah has worked as a national trainer for USEPA and has delivered Leadership Through Communications workshops for small water systems for rural communities and Tribes throughout the US. Sarah also has over ten years of experience working with multiple Tribes in California, Nevada, Arizona and New Mexico to support efforts to develop greener economies and self-sufficiency through recycling programs, transfer stations, compost operations, ecotourism and alternative energy. Sarah is an Expert Witness for the USEPA National Environmental Finance Advisory Board, serves on the Board of the California League of Women Voters, is the immediate past chair of the Carbon Cycle Institute and holds a BA in International Relations from San Francisco State University and an MS in Environmental Geography from Cambridge University.

Duncan, Heather. Ms. Duncan is the Tribal Water Quality Coordinator for EPA Region 7. Since 2011, she has worked with Region 7's tribal partners to develop and enhance their water quality monitoring and nonpoint source programs. Prior to working in tribal water quality programs, Heather spent time with Region 7's pesticides program and was the co-chair of Region 7's Agriculture Team. Outside of work, Heather identifies herself as a wife, a mom, an Iowa farm girl, and a graduate of Iowa State University (2006, B.S. Public Service and Administration in Agriculture - Agricultural Meteorology).

Dyment, Stephen. Stephen Dyment is a chemist with more than 20 years of experience including 4 years in a commercial analytical laboratory and 8 years in environmental consulting. He joined EPA in 2005 with a focus towards enhancing acceptance and use of emerging analytical technologies and sampling strategies. His perspective draws upon years of practical laboratory and field experience to apply EPA's Triad approach and associated best practices at sites in Superfund, Brownfields, RCRA, UST and State programs. Mr. Dyment's efforts have resulted in the development of numerous EPA case studies, profiles, and training courses that outline successful strategies for the use and understanding of high resolution/ collaborative data sets, adaptive QC programs, and real time analytics. He provides direct project support for sites in Superfund, RCRA, and Brownfields, conducts research on issues of national significance while connecting regional research needs with national ORD expertise, and teaches classes on sampling design, x-ray fluorescence, high resolution site characterization, 3D visualization and other technical subjects. Mr. Dyment holds a B.S. in Environmental Science/Toxicology from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst.

Ebbert, Laura. Laura Ebbert is the Tribal Program Manager for USEPA Region 9, covering the Pacific Southwest and serving 148 federally recognized tribes. Her team worked with tribes across the nation to develop the Tribal Green Building Toolkit and with Gila River Indian Community to learn from and share their outstanding green building practices.

Emarthla, Micco. Mr. Emarthla is the Environmental Specialist for the Seneca-Cayuga Nation, and has worked under the CLWA Section 106 program for the past 9 years. He feels lucky to spend his days completing field data collection, laboratory testing, data analysis, and subsequent reporting, while

assisting in other environmental programs from recycling to lead based paint risk assessment. He has built the Nation's Water Quality Program from humble beginnings into one of the more advanced tribal programs in Region 6, while trying to assist other tribes in the region along the way. These efforts led to his proposal for tribal report standardization, and electronic reporting to EPA through the Assessment TMDL Tracking and Implementation System (ATTAINS). In addition, he serves on the RYOC for Region 6, the National Tribal Water Council, and as the current Tribal Co-chair of the E-Enterprise Leadership Council. He attended Oklahoma State and has degrees in Electrical Engineering and Computer Science.

Epting, Steve. Steve Epting is the national coordinator for the Tribal Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 319 Nonpoint Source (NPS) Program, based at EPA Headquarters in Washington, DC. Steve also works in EPA's Healthy Watersheds Program. Prior to his current position, Steve spent three years in EPA's National NPS Program, where he worked primarily with states and EPA regional offices to track and publish stories on the successful restorations of NPS-impaired waterbodies. Steve has a M.S. from University of Maryland, where he conducted research on wetland hydrology.

Flowers, Victoria. Ms. Flowers has worked for the Oneida Nation since August of 2004, as an Environmental Specialist in the Brownfield Program developing an Environmental Response Program using Brownfield 128(a) grant funding, an Underground Storage Tank Compliance Assistance Program, and an environmental database that tracks various activities associated with tribal and federal funding. She has also provided input into a national measures workgroup for Brownfields, assisted in the development of peer to peer training materials for both Brownfields and underground storage tanks, and is a National Steering Committee member for the Tribal Waste and Response Assistance Program.

French, Harrell. Harrell graduated with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Management from Murray State University in 1973. He worked for over 12 years as a Vice President of two different banks prior to starting computer Software Company that marketed accounting systems to banks the company developed. Prior to joining USET he worked in the computer industry. Upon joining USET he oversaw the automation of Tribal Law Enforcement and Tribal Court records on a centralized computer system. He then worked as a Senior Project Coordinator on a project with FEMA's National Integration Center. He currently divides his time between a project with the Alabama Fire College's Tribal Educational Outreach Program and the EPA's Tribal-FERST web-based information and mapping tool designed to provide Tribes with easy access to the best available human health and ecological science. He currently serves as a member of FirstNet's Tribal Working Group which is helping to oversee the development nation's first high-speed, nationwide wireless broadband network dedicated to public safety, and he also serves as a member of the Region IV Public Health Training Center Steering Committee that operates out of Emory University in Atlanta.

Gaughen, Shasta. Shasta Gaughen is the Environmental Director and the Tribal Historic Preservation Officer for the Pala Band of Mission Indians in Pala, CA. She has worked for the Pala Band since January 2005. She also teaches in the Anthropology Department at California State University San Marcos. Dr. Gaughen received her PhD in Anthropology from the University of New Mexico in 2011. She is Secretary of the Board for the Native American Environmental Protection Coalition, a member of the advisory board for the Climate Science Alliance - South Coast, and board member of the Upper San Luis Rey Resource Conservation District. Dr. Gaughen has made presentations on cultural and environmental topics for the Navy, Border Patrol, California Indian Legal Association, San Diego County Archaeological Society, California Mission Indian Association, and many other private and public organizations.

Gogal, Daniel. Mr. Gogal is a Senior Environmental Protection Specialist with the U.S. EPA, Office of Environmental Justice (OEJ), where he has served since June 1992. Mr. Gogal has a public policy, environmental policy, and public administration background. He is the Tribal and Indigenous Peoples Program Manager for OEJ and has been working on tribal and indigenous peoples' environmental policy and environmental justice issues for over 29 years. He also serves as EPA's Lead for International Human Rights Agreements, and has worked in various capacities for the Agency's environmental justice program over the past 24 years. In addition, Mr. Gogal and his wife enjoy the experiences and dynamics of raising six children.

Goldfarb, Eugene. Mr. Goldfarb is a TAB partner (with KSU) and retired from a 30-year career with HUD in 2004. He has managed courses for UIC-Chicago, UCLA, Johns Hopkins, USEPA, Native Learning Center, and others. Eugene was named HUD's "brownfield guru" by Planning magazine in 2002 and was one of the principal architects of USEPA/HUD's 5 day "Nuts & Bolts of Brownfield Redevelopment" course that ran in late 90's thru 2000's.

Goodson, Judy. Ms. Goodson possess a BAS from Lewis Clark State College majoring in Civil Engineering with a minor in Geographic Information Science and is a licensed Land Surveyor in Training. She currently works for the Nez Perce Tribe under the Tribal Response Program providing field and office support to multiple programs. She has another twelve years of

field and office experience performing under Professional Engineers and Professional Land Surveyors. In her spare time, she sews quilts, rides her horses and grows a large garden.

Gorini, Kelly. Kelly Gorini is the Assessment, Cleanup, and Redevelopment Exchange System (ACRES) Lead for the Office of Brownfields and Land Revitalization (OBLR). Kelly came to OBLR after 3 years at EPA's Region 9 Office in San Francisco, where she was a RCRA State Project Officer. Prior to that she was part of EPA's Pollution Prevention Division, where her work focused on environmentally preferable products. Kelly has a Bachelors in Environmental Biology from the University of Dayton, and a Masters of Public Affairs in Environmental and Natural Resource Management from Indiana University's School of Public and Environmental Affairs. Kelly and her husband recently rescued a new dog, Mia the Mastiff, and are enjoying being first time dog owners.

Grant, Jill. Ms. Grant is the founding member of Jill Grant & Associates, LLC in Washington, D.C. Her work focuses on the development, implementation, and enforcement of tribal environmental laws and programs and associated administrative and appellate litigation. She has assisted tribes with obtaining "treatment as a state" and primacy for many tribal environmental programs, including the first delegated Clean Air Act Title V permit program and the first public water systems supervision program. She also works with tribes to obtain proper remediation at various leaking storage tank sites and Superfund sites. Ms. Grant previously worked in the Office of General Counsel at EPA, where she was on the team that drafted the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990 and assisted in developing the acid rain program. Ms. Grant earned her JD from Harvard Law School and her BA from Yale College.

Grayson, Treda. Ms. Grayson is an Environmental Protection Specialist on the Tribal Capacity Development Team in the American Indian Environmental Office (AIEO) at US EPA Headquarters. Her primary duty is to support tribes in developing environmental capacity through the administration of the Indian Environmental General Assistance (GAP). Before joining AIEO in 2015, she led the National Coastal Condition Assessment, as well as provided technical support to states, tribes, and other entities to develop and adopt biological, nutrient and aquatic life criteria for water quality standards development, in the Office of Water. Treda holds a B.S. degree in Marine Science from Coastal Carolina University, an M.S. in Environmental Sciences and Policy from Johns Hopkins University, and is a Ph.D. candidate in Environmental Science and Public Policy at George Mason University.

Hall, Beth. Beth Hall is a member of EPA's Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water.

Harjo, Frank. Mr. Harjo is the GIS Manager for Muscogee (Creek) Nation, the 4th largest tribe in the Nation. Frank has been with the tribe since 2009 and participates on various workgroups/committees to promote tribal issues. He has over 14 years of experience working with GIS and GPS technology. He holds a Bachelor of Science and Master of Science degrees as well as being a Certified GIS Professional.

Hartnett, Mickey. Kansas State University Technical Assistance to Tribal Brownfields (KSU-TAB) partner to provide assistance to tribes on 128(a) Tribal Response Programs and other brownfield issues. Served as a Brownfields and solid waste tribal circuit rider for the US EPA Region 8 from 2004 to 2014. Prior experience includes 25 years with the US EPA in the hazardous wastes, Superfund and Brownfields programs to include enforcement and compliance actions, hazardous waste facility permitting and major remediation projects of large contaminated facilities. He has diverse and extensive experience in assessment, remediation and redevelopment/reuse of contaminated sites and properties, including Brownfields and Superfund Sites. A graduate of the University of Florida with a B.S.E. in Environmental Engineering.

Henry, Mike. Mike works in the Tohono O'odham Nation Environmental Protection Office.

Heppner, Alex. Alex Heppner is the User Support & Data Migration Manager for Gold Systems, Inc. Alex has a BS in Environmental Science and years of sampling experience as a staff scientist in his home state of Pennsylvania. Over the past 4 years, Mr. Heppner has facilitated the migration of millions of records to WQX for various States, Tribes, and Volunteer Groups from all over the country.

Hovis, Jennifer. Jennifer currently serves as Chief of the Construction and Post Construction Management Branch (CPCMB) within the Superfund Program at EPA Headquarters. She has more than 19 years of experience in the Superfund program, spanning all areas of the pipeline as well as key support functions. CPCMB is responsible for implementation and oversight of remedial design, remedial action, post construction site management, Five Year Reviews and ultimately deletion from the National Priorities List. Prior to her current position, Jen oversaw data and records management efforts for Superfund, and worked in the site assessment and NPL listing phases of the program. Jen holds a degree in Geography from The George Washington University and lives in Alexandria, VA with her husband.

Howard, Christy. Ms. Howard joined the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation Brownfields team in 2015. She works to increase education and awareness of brownfields, with a focus on outreach to

Alaska's 28 EPA Tribal Response programs, federally recognized tribes, and Native Corporations. She oversees DEC's Brownfields Assessment & Cleanup (DBAC) service which provides assistance with assessment & cleanup of brownfields sites. Her background includes environmental consulting and laboratory analysis for a variety of clients in the cruise ship, mining, and waste water industry. She is from, and lives in Juneau, Alaska.

Hurst, Don. Don Hurst, Toxics Cleanup Program Manager for the Environmental Trust Department of the Colville Confederated Tribes. Environmental consultant 1984-2004; CCT TRP Manager 2005-present. Mr. Hurst works and resides on the 1.4 million- acre Colville Reservation in north central Washington. Bs, Ms Geology, University of Wyoming.

Irwin, Raymond. Raymond is a GIS developer. He has been with the Muscogee (Creek) Nation GIS department for 2 years. He has 22 years of development and IT experience in all aspects of the industry. He has worked on aircraft routing and engineering systems, Travelocity's tokenized security system, early interactive voice response systems and ACA conversions for the State of Ohio and Alabama. He is a licensed small Unmanned Aircraft pilot under FAA Part 107 and pilots drones for the GIS department. He has a BS from Oklahoma State University and attended graduate school at Tulsa University in Applied Mathematics. In his spare time he likes road cycling, trail running, hiking, hitting the gym, reading and writing poetry and literature and spending time with his family.

Jacobson, Ted. Ted Jacobson has been in the Solid Waste Industry for over 30 years, for the last ten he has worked in conjunction with the EPA in Rural Alaska Villages. Ted is a trainer in best management practices focusing on solid and hazardous waste management. Ted's current leadership positions include: A Chairmanship of the Training Committee of the Alaska Chapter of SWANA; he is a Member of the Alaska Association of Environmental Professionals, and; sits on the executive committee of the Solid Waste Alaska Taskforce.

Jenkins, Darlene. Darlene works for the Navajo Nation Superfund program as a GIS analyst.

Jojola, Theodore, PhD. Ted Jojola is a Distinguished Professor and Regents' Professor in the Community & Regional Planning Program, School of Architecture + Planning, University of New Mexico (UNM).

Junker, Mark. Mr. Junker has been the Brownfields 128(a) Tribal Response Coordinator for the Sac and Fox Nation for three years.

Jurkowski, Julie. Julie joined ITEP in 2014 and works as a Program Coordinator Senior on both TWRAP and TSWEAP activities. In addition to helping design and deliver the TLEF she conducts training courses, coordinates onsite mentor matches, assists the Tribal Superfund Working Group and TWRAP Steering Committee, and provides direct technical assistance to tribal professionals around the country. Prior to joining ITEP Julie worked on renewable energy policy, climate change, and green building projects, as well as being a backpacking guide.

Kent, Tim. Mr. Kent is a Professional Geologist and has over 15 years working with the Quapaw Tribe as their Environmental Director and Remedial Project Manager on the Tar Creek Superfund Site.

Kersey, Kelton. Kelton Kersey is the Environmental Specialist and Conservation Officer for the Pawnee Nation Department of Environmental Conservation and Safety for the last 13 plus years. Along with other duties, Kelton also coordinates the Pawnee Nation's Nonpoint Source Pollution Program by developing their Assessment and Management Plan. He also developed the Black Bear Creek Management Plan. In this role, Kelton enforces Pawnee Nation environmental and wildlife laws as well as manages the tasks of the Nonpoint Source Pollution program since the Tribe first received NPS funding in 2007.

King, Summer. Ms. King as an Environmental Scientist and provides essential quality control, sampling and analysis duties to the Tar Creek Superfund Site Remedial Action activities for the Quapaw Tribe. Worked more than 13 years for the United Keetoowah Band of Cherokees prior to joining the Quapaw Tribe Environmental Office.

Kreman, Craig. Mr. Kreman is an Environmental Engineer and provides project management and engineering duties to the Tar Creek Superfund Site Remedial Action activities for the Quapaw Tribe.

Kriebs, Georja. Ms. Kriebs is a Tribal Response Program Technician for the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska (PTN), in there Environmental Department out of there Lincoln office. She has been working for the PTN since October 2016. Prior from working for PTN she worked for Sac and Fox Nation of MO in KS and NE in there water division and her degree is in Wildlife Conservation and Management from Missouri Western State University.

LeBlanc, John. John LeBlanc is Red Lake's Environmental Program Director and has been working for the Red Lake

Band of Chippewa Indians since 2010. He is responsible for managing the GAP, Tribal Response 128(a) and Underground Storage Tanks DITCA grants. John is a federally credentialed UST inspector and he conducts compliance assistance visits as well as UST inspections on behalf of the USEPA. He works with Red Lake, three other Minnesota Tribes, and will soon be working with six Wisconsin Tribes as well on UST compliance. John continues work on development and enhancements of environmental regulations specific to the needs and concerns of the Red Lake Band for adoption into Red Lake Nation Tribal Law.

Leven, Blasé. Mr. Leven is the Coordinator of the KSU Technical Assistance to Brownfields (TAB) Programs, and has been the lead for development, upgrades and maintenance of BIT. He has worked with TAB since 1997, and with BIT and the precursor to BIT (piloted an EPA Region 8 MS Access application) beginning in 2004. He has assisted many users and given many workshops on BIT, is a licensed Professional Geologist, and has Masters and Bachelors degrees in Geology.

Lindeman, Eric. Mr. Lindeman has worked for a national environmental consulting firm for the past 25 years as an instructor, project manager, and regional health and safety coordinator. He has worked on several Federal contracts to help manage hazardous material emergencies and clean-ups. Between 1999-2010, Lindeman was the project manager for several state clients, training over 1500 law enforcement and other first responders in the Midwest on how to manage responses to and clean-up of methamphetamine labs. Lindeman has been involved for over 25 years with a fire protection district just outside of Kansas City, Missouri, as a training and fire officer. He was also an adjunct instructor for the University of Missouri, Fire and Rescue Training Institute teaching field programs and helping to manage annual fire schools as the safety officer. He is a licensed dentist in the state of Missouri where he practiced for about ten years. In 2010 he transferred to the Seattle office of the environmental consulting firm to support the Seattle Region 10 EPA/Superfund Technical Assistance and Response Team (START).

Lloyd, David R. David Lloyd is the Director of the Office of Brownfields & Land Revitalization in the EPA Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response. David assumed this position in January of 2006 after holding a variety of positions in the areas of private and Government legal practice, real estate development and operations. David received his undergraduate degree in English Literature from the George Washington University in 1985, and a law degree from Washington and Lee University in 1988. David is a proud citizen of the Cherokee Nation and lives with assorted large, hungry pets in Lexington, Virginia and Washington, DC.

Long, Richard. Rick Long is Executive Vice President and General Counsel of the Petroleum Equipment Institute (PEI). Rick also serves as Editor-in-Chief of the TulsaLetter and the PEI Journal. He is a member of the NFPA (National Fire Protection Association) Technical Committee on Vehicular Alternative Fuels. Prior to joining PEI in 2009 as General Manager and Associate General Counsel, Rick owned and operated a Tulsa-based firm that provided marketing, communications and strategic services for leading for-profit organizations and non-profit associations, including PEI. During his career, he has written hundreds of articles advising large and small businesses on management, marketing, legal issues and technical matters. Rick earned a Bachelor's of Science degree, with high honors, from Southern Methodist University, where he was inducted into Phi Beta Kappa. He received his Juris Doctorate degree, with honors, from the University of Texas in Austin. Before entering the world of communications and association management, Rick practiced law in Tulsa.

Lord, Gussie. Ms. Lord is a senior associate with Jill Grant & Associates, LLC in Washington, D.C. Ms. Lord works with tribes on environmental and administrative issues, including: code and policy development; solid and hazardous waste management and cleanup; protection of tribal water and air; Treatment as a State; tribal housing development and management; jurisdiction and other sovereignty issues; and tribal cultural resource protection. Ms. Lord earned her JD from the University of Michigan Law School and her BA from the Virginia Military Institute and is a member of the Oneida Nation of Wisconsin.

Luscombe, Emily. Emily Luscombe is the Environmental Director at Coyote Valley Band of Pomo Indians in Redwood Valley, CA. She graduated from Connecticut College with a BA in Environmental Studies and Anthropology and Flinders University of South Australia with a Masters in Environmental Management. Emily has worked in a variety of environmental media and is currently focusing much of her attention of the River bank stabilization and restoration project. This has led to exploration on restoration options and funding.

Marley, Cindy. Cindy Marley is the Finance Coordinator for the Penobscot Indian Nation.

Marsh, Janette. Ms. Marsh has worked for EPA for more than 25 years and is currently Region 5's Tribal 319 Coordinator. She also works on state 319 programs and is a member of the region's Clean Water Act/Safe Drinking Water Act Integration team. Janette enjoys vacationing in Wisconsin's northwoods where she can listen to loons

on the lake.

Martin, Rebecca. Rebecca Martin is the ENIPC Program Manager for the National UST Compliance Assistance and Training Support in Indian Country Grant. Ms. Martin is originally from New Mexico, and has recently worked in California as a Geographic Information Systems Technician for Apple. Ms. Martin has a Bachelors of Science in Geography and will be completing a Masters of Applied Geography from New Mexico State University.

Matheson, Caj. Mr. Matheson is the Cultural Resources Protection Manager for the Coeur d'Alene Tribe. He is a Coeur d'Alene Tribal member from the Turtle Clan. He manages multiple cultural resource mitigation efforts through cultural revitalization efforts. He is also the Communications Specialist for the Coeur d'Alene Basin Natural Resource Trustees and represents the Coeur d'Alene Tribe as an alternate on the Basin Environmental Improvement Project Commission that oversees remedy and restoration in the Bunker Hill Superfund site. Caj received his bachelor's degree in Organizational Sciences with a minor in Business through the University of Idaho.

McInnis, Jean. Jean McInnis is the Environmental Protection Administrator for the Mohegan Tribe of Indians of Connecticut since October of 2005. She holds a Master's degree in Environmental Engineering Technologies from the University of New Haven, a Bachelor's degree in Environmental Horticulture from the University of Connecticut, College of Agriculture and Natural Resources and is a Certified Hazardous Materials Manager as of June 2005. Ms. McInnis has a diverse work background in industrial manufacturing as an Environmental, Health and Safety Specialist for approximately 20 years for various organizations. Ms. McInnis has also worked as General Manager for a Connecticut municipality for 5 years and as an environmental consultant for two different consulting firms for a total of 5 years.

McKeown, AmyJean. AmyJean McKeown, EPA tribal lead for Region 1.

Mitchell, Dale. Mr. Mitchell is the Passamaquoddy Pleasant Point Tribal Brownfields Coordinator. He is responsible for managing the Tribes 128 (a) Tribal Response Grant as well as the 104 (k) Community Wide Assessment Grants. Mr. Mitchell is committed to keeping the natural resources a part of the Tribes Cultural right to use and respect. Mr. Mitchell was the former Water Resources Specialist monitoring the coastal waters for red tide.

Mix, Rudy. Mr. Mix is the Waste Program Manager for the Gila River Indian Community, Department of Environmental Quality. In his 19 years with DEQ, he has conducted a wide variety of waste program activities, including performing hazardous and solid waste inspections, overseeing site clean ups, providing technical assistance to regulated businesses, developing program plans, and developing the GRIC waste ordinance and integrated waste management plan.

Moore, Glenn. Glenn A. Moore serves as the US Department of Homeland Security's Protective Security Advisor (PSA) for the Oklahoma District. Mr. Moore supports homeland security efforts by assisting with the identification, assessment, monitoring, and minimizing the threat risk at the local level. As a PSA, Mr. Moore facilitates, coordinates, and performs vulnerability assessments for local infrastructure and assets, and acts as a physical and technical security advisor to Federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies.

Naha, Cynthia. Cynthia is an enrolled member of the Hopi Tribe and also comes from Tewa and Ihanktowan Dakota Oyate descent. She has been involved in Tribal Environmental Programs since 2005 when she started working for the Inter Tribal Council of Arizona (ITCA), Inc. Since then, Cynthia has worked in various fields, including: solid waste, recycling, emergency response and preparedness, water quality, climate change, and more. She has worked with a number of Tribes since leaving ITCA in 2008, including the Salt River Pima Maricopa Indian Community, Lone Pine Paiute Shoshone Reservation and a number of Pomo Indian Tribes in Northern California. Throughout the past 11-12 years, Cynthia has worked to build Tribal environmental capacity and seeks to ensure that the communities she works with and for, maintain a balance between environmental protection and public health and safety. She enjoys establishing partnerships with neighboring Tribes, Pueblos, Federal and State agencies and currently holds the Tribal Government seat on the New Mexico Recycling and Illegal Dumping Alliance. Cynthia was also just selected to participate on the National Tribal Waste and Response Steering Committee, which is a two year term and is set to begin in November 2016. She is a graduate of Arizona State University, where she obtained her BS in American Indian Studies. Since graduating from college in 2003, Cynthia has vowed to always work with and for Tribal Governments/ Organizations in the area of environmental protection.

Nelson, Mark. P.G. Mark Nelson is an Environmental Engineer with over 25 years of Tribal and municipal water and wastewater planning and management experience. He has led 15 EPA sponsored water supply and wastewater management

workshops for Tribes and small communities across the country, and has worked with EPA and other federal agencies to streamline the funding of infrastructure projects for Tribes. At the local level he has mapped source water protection areas to protect drinking water supplies and planned for and permitted wastewater treatment facilities to protect ponds and coastal waters.

Nichols, William (Nick). Mr. Nichols has been with EPA Oil Program and Office of Emergency Management since 1996. He is the OEM Tribal and Environmental Justice Coordinator working closely with OSWER and external organization to ensure that OEM fulfills its responsibilities in Indian Country.

Norton, Ken. Mr. Norton, an enrolled member of the Hoopa Valley Tribe, is Director at Hoopa Valley Tribal Environmental Protection Agency. Ken has expertise in water quality and development of water quality standards, having worked in environmental protection since 1980. Over 37 years, Ken has worked as a fishery technician, fishery biologist, water quality coordinator and director at Hoopa Valley Environmental Department. His educational degree is a Bachelors of Science in Fishery Management. As a fisheries expert, Ken understands the water quality needs of healthy salmon and other river life, and is experienced in watershed restoration. As TEPA Director, Ken oversees an array of Tribal water programs and other tribal environmental programs (Superfund, brownfields, air, pesticides, lead poisoning prevention, and solid waste). Between 2004 and 2009, Ken had the honor to serve as Vice-Chair of the National Tribal Operations Committee and lead spoke person for Tribes on national Tribal/EPA water issues. Currently, Ken serves as the chair of the National Tribal Water Council and advocates for the health and sustainability of clean and safe water for Indian communities, Alaska Native Tribes and Alaska Native Villages.

Oosahwe, Quannee. Quannee Oosahwe is the Training and Certification Coordinator for the Tribal Water Department at the Inter Tribal Council of Arizona, Inc. (ITCA). She has been with the department for over three years. Quannee received her undergraduate degree in Anthropology from Arizona State University, and is an enrolled member of the United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians.

Parker, John T. John T. Parker Born in Kansas City, Missouri October 10, 1974, he joined the U.S. Navy on July 25, 1995. After completing Recruit training at Great lakes, he reported to the Defense Photography "A" school in Pensacola, Florida. His first duty station was the USS Blue Ridge in Yokosuka, Japan where he spent four years working as the ships primary aerial photographer as well as the photographer for the Commander of the 7th Fleet. He then received orders to Fleet Combat Camera Group Pacific (FCCGP) where he spent five years primarily deployed as a combat photographer with various Special Forces units he did four deployments to Iraq and various other places in throughout the world. He then reported to Naval Support Activity Naples where he served six months as the base Public Affairs Officer (PAO) and six months as the editor of the base newspaper. John was quickly hired for the Deputy Public Relations position with the Naval Facilities and Engineering Command (NAVFAC) Southeast at Naval Air Station Jacksonville, Florida. Here he worked as the deputy PAO as well as a videographer and commands photographer. After a short time John received the Social Media Producer and lead Photojournalist job for the Environmental Protection Agency's region 7 headquarters in Lenexa, Kansas.

Perlman, Gary. Captain Gary Perlman is an Environmental Health Officer with the U.S. Public Health Service currently working at ATSDR in Boston. Gary has been working in environmental health for 20 years. He provided environmental health support during the mustard agent incident in New Bedford, MA, and to residents of LA during the public health response shortly after Hurricane Katrina made landfall, focusing on the Murphy oil spill. He also has provided environmental health support on several occasions for large toxic fires or explosions. He provided the same support to the Group of 8 Summit in GA, the Democratic and Republican National Conventions, and several other National Special Security Events. He is currently working with the Penobscot Indian Nation to assess contaminant levels in food items in their traditional diet. He has assisted with developing several public health software tools to help first responders and other personnel assess chemical contamination throughout the United States, Canada, France, and Romania. Gary shared these software tools with Tribal attendees at the National Tribal Science Council, and the Yukon River Inter-Tribal Watershed. He incorporated some of their suggestions to enhance the tools.

Perry, Annie. Annie Perry is an attorney for the Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe in Kingston, Washington. As a tribal attorney, her primary work is to research, write, update, and modify the tribe's law and order code to match the tribe's current legal system..

Pomes, Michael L. Michael L. Pomes works as a Physical Scientist in the Enforcement, Inspection, and Compliance Section of the Chemical and Oil Release Prevention Branch of the Air and Waste Management Division of EPA Region 7 in

Lenexa, Kan. Before coming to EPA in September of 2010, he supervised the Preventative UST Unit of the Storage Tank Section at the Kansas Department of Health and Environment for 10 years that ran the permitting program for USTs and ASTs in Kansas. Michael received a Ph.D. in Geology from the University of Kansas, a M.S. degree in Geology from Fort Hays State University, Hays, Kan., and a B.S. degree in Geological Sciences from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. He is a Kansas-Licensed Geologist, a NACE-Certified Cathodic Protection Technician, and a Cathodic Protection Tester certified by the Steel Tank Institute.

Purpora, Stephen. Mr. Stephen Purpora began his field experience in 1972 and has worked extensively in all areas of underground storage tank, line, and leak detector testing as well as vapor recovery and cathodic protection inspections. His experience includes over 25 years of field testing and consulting for the petroleum testing industry. Mr. Purpora currently travels extensively throughout the United States and internationally, training and certifying test technicians and regulatory personnel on the fundamental and practical applications of testing underground storage tanks, product piping, leak detectors and vapor recovery systems. Mr. Purpora serves on and provides technical advice for the Petroleum Equipment Institute's (PEI) committees on Recommended Practices on Installation and Testing of Stage I and Stage II Vapor Recovery and Testing and Verification of Spill, Overfill, Leak Detection and Secondary Containment Equipment at UST Facilities. In addition he has served as a consultant for the EPA for the upcoming rule changes. He is President of Protanic, Inc. and Purpora Engineering, Inc. and resides in Grafton, Wisconsin.

Raskell, Sandra. P.E. Ms. Raskell is the project engineer for the Coeur d'Alene Tribe Fisheries and Lake Management Departments. Since joining the Tribe in 2009, Sandra became the Tribe's project manager for the St. Maries Creosote Site in St. Maries, ID. As a licensed professional engineer her other job duties include surveying, engineer designs, construction oversight and performance, conducts monthly Trail of the Coeur d'Alene inspections, works with EPA and other agencies in the Silver Valley Superfund clean-up, assists in education and outreach activities, participates in SEEP (Stormwater Erosion and Education Program), and perfoms other duties as needed. Prior to 2009, Sandra spent 10 years working as an engineer for Washington State Department of Transporation, City of Spokane Valley, a private engineering firm, and Idaho Transportation Department. Sandra is glad to be in the environmental engineering field again at the Tribe. Sandra graduated with a B.S. in Civil Engineering (Bio-Resources) from Montana State University. Sandra lives in Spokane Valley with her husband, 7 children and 2 grandchildren.

Renteria, George. George Renteria is a Management and Program Analyst with the Emergency Services Sector-Specific Agency (ES SSA) within the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Office of Infrastructure Protection. He has a well-rounded background in critical infrastructure protection and is a certified Project Manager. His experience includes support and development of DHS critical infrastructure protection policies and programs, incident response and recovery plans, and emergency management operations. Mr. Renteria is a retired U.S. Navy Lieutenant Commander, where he served as a Special Operations Officer and Master Explosive Ordnance Disposal Technician. He and his wife currently live in Virginia with their three children.

Reyher, Jennifer. Ms. Reyher is a project development coordinator for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. She works collaboratively with multiple stakeholders within the Tribal Nation to identify needs and solutions to support these needs. Mrs. Reyher actively coordinates with federal and state agencies to support tribal goals and objectives including EPA, HUD, ODEQ, and IHS.

Richardson, Matthew. Mr. Richardson is charged with proving guidance and coordinating within EPA and with other federal agencies to meet the federal government's commitment to increase access to safe waste water sanitation services for tribes and Alaskan native villages. He previously assisted with the implementation of EPA's Watersense program that promotes water efficiency by enhancing the market for water-efficient products. He was part of a team that significantly increased the number of local water utility partners and conducted extensive outreach that increased Watersense product market share. Mr. Richardson has firsthand knowledge of challenges faced by small, rural utility systems through his work experience as a Research Assistant for the Environmental Finance Center where he developed recommendations and tools for state and federal water infrastructure funding decision makers to maximize public investments. He holds Bachelor of Science in Environmental Chemistry from Saint Michael's College in Colchester, VT, a Professional Certificate in Environmental Compliance Auditing and Remediation Technologies from the University of California at Berkeley, and Master of Science in Environmental Engineering and Policy from the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill School of Public Health.

Roose, Rebecca. Ms. Roose is the Senior Advisor for the Tribal Capacity Development Team in the American Indian Environmental Office (AIEO) at US EPA Headquarters. Her work includes administering the Indian Environmental General

Assistance Program (GAP). Prior to joining AIEO in 2017, Rebecca worked on Clean Water Act and Safe Drinking Water Act program development and implementation in EPA's Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance and the Office of Water. Before starting her EPA career in 2006, Rebecca was Staff Attorney and Program Director for Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility in Washington, D.C. Rebecca earned her law degree from the University of New Mexico and her bachelor's degree in Geography from Valparaiso University in Northwest Indiana.

Roy, Rob. Mr. Roy is the Environmental Director for the La Jolla Band of Luiseno Indians and has been employed by the Tribe for over 15 years. He is responsible for the Environmental Protection Office which employs a staff of seven people working on clean water, air quality, solid waste, wastewater, natural resources, and other critical environmental and human health issues. His education is in GIS and he previously worked for the City of San Diego Environmental Services Department. Rob received the EPA Environmental Achievement Award in 2008 for his work with solid waste management including recycling, reducing illegal dumping, hazardous and electronic waste recycling, tire cleanup, and disaster recovery. Rob works hard to foster collaboration between groups to achieve common goals and increase the scope and impact of projects. He is a member of the TWRAP steering committee, an RTOC rep and RTOC Solid Waste Workgroup lead, and team co-lead on the Interagency ITF Solid Waste Workgroup. Rob has a passion for the natural world and goes travelling, hiking and backpacking whenever he can.

Ruge, Zoe. Zoe is an ORISE research participant with the U.S. EPA Standards and Health Protection Division in the Office of Science and Technology, Office of Water. She is the tribal coordinator for the Office of Science and Technology, working on TAS for water quality standards (WQS) issues and the federal baseline WQS for reservation waters effort.

Sabatino, Leonard. Leonard Sabatino is originally from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and received a bachelor's of science degree in the field of geo-environmental studies in 2001. In 2002, Mr. Sabatino received certification in permaculture design from La'akea farms on the Big Island of Hawaii. From 2003 through 2011, Mr. Sabatino worked at the Los Alamos National Laboratory in the fields of geology, environmental science, hazardous waste management, and geomorphology. Since June of 2012, Mr. Sabatino has been working for ENIPC on the UST Compliance Assistance Program for 21 NM pueblos and tribes for more than 45 UST facilities. Mr. Sabatino currently holds a certification with the Steel Tank Institute for UST Cathodic Protection Testing.

Saulters, Oral. Oral Saulters, PhD Candidate, Tribal Environmental Policy & Decision Making, Site assessment and remediation, environmental policy and decision making models.

Scheer, Lydia. Lydia Scheer has worked with ITEP since July 1998, when she started out as a student assistant while completing her BA in Anthropology at NAU. She joined ITEP's regular staff in 1999 and is currently a Program Manager, responsible for coordinating the National Tribal Forum on Air Quality and supporting tribes with the National Environmental Information Exchange Network (NEIEN) effort, as well as being involved in collaborative planning efforts for various ITEP projects. In 2015, Lydia was awarded the Cal Seciwa Award for Outstanding Staff, presented by NAU's Commission on Native Americans.

Shirley, Michaela Paulette. Michaela (Diné), MCRP, is Water Edge clan, born for Bitter Water clan, her maternal grandpa is Salt clan, and her paternal grandpa is Coyote Pass clan.

Sigmon, Mickey. Mickey Sigmon joined the Sac and Fox Nation environmental department as the Water Quality Coordinator in January of 2016 and hit the ground running with the CWA 106 program. Mickey graduated from MWSU in 2013 with two Bachelor's degrees, one in biology with a botany emphasis and the other in wildlife conservation and management. Mrs. Sigmon worked for Diocese of Kansas City-St Joseph as the executive assistant for many years and decided to go to college pursuing a career in wildlife conservation after she became an empty nester. Mickey's caring personality and her compassion for the environment is an excellent foundation for all the work ahead of her.

Simmons, Joshua. Joshua Simmons, a consultant and attorney, founded Prosper Sustainably in May 2014 to assist tribal communities in the development and implementation of lasting solutions to meet environmental and sustainability needs. Through Prosper Sustainably, Josh has assisted and/or trained hundreds of tribes across the nation with preparing EPA-Tribal Environmental Plans (ETEPs), grant writing, solar and energy project planning, drafting Tribal Environmental Codes, preparing Integrated Waste Management Plans, climate change planning, strategic planning and management, and more. Prior to starting Prosper, Josh served as Environmental Director for the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians. Under Josh's oversight from 2007 to 2014 the Santa Ynez Chumash Environmental Office (SYCEO) grew from 1 to 15+ employees, 2 to 20+ programs, and $100,000 to $1,000,000 in annual revenue. During that time, the Santa Ynez Chumash also became a nation-

wide leader in sustainability and environmental stewardship.

Smart, Allison. Allison Smart is the Environmental Coordinator for the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians. She began working full-time for the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians in 2012 as an Aquatic/Fisheries Biologist and moved into the Environmental Coordinator position in 2015. Her experience includes working with wild rice, fisheries, GIS and on various USEPA funded programs including CWA 106, CWA 319, PPGs and IGAP. Allison is a member of the Sault Ste Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians. She has a Bachelor's Degree in Biology and Anthropology from Albion College; Albion, MI and a Master's Degree in Conservation Biology from Central Michigan University.

Snowden, Kami. Ms. Snowden, Executive Director of the Tribal Solid Waste Advisory Network (TSWAN) has over 25 years of experience working in the environmental field, the last 17+ years directly for the TSWAN organization. Her experience includes technical aspects with operating and managing waste systems, providing education and outreach, developing programs and special projects, and grants management. Prior to working for the TSWAN organization Ms. Snowden was the director of the solid waste department in a rural county of Washington State overseeing environmental programs, landfill operations, and the construction and operation of transfer stations. During her current tenure with TSWAN, Ms. Snowden has developed many programs specific to tribes on a national basis serving on numerous federal tribal environmental committees, and her tenure also includes aiding tribe with the construction of a Tribal Integrated Waste Management Plan Template (and ancillary documents such as worker safety & health); unprecedented education and certification in Methamphetamine (and other clandestine) Lab recognition for tribal workers; Strategic Plans for Environmental Sustainability for Tribes (template); Various training venues for tribal environmental workers, et.al.

Snyder, Jessica. Ms. Snyder started as the Tribal Program Coordinator for EPA's Office of Land and Emergency Management in September 2015. In this role, she manages OLEM's Tribal Program, specifically, providing guidance and assistance on tribal related topics to the OLEM Assistance Administrator and senior management team. She ensures that OLEM implements EPA's Tribal Consultation Policy consistently, as well as serves as a liaison to EPA programs and federal agencies on cross-agency topics. Jessica also manages the tribal support grant with the Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals. This grant administers the Tribal Waste and Response Assistance Program and the TLEF. Jessica started in the federal workforce in 2006; focusing primary on budget, priority setting and planning within EPA. Prior to working at EPA, Jessica interned at EPA's Region 2 Environmental Finance Center at Syracuse University, while obtaining her Master's Degree in Public Administration from the Maxwell School at Syracuse University. She holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Sociology and Political Science from Villanova University. Jessica has 2 children, ages 5 and 3, and is happily married to a high school math teacher.

Stevens, Rebecca. Rebecca is the Program Manager for the Tribe's Lake Mgt. Department-Hazardous Waste Management Program. She also serves the role as the Restoration Coordinator with the Restoration Partnership. Rebecca has been working on water quality related issues for over 15 years and in 2009, she was co-author of the Coeur d'Alene Lake Management. Rebecca represents the Tribe in the Bunker Hill Mining and Metallurgical Superfund Site remedial work as well as the Natural Resources Damage Assessment case. She enjoys snowboarding, kayaking, frisbee golf, and spending time with her friends, family, and blue heeler. Rebecca is very honored to work for the Coeur d'Alene Tribe and is proud to be a part of restoring natural resources in the Coeur d'Alene Basin.

Temte, James. James is a member of the Northern Cheyenne Tribe and grew up in the Rocky Mountains living in Wyoming and Colorado. James joined the National Tribal Water Center in 2014 and now serves as the Director of the NTWC. James received his undergraduate degree in molecular biology and a minor in chemistry from Fort Lewis College and Masters of Science at the University of Alaska Anchorage in Applied Environmental Science and Technology. He served as the Director of the Alaska Tribal Conference on Environmental Management, the Vice Chair of the National Tribal Air Association and on the Board of Directors of the Climate Registry. He has a passion for public art, tribal sovereignty, self-determination, protecting the environment, and human health. James' interest in water and sanitation work focuses on human health, including affordable access to adequate and sustainable water and sanitation services. He loves to work with communities on multi-disciplinary teams to incorporate innovative health education techniques to inspire positive actions.

Terry, Steve. Steve graduated with a Bachelor of Science Degree from Texas A&M University in 1974. He worked as a Research Biologist for the University of Florida's School of Forest Resources & Conservation for 11 years, doing research studies and assisting in publishing the results with 30 papers and presentations to his credit. He received a Master of Science Degree from the University of Florida in 1985. He was the Land Resources Manager for the Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida for over 25 years, where he administered the

Real Estate Services Department and oversaw EPA and other grants. USET acquired his services in 2011 as a Senior Project Coordinator in the Office of Environmental Resource Management, working on different projects. Steve has over 32 years of working with Tribes and Federal and State Agencies. He has been involved with Tribal water issues since he first started working in Indian Country. He was instrumental in the USET Certification Program receiving EPA approval to offer Drinking Water Operator Certifications to Tribes, making USET one of two Tribal organizations that are so authorized. He was the technical advisor to the National Tribal Water Council 2012 – 2016. He has received numerous awards and attended many conferences and training sessions. The major awards he has received includes the Michal A. Frost Award from the National Tribal Environmental Council for environmental leadership, the National Partnership for Reinventing Government from Vice-President Al Gore for the Peer Review Team, and Honors from Harvard University's Honoring Contributions in the Governance of American Indian Natives for the Miccosukee Section 404 Permitting Program.

Thompson, Scott. Mr. Thompson is the Executive Director of the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality. Thompson served as DEQ's Land Protection Division Director since 2000 where he was responsible for the management of multiple permitting and enforcement programs, environmental investigation, cleanup, and engineering design projects. He has also served as an environmental programs manager responsible for managing the agency's Superfund Program. He has more than 23 years of experience managing state environmental programs. Thompson is a 1984 graduate of Central State University with a degree in biology, and also has a master's degree in environmental science from the University of Oklahoma.

Turner, LaDonna. LaDonna is a Site Assessment Manager and the Superfund Tribal Coordinator for EPA in Region 6. She worked in the RCRA Enforcement Program for 5 years and then moved on to the Superfund Division where she has been for the past 25 years. As the Region 6 Superfund Tribal Coordinator she has assisted and supported her Tribal partners for more than 20 years. LaDonna has been involved in regional/national Tribal workgroups and activities. She has been involved in the legacy uranium issues within New Mexico since 2008 and its impacts on Tribal lands. LaDonna has a Bachelor of Arts and Science from Dallas Baptist University.

Underwood, Georgia. Georgia King Underwood is the Penobscot Indian Nation Tribal Response Coordinator. Ms. Underwood is responsible for managing the Tribes 128 (a) Tribal Response and 104 (k) Community Wide Assessment Grants. She has also partnered with other non-tribal Brownfields grantees to bring a team approach to accomplish tribal goals of protecting the waters of the Penobscot River.

Walker, Althea. Althea Walker (Nez Perce, Hopi, and Gila River) is the Environmental Education & Outreach Specialist for the Gila River Indian Community Department of Environmental Quality. Althea is the lead for climate change adaptation planning in the Gila River Indian Community.

Wright, Felicia. Felicia Wright is the Deputy Office Director (and current Acting Director since Jan 2017) of EPA's American Indian Environmental Office, in the Office of International and Tribal Affairs, where she is responsible for working with tribal governments and EPA programs and Regions to ensure protection of human health and the environment in Indian country. As acting Director, Ms. Wright is responsible for managing EPA's largest tribal grant program, the Indian General Assistance Program (GAP), to support tribes building capacity to administer environmental programs, and ensuring EPA implementation of federal environmental laws consistent with the federal trust responsibility, the government-to-government relationship, and EPA's 1984 Indian Policy. Prior to this position, Felicia worked in EPA's Office of Water for six years, where she served as senior advisor to the Assistant Administrator and Deputy Assistant Administrator on tribal policy and program implementation. She also served as the Tribal Program Manager for EPA's Office of Land and Emergency Management, supporting senior management for six different programs under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, emergency response, and Superfund statutes. She has an MS in Environmental Science and Engineering from Virginia Polytechnic and State University, and a BS in Geology from Kansas University.

Zender, Lynn. Dr. Lynn Zender received her Ph.D. in Civil and Environmental Engineering and completed a Masters in Environmental Systems Engineering and Modeling. She has worked on waste and broader environmental management issues in rural and tribal communities since 1994, with the first Alaska case studies in 1995. She has designed and directed numerous statewide and national projects related to environmental health risks, and is a trained Tribal Lifeline Risk Assessor. Dr. Zender is the Executive Director of Zender Environmental Health and Research Group in Anchorage, Alaska.

Zhen, Davis. Davis Zhen is the Site Cleanup Manager for the unit that currently oversees the Portland Harbor Cleanup. Prior to joining the Superfund program, he was the Regional Radiation and Indoor Air Program Manager overseeing radioactive air emissions from Department of Energy's and other radioactive incidents such as the Fukushima Nuclear Incident.

Online Training for Tribal Environmental Professionals

Since 1992 ITEP has been assisting tribes develop their own capacity in effectively and efficiently managing their environmental programs through a variety of training courses, technical assistance, and national conferences, such as the Tribal lands and Environment Forum.

We are very pleased to offer a new opportunity for tribal professionals to learn new skills and advance their knowledge through a series of self-paced online trainings. These online courses cover a variety of environmental media and allow you to pursue continuing education units (CEUs).

Some of the benefits of these online courses include: returning to work on current courses where you left off, connecting with other environmental tribal professionals through discussion forums, and accessing resources, videos, and certificates from previously completed courses. These online courses contain assignments, activities, quizzes, videos, tribal examples, discussion forms, and additional resources. While they are self-paced, each course provides the opportunity for individual interaction with subject matter experts.

To access current courses you can set up a free account by visiting itep.scholarlms.com/courses/login/index.php. You can also visit the main page at itep.scholarlms.com/catalog/ to view our current course offerings.

For more information, contact Jennifer Williams at jennifer.williams@nau.edu.

Onsite Mentoring Opportunities for Tribal Solid Waste Professionals

While in-person and online trainings can be invaluable in helping you develop new skills and learn new techniques, sometimes what you need is to just spend some time with a colleague, one-on-one, and focus on your specific challenges.

As part of ITEP's Tribal Solid Waste Education and Assistance Program (TSWEAP), we have been pairing tribal solid waste professionals with experts who have faced, and overcome, challenges in waste management and diversion. Often these mentor matches can be conducted through phone calls or emails, but sometimes it is more helpful to actually visit a mentoring tribe, or have an expert come visit your tribal facilities—allowing both participants to learn from one another and problem solve together. Tribal solid waste professionals can apply to ITEP and request one of these onsite mentoring opportunities. If the application is accepted, ITEP staff will find a mentor for you, conduct a conference call where you can meet the mentor and discuss your challenges in more detail, and then arrange to visit them, or have them come to your community. Under this project, ITEP will reimburse all the travel expenses for the individual traveling as part of the mentoring project.

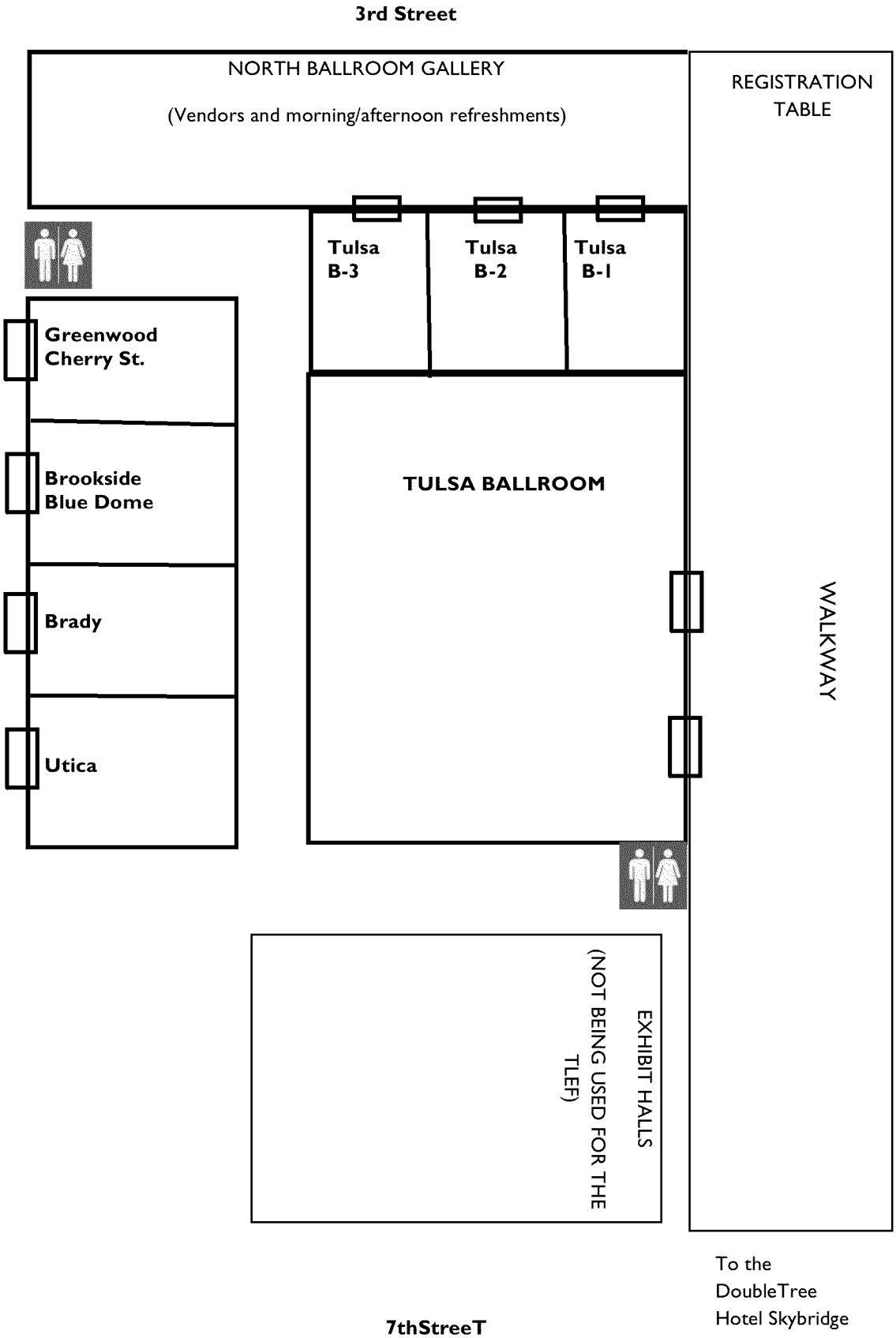
To learn more about this project, please visit our website at: nau.edu/itep/main/Waste/waste_mentors. You can also contact either Todd Barnell (todd.barnell@nau.edu) or Julie Jurkowski (julie.jurkowski@nau.edu) to obtain an application or learn more about the program.

ED_001863D_00010711-00054

Notes

ED_001863D_00010711-00055

Facility Map



ED_001863D_00010711-00056

S pecial T hanks..

ITEP would like to extend a special thanks to the National Tribal Waste and Response Assistance Program Steering Committee who helped plan, orchestrate and otherwise make this TLEF a success! Thanks also goes out to the Oklahoma Tribes for their wonderful assistance! and hospitality!

Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals
Northern Arizona University
Box 15004
Flagstaff, AZ 86011
Ph: 928-523-9555
Fx: 928-523-1266

http://www7.nau.edu/itep/main/Home/

Please recycle this booklet

Return this booklet to the Registration Table for easy recycling, or recycle it when you're done by placing in a recycling bin. Thank you!

To: Grantham, Nancy[Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov]
From: Kelly, Albert
Sent: Fri 10/13/2017 2:41:19 PM
Subject: FW: Google Alert - Superfund

See the article on Trump Track and Minden. Do we know anything more on Minden?

Albert Kelly

Senior Advisor to the Administrator

1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW

Washington, DC 20460

Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy

From: Google Alerts [mailto:googlealerts-noreply@google.com]
Sent: Friday, October 13, 2017 9:08 AM
To: Kelly, Albert <kelly.albert@epa.gov>
Subject: Google Alert - Superfund

Superfund

Daily update October 13, 2017

NEWS

EPA Vows To Speed Cleanup Of Toxic **Superfund** Sites Despite Funding Drop

KRCC

An aerial photo shows hills of mining waste known as "chat" scattered throughout the abandoned lead and zinc mine at the Tar Creek **Superfund** site.

Flag as irrelevant

Puerto Ricans desperate for water are drinking from **Superfund** sites

Quartz

More than three weeks since Hurricane Maria, more than a third of Puerto Ricans still don't have access to drinking water. So some are turning to wells ...

Desperate Puerto Ricans warned not to drink from toxic wells - New York Post

Full Coverage
Flag as irrelevant

EPA approves $115M cleanup plan for hurricane-stricken Texas **Superfund** site

Waste Dive

Since then, Pruitt has announced plans for a "top 10" list of **Superfund** sites to aggressively target and also talked about how the Obama-era EPA ...

EPA approves $115M plan to clean up Houston-area **Superfund** site - Houston Business Journal

EPA orders cleanup at Texas toxic site flooded by Harvey - Houston Chronicle

EPA orders cleanup at Texas toxic site flooded by Harvey - News & Observer

Full Coverage
Flag as irrelevant

EPA warns desperate Puerto Ricans not to drink water from **Superfund** sites

Mashable

There are reports of residents obtaining, or trying to obtain, drinking water from wells at hazardous waste "**Superfund**" sites in Puerto Rico.
Flag as irrelevant

EPA 'remains committed' to working with DEQ, tribes on Portland **Superfund** cleanup

OregonLive.com

The Portland Harbor **Superfund** drama comes as EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt has vowed to speed up cleanups nationwide, pledging to create a top ...

DEQ says EPA 'opening up process' in **Superfund** row - Portland Business Journal

Full Coverage
Flag as irrelevant

EPA: Don't use water from Puerto Rico **Superfund** sites

Fox5NY

NEW YORK (FOX 5 NEWS) - Federal authorities are concerned that residents of hurricane-ravaged Puerto Rico are risking exposure to toxic ...

Trump hints at ending aid as Puerto Ricans forced to drink polluted water - The Guardian

Puerto Rico Struggling to Find Drinkable Water; People Drinking from Contaminated Wells ... - NewsLI

Full Coverage
Flag as irrelevant

10/13 Letters: Make athletics programs businesses to end 'student-athlete delusion'

News & Observer

I was the deputy director and previously a division director for the National **Superfund** program in Washington, D.C., from 1989 to 2002. I witnessed the ...
Flag as irrelevant

EPA says more testing needed at Minden **Superfund** site

Charleston Gazette-Mail

Federal regulators confirmed Thursday that they had again found potentially troubling levels of toxic contamination at a former mining equipment ...
Flag as irrelevant

Trump Track: EPA Beginning Anew at Portland Harbor **Superfund** Site?

Lexology

EPA had already signaled that it would be reviewing significant, long-unresolved **Superfund** sites with an eye toward streamlining the process.
Flag as irrelevant

Why our **Super Fund** just got compared to the All Blacks

The Spinoff

New Zealand's **Super Fund** is one of the best performing sovereign wealth funds in the world – and yet isn't quite what it could have been. Rebecca ...
Flag as irrelevant

See more results | Edit this alert

You have received this email because you have subscribed to **Google Alerts**.

Unsubscribe | View all your alerts
Receive this alert as RSS feed
Send Feedback

To: Grantham, Nancy[Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov]
From: Kelly, Albert
Sent: Thur 3/22/2018 1:43:57 PM
Subject: FW: Google Alert - Superfund

Are we surprised at the push back here?

Albert Kelly

Senior Advisor to the Administrator

1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW

Washington, DC 20460

Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy

From: Google Alerts [mailto:googlealerts-noreply@google.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 22, 2018 9:09 AM
To: Kelly, Albert <kelly.albert@epa.gov>
Subject: Google Alert - Superfund

Superfund

Daily update March 22, 2018

NEWS

Mining Company Challenges EPA Order For **Superfund** Site Study

CBS Denver

DENVER (AP) — A mining company is formally challenging an Environmental Protection Agency order to pay for an investigation of underground water flows at a Colorado **Superfund** site. Sunnyside Gold Corp. said Wednesday it asked for a conference at which the company can ask EPA to modify or ...

Flag as irrelevant

Mining Company Challenges EPA Order for **Superfund** Site Study

U.S. News & World Report

Mining Company Challenges EPA Order for **Superfund** Site Study ... company is challenging an Environmental Protection Agency order to pay for an investigation of underground water flows at a Colorado **Superfund** ...

Sunnyside doesn't own the Gold King but has other property in the **Superfund** site.

Tar Creek Open House Event March 27 - Pawhuska Journal Capital

Full Coverage
Flag as irrelevant

Mining company challenges EPA order for **Superfund** site study near Gold King

The Denver Post

EPA-led contractors inadvertently triggered a spill of potentially toxic wastewater there in 2015, polluting rivers in Colorado, New Mexico and Utah. Sunnyside doesn't own the Gold King but has other property in the **Superfund** site. The EPA says previous work at a Sunnyside's mine may have redirected ...
Flag as irrelevant

Superfund, Water Infrastructure See Funding Bump in Omnibus

Bloomberg BNA

... which have traditionally been popular with both parties, given that they help state and local government fund water treatment and other infrastructure. Other funding highlights include a $66 million increase to speed cleanup of **Superfund** sites and EPA response to releases of hazardous substances, ...
Flag as irrelevant

Superfund site heads into final year of cleanup

Ashland Daily Press

Work at the Ashland **Superfund** site is to be largely completed this year, including the removal of the floating boom barrier systems and the disassembly of the white tent-like structures involved in the cleanup. Demobilization of the project is set to be completed by some time in September. In the next year, ...
Flag as irrelevant

The Pension **SuperFund**: Benevolent disruptor or danger to members?

Pensions Expert

The Disruptive Capital founder has announced his plans to back a consolidation vehicle, The Pension **SuperFund**, to be chaired by former Pension Protection Fund chief Alan Rubenstein and reportedly targeting £500bn in assets. The venture, which has also poached former PwC head of pensions ...
Flag as irrelevant

Alan Rubenstein launches 'Pension **SuperFund**' DB consolidator

www.professionalpensions.com

"The Pension **SuperFund** will consolidate DB schemes into a single pension scheme and, by doing that, we aim to achieve higher investment returns, stronger risk management, and lower costs and, thanks to the capital provided by investors, it should also enable us to improve the security or covenant ...
Flag as irrelevant

Ex-PPF chief Rubenstein to lead DB consolidator '**superfund**'

IPE.com

Rubenstein is joined at the **superfund** by Marc Hommel, the former global head of pensions advisory at PwC, and Luke Webster, chief investment officer at the Greater London Authority and former chief financial risk officer at the London Pension Fund Authority. Webster is also partner and chief financial ...

Polluters attempt to dismiss property damage lawsuit brought by homeowners of EPA **Superfund** site

nwitimes.com

EAST CHICAGO — Polluters taken to court over property damage claims in the lead- and arsenic-contaminated USS Lead **Superfund** site have asked a federal judge to dismiss the case, contending the plaintiffs — 38 households — have no grounds to sue them. Homeowners first filed the lawsuit on ...

Flag as irrelevant

Hurricane Harvey's toxic impact deeper than public told

WTOP

Testing by state and federal regulators of soil and water for contaminants was largely limited to **Superfund** toxic waste sites. Based on widespread air monitoring, including flyovers, officials repeatedly assured the public that post-Harvey air pollution posed no health threat. But the U.S. Environmental ...

Flag as irrelevant

See more results | Edit this alert

You have received this email because you have subscribed to **Google Alerts**.

Unsubscribe | View all your alerts
Receive this alert as RSS feed
Send Feedback

To: Graham, Amy[graham.amy@epa.gov]; Abboud, Michael[abboud.michael@epa.gov]
Cc: Ferguson, Lincoln[ferguson.lincoln@epa.gov]; Konkus, John[konkus.john@epa.gov]; Bowman, Liz[Bowman.Liz@epa.gov]; Hewitt, James[hewitt.james@epa.gov]
From: Wilcox, Jahan
Sent: Mon 9/18/2017 1:42:10 PM
Subject: RE: FOR APPROVAL: EPA Morning News Highlights 9.18.17

Include this as well.

Big Oil Becomes Greener With Progress in Cutting Pollution
Bloomberg
September 18, 2017
https://bloom.bg/2jDfjBF

-----Original Message-----
From: Graham, Amy
Sent: Monday, September 18, 2017 9:41 AM
To: Abboud, Michael <abboud.michael@epa.gov>
Cc: Ferguson, Lincoln <ferguson.lincoln@epa.gov>; Konkus, John <konkus.john@epa.gov>; Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>; Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>; Hewitt, James <hewitt.james@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: FOR APPROVAL: EPA Morning News Highlights 9.18.17

Move the hill article to the top and include the Fox Houston clip that we sent around this weekend below that.

> On Sep 18, 2017, at 9:37 AM, Abboud, Michael <abboud.michael@epa.gov> wrote:
>
> EPA Morning News Highlights 9.18.17
>
> The Washington Examiner: EPA Needs To Stick To Its Knitting
> Barack Obama decided that the 1992 Clean Air Act gave the Environmental Protection Agency the authority to force states to regulate carbon dioxide emissions from power plants. He also expanded the Clean Water Act with a regulation called "Waters of the United States," which aimed to give the EPA regulatory control over land if sometimes it holds standing water. The running theme of the Obama EPA was expanding the agency's reach and multiplying its responsibilities. This campaign was repeatedly halted by courts, but it has threatened to erode liberty and make life more expensive for families, farmers, and companies. But the most tangible consequence of the EPA's mission creep has been the neglect of its core functions.
>
> The Hill: EPA Chief Heads To Texas To See Harvey Cleanup
> Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Scott Pruitt traveled to Houston on Friday to see Hurricane Harvey cleanup efforts and survey work by environmental officials. Pruitt toured the San Jacinto River Waste Pits Superfund site and met with leading federal and state officials involved in environmental oversight of the area's recovery from the historic storm, which dumped more than 40 inches of rain on the area, the agency said.
>
> The Washington Times: White House: No Thaw On Paris Climate Accord Unless Trump Gets Better Deal
> Trump administration officials said Sunday that the president's stance on the Paris climate agreement hasn't changed: He's open to re-engaging as long as he gets a better deal. Secretary of State Rex W. Tillerson said the administration would reconsider its decision to withdraw from the accord "under the right conditions," while National Security Adviser H.R. McMaster said President Trump is willing to look at alternatives that fix the "flawed agreement." "He's out of the Paris climate accord. What he said — the door is open," Mr. McMaster said on "Fox News Sunday." "If you look at what he said on the day that he

announced withdrawing from the accord, he said at some point in the future, if there can be a deal that addresses these fundamental flaws, he's open to it."
>
> Texas Tribune: EPA Approves Expedited Loan Funding For Harvey-Related Water Projects
> The Environmental Protection Agency this week approved a request from Texas officials to expedite funding to help local governments restore water and wastewater systems damaged by Hurricane Harvey. The Texas Water Development Board, which administers an EPA low-interest loan program for the state, asked the federal agency in a Sept. 1 letter for the flexibility to quicken loan distribution procedures. In the letter, the board said loan money could serve as a bridge to meet immediate recovery needs for damaged water systems while local governments wait for other federal aid.
>
> KOSU 91.7: Guarded Hope At Oklahoma's Abandoned Mine As EPA Promises Focus On Contaminated Sites
> Newly minted U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Scott Pruitt spent his first months on the job steering the agency away from climate change to focus, in part, on cleaning up contaminated sites around the country. The former Oklahoma attorney general has directed a task force to create a top-10 list of locations that need aggressive attention — welcome news at Superfund sites like Tar Creek in the northeastern corner of the state. The spot where Kansas, Missouri and Oklahoma meet was once one of the world's largest sources of lead and zinc. About half of the lead and zinc the military needed in World War I was produced here, in 300 miles of caverns hollowed out underneath towns like Picher, Cardin and Commerce.
>
> The Washington Examiner: Pruitt Deploys EPA's Elite Frogmen In Post-Hurricane Inspections
> The Environmental Protection Agency deployed a team of divers Friday to begin inspecting a flooded toxic waste site in Texas in the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey. "EPA remains committed to providing the necessary resources and personnel to ensure those affected by the devastation of Hurricane Harvey receive proper agency attention," said Administrator Scott Pruitt on Friday after arriving in Houston to tour the Superfund waste sites. Pruitt began his visit by inspecting the San Jacinto River Waste Pits Superfund site. As Pruitt toured the site, "an EPA dive team" began conducting underwater inspections of the site, the agency said.
>
> The New York Times: Using The E.P.A. To Prop Up Big Coal
> The Trump administration is unflinching in its misbegotten campaign to protect the coal industry from what has become an obvious and inevitable decline. Eight months in, the administration has already killed, or is in the process of killing, rules that would prevent the dumping of coal mining wastes in streams, impose a temporary moratorium on new mine leases in the West, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions from coal-fired power plants — one of President Barack Obama's most important efforts to resist climate change. All of this to prop up an industry whose workers would be best served not by false promises of new mining jobs, but by aggressive programs to retrain them for a changing economy. The latest ritualistic bow from Scott Pruitt, the administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency who has presented himself as an industry savior, was to order last week a two-year postponement of the Obama administration's tighter controls on lead, mercury, arsenic and other coal plant wastes that threaten human health. Delaying the rule's effective date to November 2020, Mr. Pruitt said, merely "resets the clock."
>
> National Morning News Highlights 9.18.17
>
> The Associated Press: Trump's Week Anchored By Speech To UN General Assembly
> President Donald Trump is making his debut at the United Nations and taking his complaints about the world body straight to the source. In his first appearance as president, Trump on Monday was addressing a U.S.-sponsored event on reforming the 193-member organization he has sharply criticized. As a candidate for president, Trump labeled the U.N. as weak and incompetent, and not a friend of either the United States or Israel. But he has softened his tone since taking office, telling ambassadors from U.N. Security Council member countries at a White House meeting this year that the U.N. has "tremendous potential."
>

> The Washington Post: U.S. Warns That Time Is Running Out For Peaceful Solution With North Korea
> The Trump administration escalated its rhetoric against North Korea on Sunday, warning that time is running out for a peaceful solution between Kim Jong Un's regime and the United States and its allies. Administration officials said the risk from North Korea's nuclear weapons program is rising, and they underscored that President Trump will confront the looming crisis at the U.N. General Assembly this week. Trump, who spoke by phone with South Korean President Moon Jae-in on Saturday, referred to Kim on Twitter as "Rocket Man" and asserted that "long gas lines" are forming in the North because of recent U.N. sanctions on oil imports. Though Trump's top aides emphasized that the administration is examining all diplomatic measures to rein in Pyongyang, they made clear that military options remain on the table.
>
> The Washington Post: Shrink At Least 4 National Monuments And Modify A Half-Dozen Others, Zinke Tells Trump
> Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke has recommended that President Trump modify 10 national monuments created by his immediate predecessors, including shrinking the boundaries of at least four western sites, according to a copy of the report obtained by The Washington Post. The memorandum, which the White House has refused to release since Zinke submitted it late last month, does not specify exact reductions for the four protected areas Zinke would have Trump narrow — Utah's Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante, Nevada's Gold Butte, and Oregon's Cascade-Siskiyou — or the two marine national monuments — the Pacific Remote Islands and Rose Atoll — for which he raised the same prospect. The two Utah sites encompass a total of more than 3.2 million acres, part of the reason they have aroused such intense emotions since their designation. The secretary's set of recommendations also would change the way all 10 targeted monuments are managed. It emphasizes the need to adjust the proclamations to address concerns of local officials or affected industries, saying the administration should permit "traditional uses" now restricted within the monuments' boundaries, such as grazing, logging, coal mining and commercial fishing.
>
> The Wall Street Journal: Solar Power Death Wish
> Billions of dollars in taxpayer subsidies haven't made the U.S. solar industry competitive, and now two companies want to make it even less so. Suniva Inc., a bankrupt solar-panel maker, and German-owned SolarWorld Americas have petitioned the U.S. International Trade Commission (ITC) to impose tariffs on foreign-made crystalline silicon photovoltaic cells. Solar cells in the U.S. sell for around 27 cents a watt. The petitioners want to add a new duty of 40 cents a watt. They also want a floor price for imported panels of 78 cents a watt versus the market price of 37 cents. In other words, they want the government to double the cost of the main component used in the U.S. solar industry. Solar electricity prices could rise by some 30% if the ITC says they've been injured by foreign competition—a decision is due by Sept. 22—and the Trump Administration goes along with the tariff request. U.S. manufacturers won countervailing and antidumping duties against imports from China and Taiwan in 2012 and in 2015. But now they're resorting to Section 201 of the Trade Act of 1974 because they don't need to show they are victims of dumping or foreign government subsidies. They only need to show that imports have harmed them.
>
> The Wall Street Journal: California Democrats Target Tesla
> California Democrats have finally found a cause that's worth suspending their environmental passions. The United Automobile Workers are struggling for a presence in Tesla's Fremont plant, and organized labor has called in a political favor. Since 2010 California has offered a $2,500 rebate to encourage consumers to buy electric vehicles. But last week, at unions' behest, Democrats introduced an amendment to cap-and-trade spending legislation that would require participating manufacturers to get a sign-off from the state labor secretary verifying that they are "fair and responsible in their treatment of workers." The legislation, which passed Friday, is a direct shot at Tesla. The Clean Vehicle Rebate Project has amounted to a $82.5 million subsidy for the company, giving extra incentive to 32,842 Tesla buyers in seven years.
>
> TRUMP TWEETS
>
> The Washington Examiner

> http://www.washingtonexaminer.com/epa-needs-to-stick-to-its-knitting/article/2634483
> EPA Needs To Stick To Its Knitting
> By The Washington Examiner Editorial Board, 9/18/17
>
> Barack Obama decided that the 1992 Clean Air Act gave the Environmental Protection Agency the authority to force states to regulate carbon dioxide emissions from power plants.
>
> He also expanded the Clean Water Act with a regulation called "Waters of the United States," which aimed to give the EPA regulatory control over land if sometimes it holds standing water.
>
> The running theme of the Obama EPA was expanding the agency's reach and multiplying its responsibilities. This campaign was repeatedly halted by courts, but it has threatened to erode liberty and make life more expensive for families, farmers, and companies.
>
> But the most tangible consequence of the EPA's mission creep has been the neglect of its core functions.
>
> Trump's EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt laid out Obama's legacy in a recent interview with the Washington Examiner. "He left us with more Superfund sites than when he came in," Pruitt said, referring to contaminated lands which the EPA is supposed to be remediating. "He had Gold King and Flint, Michigan," Pruitt went on, referring to the massive 2015 spill of mine waste into the Animas and San Juan Rivers. Obama also left "air quality standards 40 percent of the country in nonattainment," Pruitt added.
>
> The problem? Obama's EPA wouldn't stick to its knitting. Pruitt aptly described the EPA's mindset under Obama: "We think we just ought to re-imagine authority because you know what? We don't know if people are going to pass regulations or states are going to do their jobs."
>
> Pruitt promises to return the EPA to its proper mission and to limit its activities to those actually prescribed by Congress. Will Pruitt's EPA address greenhouse gas emissions? Obama justified his Clean Power Plan by asserting the urgency of the issue. But the executive's belief that an issue is important doesn't give the executive branch the power to address an issue.
>
> The EPA has only the power Congress has given it. Repeatedly, Obama tried to get Congress to pass climate legislation. Repeatedly, he failed. This should have been taken as a sign that there is no democratic will for it. But Obama took these failures exactly the wrong way, deciding that if Congress won't act, he would act on his own.
>
> This is like a soldier deciding that if his officers won't give him permission to shoot, he'll just have to give himself the order to fire.
>
> On climate, Pruitt says the relevant question is "what tools are in the toolbox of this agency to deal with CO2?" Neither Pruitt nor Trump are allowed to put tools in there. Only Congress can. "We're not going to simply just make up our authority," Pruitt said.
>
> Doing exactly what you are called to do by the proper authorities is not a very exciting mission. But such is the lot of conservatism. Executive agencies are role-players, and even the president doesn't get to determine their role. The Constitution is very clear that Congress alone has that power.
>
> We applaud Pruitt's mission of restoring the EPA to its proper shape and size. And we hope he has the humility, the diligence, and the skill to pull it off, for the sake of the Constitution, the economy, and the environment.
>
> The Hill
> http://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/350925-epa-head-visits-harvey-cleanup-in-texas
> EPA Chief Heads To Texas To See Harvey Cleanup
> By Tim Cama, 9/15/17

>
> Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Scott Pruitt traveled to Houston on Friday to see Hurricane Harvey cleanup efforts and survey work by environmental officials.
>
> Pruitt toured the San Jacinto River Waste Pits Superfund site and met with leading federal and state officials involved in environmental oversight of the area's recovery from the historic storm, which dumped more than 40 inches of rain on the area, the agency said.
>
> The EPA chief and his staff have faced criticism on a number of fronts since Harvey hit late last month.
>
> Pruitt, a skeptic of the scientific consensus on climate change, told CNN it was "insensitive" to discuss the role of climate change in the storm during recovery efforts.
>
> In addition, the agency was criticized for not immediately inspecting Superfund sites on the ground after Harvey hit and officials rolled back a chemical plant safety rule earlier this year designed to mitigate incidents like a plant explosion near Houston.
>
> "EPA remains committed to providing the necessary resources and personnel to ensure those affected by the devastation of Hurricane Harvey receive proper agency attention," Pruitt said in a statement after his tour and meetings with EPA, Federal Emergency Management Agency and Texas Council on Environmental Quality officials.
>
> "We continue to work closely with our federal, state, and local partners to ensure Superfund are being properly secured, fuel prices remain stabilized, and infrastructure and environmental assessments are thoroughly carried out," he said.
>
> In addition to the San Jacinto River Waste Pits tour, Pruitt did a flyover tour of six other Superfund cleanup sites in the area, the EPA said.
> The Washington Times
> http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2017/sep/17/donald-trump-leaving-paris-climate-accord-unless-h/
> White House: No Thaw On Paris Climate Accord Unless Trump Gets Better Deal
> By Valerie Richardson, 9/17/17
>
> Trump administration officials said Sunday that the president's stance on the Paris climate agreement hasn't changed: He's open to re-engaging as long as he gets a better deal.
>
> Secretary of State Rex W. Tillerson said the administration would reconsider its decision to withdraw from the accord "under the right conditions," while National Security Adviser H.R. McMaster said President Trump is willing to look at alternatives that fix the "flawed agreement."
>
> "He's out of the Paris climate accord. What he said — the door is open," Mr. McMaster said on "Fox News Sunday." "If you look at what he said on the day that he announced withdrawing from the accord, he said at some point in the future, if there can be a deal that addresses these fundamental flaws, he's open to it."
>
> Mr. Trump announced in June he would pull out of the 2015 agreement, which seeks to limit increases in global temperatures, saying it was "less about climate and more about other countries gaining a financial advantage."
>
> At the time Mr. Trump said that he would be willing to renegotiate the agreement or enter into a new accord that placed less of the economic burden on U.S. companies and workers.
>
> The discussion was spurred by a Saturday Wall Street Journal report saying that a White House adviser suggested a compromise to revise the agreement in exchange for U.S. re-engagement at an international meeting in Montreal, which Mr. McMaster disputed as "false."

>
> “What the president has said is that we are withdrawing from the Paris accord. He left the door open to re-entering at some later time if there can be a better deal for the United States,” Mr. McMaster said on ABC’s “This Week.”
>
> The White House insisted that there has been “no change on the U.S.’ position on the Paris agreement.
>
> “As the president has made abundantly clear, the United States is withdrawing unless we can re-enter on terms that are more favorable to our country,” said White House spokesperson Lindsay Walters.
>
> Environmentalists weren’t holding their breath. “The latest fire drill on the Paris agreement proves only one thing: Donald Trump can’t be trusted,” said Ben Schreiber, Friends of the Earth senior political strategist.
>
> “Even if Trump does decide to stay in the Paris agreement, it will not be a victory for the planet because Trump’s actions have made it clear that he has no intention of doing our fair share on climate change,” said Mr. Schreiber.
>
> Foes of the pact have argued that it represents a wealth transfer to other countries from the U.S., which already leads the world in reducing carbon dioxide emissions, thanks largely to the switch by many power plants from coal to natural gas.
>
> Mr. Tillerson said the accord gave too much to “the second-largest economy in the world, China,” which has seen its carbon emissions climb.
>
> “If you look at those targets in terms of the Paris climate accord, they were just really out of balance for the two largest economies,” Mr. Tillerson said on “Face the Nation” on CBS.
>
> He said National Economic Council Director Gary Cohn is steering the administration’s position on the Paris accord.
>
> “So I think the plan is for Director Cohn to consider other ways in which we can work with partners in the Paris climate accord,” Mr. Tillerson said. “We want to be productive. We want to be helpful. The U.S. actually has a tremendous track record on reducing our own greenhouse gas emissions.”
>
> Ratified so far by 160 countries, the agreement sets a goal of keeping global temperature increases at well below 2 degrees Celsius from pre-industrial levels by 2100.
>
> President Obama ratified the agreement in 2016 by executive action, instead of bringing the accord before the Senate, after it was negotiated at the 2015 U.N. Climate Change Conference in Paris.
> Texas Tribune
> https://www.texastribune.org/2017/09/15/epa-approves-expedited-loan-funding-harvey-related-water-projects/
> EPA Approves Expedited Loan Funding For Harvey-Related Water Projects
> By Katie Riordan, 9/15/17
>
> The Environmental Protection Agency this week approved a request from Texas officials to expedite funding to help local governments restore water and wastewater systems damaged by Hurricane Harvey.
>
> The Texas Water Development Board, which administers an EPA low-interest loan program for the state, asked the federal agency in a Sept. 1 letter for the flexibility to quicken loan distribution procedures. In the letter, the board said loan money could serve as a bridge to meet immediate recovery needs for damaged water systems while local governments wait for other federal aid.
>
> "We’re trying to be another party getting funds to communities when they need them," said Jessica Zuba, the deputy executive administrator of water supply and infrastructure at the TWDB. "In the past,

there's been a feeling that federal funding can take quite a bit of time lag. We wanted to ... use our capacity and funds and bridge some of that time."
>
> Zuba said the board is reaching out to several cities where Harvey's flooding impacted water infrastructure — such as Pearland, south of Houston, and Rose City, outside Beaumont — to talk about recovery funding needs.
> Harvey's flooding had a sweeping impact on water systems across Texas. At least five public drinking systems throughout the state were destroyed by flooding, and 14 systems remain inoperable, according to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. At least 31 waste water facilities are inoperable.
>
> The Texas Water Development Board has about half a billion dollars in loan capacity through the Clean Water State Revolving Fund. This fund has historically provided low-interest loans to cities, districts and other water authorities to finance wastewater infrastructure. But its scope was expanded last year to include more stormwater projects, potentially meaning a large portion of it could be distributed for post-Harvey infrastructure proposals.
>
> "There's a need right now for the interim financing to get communities back online and back serving their customers, and there's also: 'How do we prepare for the next disaster?'" Zuba said.
>
> The fund's large loan capacity could be used for long-term stormwater resiliency projects, Zuba said. This could appeal to cities looking to finance the initial phases of large-scale infrastructure projects and then later rely on federal funding from agencies such as FEMA to continue construction.
>
> Since last August, the TWDB has approved three non-Harvey-related stormwater projects, totaling about $35.5 million. The city of Houston has a $47 million loan application pending to finance stormwater control infrastructure including extensions for flood reduction along Brays Bayou. The city filed this application before Hurricane Harvey hit, and the board expects to review it in October. The TWDB anticipates more applications from Harris County, which includes Houston, as the county's storm recovery plans solidify.
>
> The TWDB has sought assurance from the EPA that its loan financing would not make water projects ineligible for future federal grants as rebuilding from Harvey continues.
>
> Gov. Greg Abbott also got behind the board's request to get infrastructure funding to communities as quickly as possible. He sent his own letter to EPA chief Scott Pruitt, asking for streamlined loan options.
>
> Zuba said it is hard to speculate how many loans applications the TWDB might receive but that volume is expected to increase and cooperation with the federal government is making the process easier.
>
> "The flexibility that the EPA is willing to work with us is a great achievement," she said.
> KOSU 91.7
> http://kosu.org/post/guarded-hope-oklahomas-abandoned-mine-epa-promises-focus-contaminated-sites
> Guarded Hope At Oklahoma's Abandoned Mine As EPA Promises Focus On Contaminated Sites
> By Joe Wertz, 9/15/17
>
> Newly minted U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Scott Pruitt spent his first months on the job steering the agency away from climate change to focus, in part, on cleaning up contaminated sites around the country.
>
> The former Oklahoma attorney general has directed a task force to create a top-10 list of locations that need aggressive attention — welcome news at Superfund sites like Tar Creek in the northeastern corner of the state.
>
> The spot where Kansas, Missouri and Oklahoma meet was once one of the world's largest sources of lead and zinc. About half of the lead and zinc the military needed in World War I was produced here, in 300 miles of caverns hollowed out underneath towns like Picher, Cardin and Commerce.

>
> In 1983, Tar Creek became one of the first sites added to EPA's Superfund list. The law helps identify sites contaminated by dangerous substances, prevents hazards and makes responsible parties pay for cleanup.
>
> Tar Creek is one of the oldest sites on a list of roughly 1,330 Superfund sites across the country. It's large and has a lot of public health risks. It's the kind of cleanup EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt is signaling is a priority.
>
> "There are many that have been on that National Priority List for decades, languishing for direction, leadership, answers," Pruitt told a U.S. House subcommittee in June.
>
> Mining in the tri-state district peaked in the 1920s and stopped by the '70s. The miners left town; Cave-ins, dangerous dust and caustic water remained. Blood tests showed elevated levels of lead in more than 40 percent of children in some communities.
>
> Most residents took buyouts to leave the former mining towns, which are largely abandoned by anyone not driving a truck tasked with hauling off hills of gravelly waste called chat that fill the horizon like moon-colored dunes.
>
> "We're averaging an almost 3,000 tons a day of of chat to the repository," says Craig Kreman, assistant environmental director for the Quapaw tribe.
>
> The chat piles are just one part of the problem. Much of the ore was buried below the water table. When the companies left and stopped pumping the mines dry, the caverns filled up. Water carrying cadmium, lead and other toxic metals bubbles to the surface into Tar Creek and downstream into a critical watershed.
>
> The EPA didn't respond to interview requests. In the testimony on Capitol Hill, representatives pressed Pruitt on how he could champion the Superfund program while simultaneously supporting a budget plan from President Trump that slashes the program's funding by nearly one-third.
>
> "It's more about decision-making, leadership and management than money, presently," he said. Later, Pruitt told the committee he'd push for more funding if he felt it were needed.
>
> Katherine Probst, an independent consultant who has spent 20 years researching and evaluating EPA's Superfund program, says poor funding has plagued the program for decades.
>
> "They don't have the money to clean up an average Superfund site in most states," she says. "They just don't have $25 million to clean up a site."
>
> Superfund was initially funded by a trust fed by taxes on crude oil, chemicals and environmental taxes levied on corporations. Those taxes expired in 1995 and were not reauthorized. The money now comes by way of congressional appropriations. Research from Probst and the U.S. Government Accountability Office shows funding for Superfund has declined for nearly two decades — under Republican and Democratic administrations.
>
> Probst says Superfund sites would benefit from clearing bureaucratic red tape, which Pruitt pledges to do. Technical problems are stalling progress at some sites. Others are delayed by foot-dragging by companies deemed responsible for contamination. Other roadblocks are unknown due to poor data about the sites and the health hazards they pose.
>
> Rebecca Jim, the executive director for L.E.A.D. Agency, says the government's attention to Superfund faded alongside the tax money.
>
> "Superfund is broke," she says.

>
> Jim founded the nonprofit in the mid-'90s to organize and amplify local residents' concerns about the Tar Creek contamination and cleanup. The group's headquarters in nearby Miami has become an information hub about the contaminated site and a community center for local youth.
>
> Jim would like Superfund's stream of tax money restored, but acknowledges that's likely a pipe dream.
>
> "You get a good start in trying to do the clean up, but you just do a little at a time — that's all you can do," she says.
>
> In 2012, the EPA signed an agreement for the Quapaw to lead and manage the Tar Creek project — the first tribal-led cleanup of a federal Superfund site. Earlier this year, the agency awarded the tribe $4.8 million to clean up soil from contaminated tribal lands.
>
> Jim says the tribal management is a positive development for Tar Creek.
>
> "We've got some real hope to start restoring some larger pieces of land, but it costs money," she says.
>
> Top EPA officials recently traveled to northeastern Oklahoma for a tour of the Tar Creek Superfund site. Kreman with the Quapaw says the tribe hopes the agency's visit is a good sign.
>
> "We took them up top a chat pile and they can see, for miles, the effects Tar Creek has had on the environment on the community," he says.
>
> Kreman says Tar Creek still needs tens of millions in federal money to support a cleanup that will likely continue for decades. If Superfund's budget is slashed, Tar Creek will compete with others for a smaller slice of funding.
>
> When the top-10 list comes out, Kreman and Jim hope Tar Creek is on it and that the contamination in their community once again is recognized as one of the country's most polluted places.
>
> "Every single acre is a celebration. Every bit of water that's cleaned up before it enters Tar Creek, that's a celebration," Jim says. "I'm just waiting for the big one. The big joy when it's done."
> The Washington Examiner
> http://www.washingtonexaminer.com/pruitt-deploys-epas-elite-frogmen-in-post-hurricane-inspections/article/2634623
> Pruitt Deploys EPA's Elite Frogmen In Post-Hurricane Inspections
> By John Siciliano, 9/15/17
>
> The Environmental Protection Agency deployed a team of divers Friday to begin inspecting a flooded toxic waste site in Texas in the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey.
>
> "EPA remains committed to providing the necessary resources and personnel to ensure those affected by the devastation of Hurricane Harvey receive proper agency attention," said Administrator Scott Pruitt on Friday after arriving in Houston to tour the Superfund waste sites.
>
> Pruitt began his visit by inspecting the San Jacinto River Waste Pits Superfund site. As Pruitt toured the site, "an EPA dive team" began conducting underwater inspections of the site, the agency said.
>
> "EPA will continue to keep the public informed as assessments of the site continue and site determinations are made by the dive team," the agency added.
>
> EPA has a robust team of divers that dates to its creation in the 1970s. "Our first dive units were established in Seattle and Gulf Breeze, Florida, to support EPA's monitoring, research and emergency response efforts," the agency's website said. "In 2016, we conducted 946 dives involving 65 divers in nine diving units across the country."

>
> EPA's team of environmental divers have some hazardous jobs that include sampling submerged drums of "unknown materials," mapping illegal underwater dump sites, and inspecting waste discharges from seafood processing facilities, to name a few, according to the agency. The divers also can be found assessing the health of seagrass meadows, coral reefs, and other important marine habitats.
>
> Pruitt later left the divers to take to the skies with the Coast Guard for an aerial inspection of other waste cleanup sites.
>
> The New York Times
> https://www.nytimes.com/2017/09/18/opinion/using-the-epa-to-prop-up-big-coal.html
> Using The E.P.A. To Prop Up Big Coal
> The New York Times Editorial Board, 9/18/17
>
> The Trump administration is unflinching in its misbegotten campaign to protect the coal industry from what has become an obvious and inevitable decline. Eight months in, the administration has already killed, or is in the process of killing, rules that would prevent the dumping of coal mining wastes in streams, impose a temporary moratorium on new mine leases in the West, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions from coal-fired power plants — one of President Barack Obama's most important efforts to resist climate change. All of this to prop up an industry whose workers would be best served not by false promises of new mining jobs, but by aggressive programs to retrain them for a changing economy.
>
> The latest ritualistic bow from Scott Pruitt, the administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency who has presented himself as an industry savior, was to order last week a two-year postponement of the Obama administration's tighter controls on lead, mercury, arsenic and other coal plant wastes that threaten human health. Delaying the rule's effective date to November 2020, Mr. Pruitt said, merely "resets the clock."
>
> What it does, rather, is to try to twist the clock back to the day when coal was essentially a monopoly fuel, a day that practical-minded utility executives know is long gone. In fact, these executives are busily shutting down coal-fired plants in favor of more affordable energy sources like natural gas and wind and solar power.
>
> "We're not going to build any more coal plants; that's not going to happen," Chris Beam, head of Appalachian Power, West Virginia's largest utility, bluntly told the state last April, despite President Trump's phantasmagorical campaign promise to resurrect lost jobs for coal miners. No less candid, Lynn Good, the head of Duke Energy, America's largest utility, defended the closing of 12 coal plants across five years, with more to come, in order to cut the company's coal-fired energy output by a third: "Our strategy will continue to be to drive carbon out of our business."
>
> In February, one of the nation's biggest coal-fired plants, the Navajo Generating Station in Arizona, set plans to shut down by the end of 2019 — more than two decades earlier than expected — in order to turn to alternatives, cut consumer prices and shed the notoriety of being the third-worst carbon polluter in the nation, according to the ratings of the (pre-Trump) E.P.A.
>
> While environmental rules have played some role in the closing of coal-fired plants, the main driver is cheaper and abundant natural gas. Coal's use in power generation has been declining since 2007, and by 2016 coal-fired plants produced only 30 percent of the nation's total generation, compared with 50 percent in 2003.
>
> The trend will continue; an estimated 46-plus coal-fired units will close at 25 electricity plants in 16 states over the next five years, according to the Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis. In its outlook for 2017, the institute skewered Mr. Trump's campaign vows, saying, "Promises to create more coal jobs will not be kept — indeed the industry will continue to cut payrolls."
>
> About 60,000 coal industry jobs have been lost since 2011, and three of the four major mining

companies have gone bankrupt, according to a new study by Columbia University's Center on Global Energy Policy. Even so, Mr. Trump remains obstinate in his "war on coal" statements and steadfast to his bloated campaign promises to laid-off miners, despite expert opinion, expressed in the study, that lifting vital environmental controls "will not materially improve" the coal industry's prospects.
>
> It is shocking that an administration led and staffed by supposedly shrewd business executives deliberately overlooks the blossoming of profitable and cleaner energy products simply because of Mr. Trump's hollow showmanship before his campaign base.
>
> Until now, the E.P.A. and the environmental safeguards Congress has ordered it to enforce have been crucial to the development of new technologies. To have Mr. Pruitt sully that history with false promises to a fading industry is irresponsible.
> The Associated Press
>
http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/U/US_TRUMP?SITE=AP&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT&CTIME=2017-09-17-09-16-50
> Trump's Week Anchored By Speech To UN General Assembly
> By Darlene Superville, 9/18/17
>
> President Donald Trump is making his debut at the United Nations and taking his complaints about the world body straight to the source.
>
> In his first appearance as president, Trump on Monday was addressing a U.S.-sponsored event on reforming the 193-member organization he has sharply criticized.
>
> As a candidate for president, Trump labeled the U.N. as weak and incompetent, and not a friend of either the United States or Israel. But he has softened his tone since taking office, telling ambassadors from U.N. Security Council member countries at a White House meeting this year that the U.N. has "tremendous potential."
>
> Trump more recently has praised a pair of unanimous council votes to tighten sanctions on North Korea over its continued nuclear weapon and ballistic missile tests.
>
> Trump's big moment comes Tuesday, when he delivers his first address to a session of the U.N. General Assembly. The annual gathering of world leaders will open amid serious concerns about Trump's priorities, including his policy of "America First," his support for the U.N. and a series of global crises. It will be the first time world leaders will be in the same room and able to take the measure of Trump.
>
> The president and U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres will speak at Monday's reform meeting. The U.S. has asked member nations to sign a declaration on U.N. reforms, and more than 100 have done so. Trump wants the U.N. to cut spending and make other operational changes.
>
> Nikki Haley, the U.S. ambassador to the U.N., said Trump's criticisms were accurate at the time, but that it is now a "new day" at the U.N. An organization that "talked a lot but didn't have a lot of action" has given way to a "United Nations that's action-oriented," she said, noting the Security Council votes on North Korea this month.
>
> Guterres has proposed a massive package of changes, and Haley said the U.N. is "totally moving toward reform."
>
> "We said that we needed to get value for our dollar and what we're finding is the international community is right there with us in support of reform. So it is a new day at the U.N.," she said Sunday on CNN's "State of the Union." She said Trump's pleas had been heard and "what we'll do is see him respond to that."
>
> Trump also planned to hold separate talks Monday with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and

French President Emmanuel Macron. U.S. national security adviser H.R. McMaster said the conversations would be wide-ranging, but that "Iran's destabilizing behavior" would be a major focus of Trump's discussions with both leaders.
>
> Breakthroughs on a Middle East peace agreement are not expected. Jared Kushner, Trump's son-in-law and senior adviser on the issue, recently returned from a trip to the Middle East.
>
> Trump told Jewish leaders on a conference call last week that his team is working very hard to achieve a peace agreement between the Israelis and Palestinians and that he hoped to see "significant progress" on a deal before the end of the year. Trump is scheduled to meet later this week with Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas.
>
> Trump was also hosting a dinner for Latin American leaders. Venezuela, which has been gripped by economic and political turmoil, will be discussed, McMaster said.
>
> The United States is the largest contributor to the U.N. budget, reflecting its position as the world's largest economy. It pays 25 percent of the U.N.'s regular operating budget and over 28 percent of the separate peacekeeping budget - a level of spending that Trump has complained is unfair.
>
> "We need the member states to come together to eliminate inefficiency and bloat, and to ensure that no one nation shoulders a disproportionate share of the burden militarily or financially," Trump told the security council ambassadors as they dined at the White House in April. "This is only fair to our taxpayers."
>
> The Trump administration is conducting a review of the U.N.'s 16 far-flung peacekeeping operations, which cost nearly $8 billion a year. Cutting their costs and making them more effective is a top priority for Haley.
>
> Guterres has said he is totally committed to reforming the U.N. and making it more responsive to the needs of the 21st century world. As for the peacekeeping budget, he said last week that his intention is to do everything possible to make the missions "the most effective" as well as "cost-effective."
>
> The Washington Post
> https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/us-warns-that-time-is-running-out-for-peaceful-solution-with-north-korea/2017/09/17/101dcdea-9bd6-11e7-8ea1-ed975285475e_story.html?utm_term=.0bf313a591cc
> U.S. Warns That Time Is Running Out For Peaceful Solution With North Korea
> By David Nakmura and Anne Gearan, 9/17/17
>
> The Trump administration escalated its rhetoric against North Korea on Sunday, warning that time is running out for a peaceful solution between Kim Jong Un’s regime and the United States and its allies.
>
> Administration officials said the risk from North Korea’s nuclear weapons program is rising, and they underscored that President Trump will confront the looming crisis at the U.N. General Assembly this week. Trump, who spoke by phone with South Korean President Moon Jae-in on Saturday, referred to Kim on Twitter as “Rocket Man” and asserted that “long gas lines” are forming in the North because of recent U.N. sanctions on oil imports.
>
> Though Trump’s top aides emphasized that the administration is examining all diplomatic measures to rein in Pyongyang, they made clear that military options remain on the table.
>
> “If North Korea keeps on with this reckless behavior, if the United States has to defend itself or defend its allies in any way, North Korea will be destroyed,” Nikki Haley, the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, said Sunday on CNN’s “State of the Union.” “None of us want that. None of us want war. But we also have to look at the fact that you are dealing with someone [in Kim] who is being reckless, irresponsible and is continuing to give threats not only to the United States, but to all of its allies. So something is going to have to be done.”

>
> The question remains, however, how realistic the Trump administration's threats are as the North quickly advances its nuclear and ballistic missile capabilities. Trump's latest tweets came two weeks after North Korea tested a nuclear device that experts said measured at 250 kilotons, 17 times the force of the atomic bomb that destroyed Hiroshima in World War II.
>
> Trump warned Kim last month that the North would feel the "fire and fury" of the United States if the regime continued its threats and destabilized the Korean Peninsula and East Asia. But Kim promptly responded with new threats and a round of new weapons tests.
>
>
> Trump is scheduled to join Moon and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe at a working lunch Thursday in New York, on the sidelines of the U.N. meetings, to discuss North Korea, White House aides said. Yet Trump will not have the opportunity to meet with Xi Jinping of China and Vladi-mir Putin of Russia; both leaders are skipping the annual gathering.
>
> Last week, Haley touted the U.N. sanctions on the North, saying that, if enacted, they would cut off 30 percent of oil imports and curtail 90 percent of Kim's exports, putting a major economic pinch on a government that has long struggled to provide for the nation's estimated 25 million people.
>
> Yet Trump said last week that he and Secretary of State Rex Tillerson are skeptical that the sanctions will have a significant impact on North Korea's nuclear ambitions. Administration officials reaffirmed the United States' long-standing policy that the North must agree to relinquish its nuclear arsenal as a prerequisite for direct diplomatic talks.
>
> "He's going to have to give up his nuclear weapons, because the president has said that he is not going to tolerate this regime threatening the United States and our citizens with a nuclear weapon," national security adviser H.R. McMaster said on ABC's "This Week."
>
> Trump, McMaster added, has "been very clear about that, that all options are on the table."
>
> At the same time, the administration signaled that it is not pursuing regime change, a position that could help persuade Beijing to play a stronger role in pressuring Kim. China facilitates about 90 percent of North Korea's trade and provides its oil.
>
> Yet Tillerson said North Korea does not appear to be interested in denuclearization talks.
>
> "I'm waiting for the regime in North Korea to give us some indication that they're prepared to have constructive, productive talks," he said on CBS's "Face the Nation."
>
> "We have tried a couple of times to signal to them that we're ready when they're ready," Tillerson added, "and they responded with more missile launches and a nuclear test. All they need to do to let us know they're ready to talk is to just stop these tests, stop these provocative actions, and let's lower the threat level and the rhetoric."
>
> Many U.S. allies in Europe and elsewhere are strongly opposed to any use of force that could further destabilize the Korean Peninsula and East Asia. The two unanimous U.N. Security Council votes for sanctions in recent weeks have marked a new level of alarm from those allies, as well as Moscow and Beijing.
>
> But McMaster said Washington isn't assuming the sanctions will work or buy time.
>
> "We all have our doubts about whether or not that's going to be enough," he said, "and so we have to prepare all options. We have to make sure all options are under development to ensure that this regime cannot threaten the world with a nuclear weapon."
>

> Analysts have said the North has shown rapid improvements in its ballistic missile and nuclear technologies. Recent missile tests have demonstrated the range to potentially strike the continental United States, along with the technical capacity to mount a miniature nuclear device on a missile, analysts said.
>
> That has accelerated the urgency in Washington, at the White House and on Capitol Hill. Asked on CNN whether the Trump administration should continue to deny the North diplomatic talks until it ends its nuclear program, Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.), a member of the Senate Intelligence Committee, said no.
>
> “I think that North Korea is not going to give up its program with nothing on the table,” she said. “I think that what could happen is that we could have reliable verification of a freeze of both the nuclear program and the missile arsenal, and that we could conceivably talk China into supporting that kind of a freeze, because it would carry with it no regime change and no war.”
>
> The Washington Post
> https://www.washingtonpost.com/national/health-science/shrink-at-least-4-national-monuments-and-modify-a-half-dozen-others-zinke-tells-trump/2017/09/17/a0df45cc-9b48-11e7-82e4-f1076f6d6152_story.html?utm_term=.1b78aa49bdc3
> Shrink At Least 4 National Monuments And Modify A Half-Dozen Others, Zinke Tells Trump
> By Juliet Eilperin, 9/17/17
>
> Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke has recommended that President Trump modify 10 national monuments created by his immediate predecessors, including shrinking the boundaries of at least four western sites, according to a copy of the report obtained by The Washington Post.
>
> The memorandum, which the White House has refused to release since Zinke submitted it late last month, does not specify exact reductions for the four protected areas Zinke would have Trump narrow — Utah’s Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante, Nevada’s Gold Butte, and Oregon’s Cascade-Siskiyou — or the two marine national monuments — the Pacific Remote Islands and Rose Atoll — for which he raised the same prospect. The two Utah sites encompass a total of more than 3.2 million acres, part of the reason they have aroused such intense emotions since their designation.
>
> The secretary’s set of recommendations also would change the way all 10 targeted monuments are managed. It emphasizes the need to adjust the proclamations to address concerns of local officials or affected industries, saying the administration should permit “traditional uses” now restricted within the monuments’ boundaries, such as grazing, logging, coal mining and commercial fishing.
>
> If enacted, the changes could test the legal boundaries of what powers a president holds under the 1906 Antiquities Act. Although Congress can alter national monuments easily through legislation, presidents have reduced their boundaries only on rare occasions.
>
> A section of the canyons within Utah’s Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument. (Douglas C. Pizac/AP)
> The memorandum, labeled “Final Report Summarizing Findings of the Review of Designations Under the Antiquities Act,” shows Zinke concluded after a nearly four-month review that both Republican and Democratic presidents went too far in recent decades in limiting commercial activities in protected areas. The act, signed into law by President Theodore Roosevelt, gives the president wide latitude to protect public lands and waters that face an imminent threat.
>
> “It appears that certain monuments were designated to prevent economic activity such as grazing, mining and timber production rather than to protect specific objects,” the report reads, adding that while grazing is rarely banned “outright,” subsequent management decisions “can have the indirect result of hindering livestock-grazing uses.”
>
> To correct this overreach, Zinke says, Trump should use his authority under the Antiquities Act to

change each of the 10 sites' proclamations to permit activities that are now restricted. These include "active timber management" in Maine's Katahdin Woods and Waters; a broader set of activities in New Mexico's Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks and Rio Grande del Norte; and commercial fishing in the two Pacific Ocean marine monuments, as well as in one off the New England coast, Northeast Canyons and Seamounts.
>
> In most of his recommendations, Zinke suggests Trump amend the existing proclamations "to protect objects and prioritize public access; infrastructure upgrades, repair and maintenance; traditional use; tribal cultural use; and hunting and fishing rights."
>
> The White House is reviewing the recommendations and has not reached a final decision on them. At several points, the memo bears the marker "Draft Deliberative — Not for Distribution."
>
> In an email Sunday, White House spokeswoman Kelly Love said she would not discuss in detail a review that is still underway: "The Trump Administration does not comment on leaked documents, especially internal drafts which are still under review by the President and relevant agencies."
>
> The majority of the monuments listed in the report were established by either President Bill Clinton or President Barack Obama, but the two Pacific Ocean sites were created by President George W. Bush and later expanded by Obama.
>
> "No other administration has gone this far," Kristen Brengel, vice president of government affairs for the National Parks Conservation Association, said of the Trump White House in an interview. "This law was intended to protect places from development, not promote damaging natural and cultural resources."
>
> The secretary urges Trump to request congressional authority "to enable tribal co-management of designated cultural resources" in three ancestral sites: Bears Ears, Rio Grande del Norte and Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks.
>
> At the same time, he proposes not only shrinking the boundaries of Bears Ears but requesting that Congress make less-restrictive designations within it, "such as national recreation areas or national conservation areas." The monument, which contains tens of thousands of cultural artifacts, has become the most prominent symbol of the issues surrounding the Antiquities Act.
>
> Yet Zinke also suggests the administration explore the possibility of establishing three new national monuments that would recognize either African American or Native American history. These include Kentucky's Camp Nelson, an 1863 Union Army outpost where African American regiments trained; the home of murdered civil rights hero Medgar Evers in Jackson, Miss.; and the 130,000-acre Badger-Two Medicine area in Zinke's home state of Montana, which is consider sacred by the Blackfeet Nation.
>
> "This process should include clear criteria for designations and methodology for meeting conservation and protection goals," he writes of these potential designations, adding that this course should be "fully transparent" to allow for public input.
>
> Trump signed an executive order in April directing Zinke to examine any national monument created since Jan. 1, 1996, and spanning at least 100,000 acres. The secretary ultimately included 27 of them, including Katahdin, which is roughly 87,500 acres.
>
> Before submitting Zinke's report to the White House in August, Interior had already announced that six of the monuments under scrutiny would remain unchanged. Zinke's memorandum is silent on the fate of the remaining 11 monuments, including Papahanaumokuakea, which Bush created but Obama expanded to more than 582,578 square miles of land and sea in the northwestern Hawaiian Islands.
>
> Conservative Republicans, including House Natural Resources Committee Chairman Rep. Rob Bishop of Utah, have long been critical of how presidents have used the Antiquities Act. Speaking to reporters last month, Bishop said that the law was not intended "to appoint the president as a dictator" and that

federal officials needed to be more respectful of what state lawmakers and local residents thought of protecting areas near their communities.
>
> Ethan Lane, who directs the Public Lands Council at the National Cattlemen's Beef Association, said in an interview that what administration officials are doing is "going back in to look at these designations and ensuring that groups that are significantly impacted are heard. . . . They're going back and fixing what is wrong with a pretty hurried and nontransparent process."
>
> Grand Staircase-Escalante, which Clinton designated in 1996, later led to a land exchange between Utah and the federal government that was ratified by Congress and incorporated a $14 million buyout of 17 leases held by Andalex Resources Inc. within the monument's boundaries.
>
> Zinke's report notes that the site contains "an estimated several billion tons of coal and large oil deposits" and that the limits of motorized vehicle use there "has created conflict with Kane and Garfield Counties' transportation network."
>
> In the case of the Pacific Remote Islands, the memo notes that before Bush protected it in 2009 "there were Hawaiian and American Samoan longliners and purse seiners vessels operating."
>
> National Geographic explorer in residence Enric Sala, who has conducted scientific surveys in the Pacific Remote Islands Marine National Monument, said in an email that any effort to restart commercial fishing within its boundaries "would not only harm the ecosystem the monument is supposed to protect, but also its ability to help replenish tuna fisheries around it."
>
> While concerns about ranching are raised more frequently than any other objection in the report, Zinke also writes that "border security is a concern resulting from the designation" of Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks near New Mexico's border with Mexico. Both the Homeland Security Department and the Pentagon should assess risks associated with the monument, he suggests, given the proximity of nearby military installations.
>
> U.S. Customs and Border Protection issued a letter in January 2014, before the site was designated, saying it would not impede security and would "significantly enhance the flexibility" of agents patrolling a five-mile strip along the border that was then an official wilderness study area.
>
> Changing the way these monuments are managed, as well as their size, is likely to spur a range of legal challenges. Both Trump's executive order and the report highlight the importance of protecting sites though "the smallest area compatible with the proper care and management of the objects to be protected."
>
> "Throughout the review, the Secretary has seen examples of objects not clearly defined in the proclamation," the report reads. "Examples of such objects are geographic areas, 'viewsheds,' and 'ecosystems.'"
>
> And in Katahdin, which is managed by the National Park Service, the secretary proposes amending its proclamation "to promote a healthy forest through active timber management."
>
> Lucas St. Clair, whose family's foundation donated the land to the federal government last year to create the monument, said he did not understand why the administration would be seeking changes since the Park Service already has the right to cut trees to maintain the property and protect visitors.
>
> "We need to look through the lens of protecting the conservation and recreational values of the monument. I'm not sure if timber management does that," he said.
>
> The Wall Street Journal
> https://www.wsj.com/articles/solar-power-death-wish-1505513718
> Solar Power Death Wish

> By The Wall Street Journal Editorial Board, 9/16/17
>
> Billions of dollars in taxpayer subsidies haven't made the U.S. solar industry competitive, and now two companies want to make it even less so. Suniva Inc., a bankrupt solar-panel maker, and German-owned SolarWorld Americas have petitioned the U.S. International Trade Commission (ITC) to impose tariffs on foreign-made crystalline silicon photovoltaic cells.
>
> Solar cells in the U.S. sell for around 27 cents a watt. The petitioners want to add a new duty of 40 cents a watt. They also want a floor price for imported panels of 78 cents a watt versus the market price of 37 cents. In other words, they want the government to double the cost of the main component used in the U.S. solar industry. Solar electricity prices could rise by some 30% if the ITC says they've been injured by foreign competition—a decision is due by Sept. 22—and the Trump Administration goes along with the tariff request.
>
> U.S. manufacturers won countervailing and antidumping duties against imports from China and Taiwan in 2012 and in 2015. But now they're resorting to Section 201 of the Trade Act of 1974 because they don't need to show they are victims of dumping or foreign government subsidies. They only need to show that imports have harmed them.
>
> The harm is real but that's due to changes in the marketplace. The U.S. solar industry has discovered that its comparative advantage lies not in making panels, a basic product, but in adding value to imported cells and modules. This involves making and installing racking or framing systems and incorporating innovations like trackers that orient toward the sun.
>
> To turn sunshine into energy requires inverters that translate the energy captured on a solar panel into something that can be sent on the electrical grid. While there are fewer than 1,000 jobs in U.S. panel manufacturing, some 260,000 jobs rely on access to imported panels.
>
> Not even the investment firm financing the Suniva legal team for the petition believes in the future of U.S. solar panel manufacturing. SQN Capital Management, which is owed an estimated $51 million by Suniva, wrote a letter in May to the Chinese chamber of commerce indicating that the 201 case would go away if a Chinese company bought Suniva's $55 million in manufacturing equipment.
>
> Higher prices for panels will also hurt utilities that have invested in renewable fuels. In an August 21 letter to the ITC, Diane Denton of Duke Energy wrote that over the last five years Duke has invested heavily in solar and has plans for more. But Duke needs "access to solar CSPV modules at globally-competitive prices" so it can "provide cost-competitive solar power to our customers," Ms. Denton wrote.
>
> The ITC hasn't investigated a 201 trade case since the Bush Administration slapped a 30% tariff on steel imports in 2002. That fiasco cost an estimated 200,000 jobs in U.S. steel-consuming industries before the Administration dropped the tariffs 18 months later.
>
> Solar tariffs would be another destructive exercise that benefits a handful of Suniva and SolarWorld investors at the expense of everyone else—including the rest of the solar industry. This is protectionism at its worst.
>
> The Wall Street Journal
> https://www.wsj.com/articles/california-democrats-target-tesla-1505677365
> California Democrats Target Tesla
> By The Wall Street Journal Editorial Board, 9/18/17
>
> California Democrats have finally found a cause that's worth suspending their environmental passions. The United Automobile Workers are struggling for a presence in Tesla's Fremont plant, and organized labor has called in a political favor.

>

> Since 2010 California has offered a $2,500 rebate to encourage consumers to buy electric vehicles. But last week, at unions' behest, Democrats introduced an amendment to cap-and-trade spending legislation that would require participating manufacturers to get a sign-off from the state labor secretary verifying that they are "fair and responsible in their treatment of workers."
>
> The legislation, which passed Friday, is a direct shot at Tesla. The Clean Vehicle Rebate Project has amounted to a $82.5 million subsidy for the company, giving extra incentive to 32,842 Tesla buyers in seven years.
>
> Tesla's sales have been built with taxpayer support. When Hong Kong cut back its electric-vehicle tax credits earlier this year, Tesla sales dropped to zero in April from nearly 3,000 the month earlier. And when Denmark scaled back incentives last year, electric-car sales plummeted by 70%.
>
> The labor secretary in California is hand-picked by unions and their Democratic allies, and last month the UAW and a few auto workers filed a complaint against Tesla with the National Labor Relations Board, alleging unfair labor practices.
>
> But the plant's employees are doubtless aware of the union's abysmal record in Fremont, which stretches back decades. In the early 1980s, the union's control was so complete that General Motors couldn't fire even workers who drank, used drugs and had sex at the Fremont plant. Roughly one in five workers failed to show up on any given day. The plant closed in 1982—no surprise. Auto workers got a second shot with a GM-Toyota joint venture, but that was shuttered in 2010.
>
> A record of closures and corruption contributed to the UAW's defeat last month at a Mississippi Nissan plant, where workers voted nearly two-to-one against the union. Organized labor needs political coercion because it can't win over workers on its own. As for electric cars and green subsidies, what progressive politicians give away with one hand they want to redistribute with another.
> TRUMP TWEETS
>
>
[cid:image001.jpg@01D33061.C5476DB0]<https://twitter.com/realDonaldTrump/status/909768037787717633> [cid:image002.jpg@01D33061.C5476DB0]
<https://twitter.com/realDonaldTrump/status/909767654432526336>
>
[cid:image003.jpg@01D33061.C5476DB0]<https://twitter.com/realDonaldTrump/status/908643633901039617> [cid:image004.jpg@01D33061.C5476DB0] [cid:image005.jpg@01D33061.C5476DB0]
[cid:image006.jpg@01D33061.C5476DB0] [cid:image007.jpg@01D33061.C5476DB0]
[cid:image008.jpg@01D33061.C5476DB0] [cid:image009.jpg@01D33061.C5476DB0]
>
>
> Michael Abboud
> U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
> Office of Public Affairs
> M: 202-564-6461
>
> <image001.jpg>
> <image002.jpg>
> <image003.jpg>
> <image004.jpg>
> <image005.jpg>
> <image006.jpg>
> <image007.jpg>
> <image008.jpg>
> <image009.jpg>
> <EPA Morning News Highlights 9.18.17.docx>

To: Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy; Jennifer A. Dlouhy[Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy]
From: Wilcox, Jahan
Sent: Tue 1/2/2018 10:01:04 PM
Subject: FYI

KEY TAKEAWAY: "After 40 years in government service, under seven presidents, the Environmental Protection Agency's acting administrator of Dallas-based Region 6 takes his leave confident his agency's charge to protect human health and the environment is intact. Sam Coleman is turning his cowboy boots toward the setting sun by choice, by the way. That needs to be made clear because headlines lately are rife with news of cuts to agency staff, regulations rollbacks, worries the "core mission" has changed and indications that President Donald Trump's campaign comment about the EPA to "get rid of it in almost every form" may be coming to fruition. Coleman expressed no such feelings of worry but described an agency that, like most government agencies, ebbs and flows according to the politics of the day and who is in charge."

Retiring EPA official over Oklahoma says agency survives ebb and flow of politics
The Tulsa World

January 2, 2018

http://www.tulsaworld.com/news/government/retiring-epa-official-over-oklahoma-says-agency-survives-ebb-and/article_7eb8b4a5-fce9-534e-aee6-2fb958760a21.html

After 40 years in government service, under seven presidents, the Environmental Protection Agency's acting administrator of Dallas-based Region 6 takes his leave confident his agency's charge to protect human health and the environment is intact.

Sam Coleman is turning his cowboy boots toward the setting sun by choice, by the way. That needs to be made clear because headlines lately are rife with news of cuts to agency staff, regulations rollbacks, worries the "core mission" has changed and indications that President Donald Trump's campaign comment about the EPA to "get rid of it in almost every form" may be coming to fruition.

Coleman expressed no such feelings of worry but described an agency that, like most government agencies, ebbs and flows according to the politics of the day and who is in charge.

"It's running the way it always has," he said. "The thing about government that I will say is our

democracy always has its problems until you compare it to anything else — and then it looks pretty dag-gum good."

A general assumption that Republican administrations cut environmental agencies and Democrats build them up is not true, he said. President Bill Clinton appointed a commission to examine the agency and cut expenses, Coleman said.

"We've seen reductions in staff through various administrations and seen increases through others," he said. "The Democrats and Republicans are a completely mixed bag."

One of the more difficult transitions in presidential administrations was from Jimmy Carter to Ronald Reagan, he said. Carter issued a number of executive orders late in his term, and Reagan reversed most of them.

Read Carter's memoirs and you may be surprised just how little communication there was between him and Reagan. "There was a lot of animosity that occurred," Coleman said.

"I was lower in the ranks, but I did experience some of that. But you have to understand at that time there was no 24-hour news cycle, no internet; it didn't exist, so you had to find the Washington Post or the New York Times or another major newspaper and drill down into the political section to read a story to find out what was going on."

Now Twitter and 24-hour news create stories out of any little thing that occurs, he said.

"For a lot of that, you kind of roll your eyes a little bit and say, 'It's the same old thing,' " Coleman said.

What makes the difference for the agency is communication with the employees, he said.

"Carter to Reagan to (George H.W.) Bush, Clinton to (George W.) Bush, (Barack) Obama to

Trump, the career employees can always tell a difference, and in a lot of ways that are not totally obvious," Coleman said. "I will say, without getting too specific, some administrations clearly communicate the message — their goals and agenda — better than others."

Coleman said he intended to retire last year, after his wife, Esther, retired (also from the EPA) in 2014. Coleman chuckled. "No, no, I was never her boss," he said.

The departing Obama administration issued a plea to senior staff to stay through the transition to the next administration, he said.

"I agreed to that before the election," Coleman said. "It's just a handshake thing, but you keep your word. I also wanted to make sure the region was under strong new leadership before I left."

Anne Idsal, former general counsel to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, took the reigns of the South Central Region — which includes Oklahoma, Texas, New Mexico, Arkansas, Louisiana and 66 tribal nations — in December.

Coleman said the former attorney "will be a great administrator and excellent for the region."

In his time with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and just under 29 years with the EPA, Coleman said he is blessed to have worked in an area "where you actually could make a difference and see improvements in people's lives."

Coleman guided EPA's response to Hurricane Katrina as the agency's senior federal official for New Orleans.

When he was director of the Superfund Division, he saw the turnaround at Tar Creek, with credit to efforts from Sen. Jim Inhofe and Gov. Brad Henry and tribal leaders to shake loose political and bureaucratic divisions that had the project at a near standstill.

"We were able to turn that around 14, 15 years ago, to create a much better partnership where we could get the work started and actually address the safety of the residents," Coleman said.

He also pointed to the Brownfields Program, which provides grants and technical assistance to communities, states and tribes to clean up and use contaminated properties. The program he calls a game-changer played a part in the development of The Brickyards area of Oklahoma City and the building of ONEOK Field in downtown Tulsa.

"What has grown out of it has been millions in development," he said. "It creates jobs, brings people back to work and re-uses a lot of property that would have otherwise sat idle."

Not all is rosy at the EPA, but Coleman would say that challenges and errors are the stuff of life from which we learn and grow.

"As a career employee, what you have to avoid is passing judgment on a policy," he said. "The people vote, and the president is the president, and he appoints people to establish the policy. I don't have an opinion about one policy versus another; they just are what they are."

###

Jahan Wilcox
EPA
Work Cell: Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy
Work Email: wilcox.jahan@epa.gov

To: Wilcox, Jahan[wilcox.jahan@epa.gov]
From: Jennifer Jacobs (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:)
Sent: Tue 1/2/2018 10:05:36 PM
Subject: Re:FYI

thanks

----- Original Message -----
From: Jahan Wilcox <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>
To: JENNIFER A. DLOUHY, JENNIFER JACOBS
At: 02-Jan-2018 17:01:07

KEY TAKEAWAY: "After 40 years in government service, under seven presidents, the Environmental Protection Agency's acting administrator of Dallas-based Region 6 takes his leave confident his agency's charge to protect human health and the environment is intact. Sam Coleman is turning his cowboy boots toward the setting sun by choice, by the way. That needs to be made clear because headlines lately are rife with news of cuts to agency staff, regulations rollbacks, worries the "core mission" has changed and indications that President Donald Trump's campaign comment about the EPA to "get rid of it in almost every form" may be coming to fruition. Coleman expressed no such feelings of worry but described an agency that, like most government agencies, ebbs and flows according to the politics of the day and who is in charge."

Retiring EPA official over Oklahoma says agency survives ebb and flow of politics
The Tulsa World
January 2, 2018
http://www.tulsaworld.com/news/government/retiring-epa-official-over-oklahoma-says-agency-survives-ebb-and/article_7eb8b4a5-fce9-534e-aee6-2fb958760a21.html

After 40 years in government service, under seven presidents, the Environmental Protection Agency's acting administrator of Dallas-based Region 6 takes his leave confident his agency's charge to protect human health and the environment is intact.

Sam Coleman is turning his cowboy boots toward the setting sun by choice, by the way. That needs to be made clear because headlines lately are rife with news of cuts to agency staff, regulations rollbacks, worries the "core mission" has changed and indications that President Donald Trump's campaign comment about the EPA to "get rid of it in almost every form" may be coming to fruition.

Coleman expressed no such feelings of worry but described an agency that, like most government agencies, ebbs and flows according to the politics of the day and who is in charge.

“It’s running the way it always has,” he said. “The thing about government that I will say is our democracy always has its problems until you compare it to anything else — and then it looks pretty dag-gum good.”

A general assumption that Republican administrations cut environmental agencies and Democrats build them up is not true, he said. President Bill Clinton appointed a commission to examine the agency and cut expenses, Coleman said.

“We’ve seen reductions in staff through various administrations and seen increases through others,” he said. “The Democrats and Republicans are a completely mixed bag.”

One of the more difficult transitions in presidential administrations was from Jimmy Carter to Ronald Reagan, he said. Carter issued a number of executive orders late in his term, and Reagan reversed most of them.

Read Carter’s memoirs and you may be surprised just how little communication there was between him and Reagan. “There was a lot of animosity that occurred,” Coleman said.

“I was lower in the ranks, but I did experience some of that. But you have to understand at that time there was no 24-hour news cycle, no internet; it didn’t exist, so you had to find the Washington Post or the New York Times or another major newspaper and drill down into the political section to read a story to find out what was going on.”

Now Twitter and 24-hour news create stories out of any little thing that occurs, he said.

“For a lot of that, you kind of roll your eyes a little bit and say, ‘It’s the same old thing,’ ” Coleman said.

What makes the difference for the agency is communication with the employees, he said.

“Carter to Reagan to (George H.W.) Bush, Clinton to (George W.) Bush, (Barack) Obama to Trump, the career employees can always tell a difference, and in a lot of ways that are not totally obvious,” Coleman said. “I will say, without getting too specific, some administrations clearly communicate the message — their goals and agenda — better than others.”

Coleman said he intended to retire last year, after his wife, Esther, retired (also from the EPA) in 2014. Coleman chuckled. “No, no, I was never her boss,” he said.

The departing Obama administration issued a plea to senior staff to stay through the transition to the next administration, he said.

“I agreed to that before the election,” Coleman said. “It’s just a handshake thing, but you keep your word. I also wanted to make sure the region was under strong new leadership before I left.”

Anne Idsal, former general counsel to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, took the reigns of the South Central Region — which includes Oklahoma, Texas, New Mexico, Arkansas, Louisiana and 66 tribal nations — in December.

Coleman said the former attorney “will be a great administrator and excellent for the region.”

In his time with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and just under 29 years with the EPA, Coleman said he is blessed to have worked in an area “where you actually could make a difference and see improvements in people’s lives.”

Coleman guided EPA’s response to Hurricane Katrina as the agency’s senior federal official for New Orleans.

When he was director of the Superfund Division, he saw the turnaround at Tar Creek, with credit to efforts from Sen. Jim Inhofe and Gov. Brad Henry and tribal leaders to shake loose political and bureaucratic divisions that had the project at a near standstill.

“We were able to turn that around 14, 15 years ago, to create a much better partnership where we could get the work started and actually address the safety of the residents,” Coleman said.

He also pointed to the Brownfields Program, which provides grants and technical assistance to communities, states and tribes to clean up and use contaminated properties. The program he calls a game-changer played a part in the development of The Brickyards area of Oklahoma City and the building of ONEOK Field in downtown Tulsa.

“What has grown out of it has been millions in development,” he said. “It creates jobs, brings people back to work and re-uses a lot of property that would have otherwise sat idle.”

Not all is rosy at the EPA, but Coleman would say that challenges and errors are the stuff of life from which we learn and grow.

“As a career employee, what you have to avoid is passing judgment on a policy,” he said. “The people vote, and the president is the president, and he appoints people to establish the policy. I don’t have an opinion about one policy versus another; they just are what they are.”

###

Jahan Wilcox
EPA
Work Cell: Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy
Work Email: wilcox.jahan@epa.gov<mailto:wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>