

The U.S. Army Regional Environmental & Energy Office

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The REGION WESTERN REVIEW publishes environmental and energy related developments for DOD/Army leaders and installation staff. Covering the six states in Federal Region 8, the Western Review gives early notice of legislative and regulatory activities relevant to DOD interests. The Review also helps 14001 environmental installations meet ISO management system requirements.

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STREAMLINED REQUIREMENTS FOR INTEGRATED NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLANNING

The Sikes Act requires the DOD to develop and implement Integrated Natural Resource Management Plans (INRMPs) for military lands that have significant natural resources. It is DOD policy to review INRMPS annually, and a statutory requirement to have INRMPS reviewed by relevant state agencies and the Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) every five years.

In a joint effort, the FWS, state agencies, and DOD have been working to streamline processes for making minor updates to existing INRMPs.

A first step in this effort began with the 2013 *Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the DOD and FWS and the Association of Wildlife Agencies.* The MOU furthers a cooperative relationship between the FWS, states, and DOD in preparing, reviewing, revising, updating, and implementing INRMPs.

In June 2015, FWS released updated guidance for FWS personnel reviewing minor changes to INRMPs. The updated FWS guidance is titled *Guidelines for Coordination on Integrated Natural Resource Management Plans*.

In July 2015, DOD released its new Guidelines for Streamlined INRMP Review. The guidelines clarify and describe the process for review and concurring on updates to existing IMRMPs. According to the DOD, the new guidelines will:

- Facilitate faster review and approval of INRMPs requiring updates;
- Reduce the number of non-compliant INRMPs; and
- Improve coordination and collaboration among installation personnel and FWS regional reviewers.

Under the MOU and new guidance, INRMP updates are classified as minor changes if they do not result in new biophysical effects, do not change the management prescriptions set forth in the INRMP, and do not require analysis under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) nor associated public review.

Region 8

For more information or to comment on any state issues in Region 8, contact Julia Miller, Region 8 Program Coordinator (303) 844-0952.





TOXICS

RADIATION CONTROL The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE), Hazardous Material and Waste Management Division adopted minor amendments to rules governing radiation control. The revisions to Title 6 Colorado Code of Regulation (CCR) 1007-1 Part 04 (Radiation Control – Standards for Protection Against Radiation) add language specific to the handling and recordkeeping for decay-in-storage consistent with other regulatory parts and make various housekeeping corrections. The final rule is effective 14 AUG 15.

WATER

WATER QUALITY STANDARDS: ARKANSAS RIVER BASIN CDPHE adopted amendments to its classifications and numeric standards for the Arkansas River Basin, Regulation 32, codified at 5 CCR 1002-32. The amendments address new temporary modifications of water quality standards and temporary modifications expiring on or before 31 DEC 16, and new site-specific standards that allow for the deletion of current temporary modifications. The final rule was effective 30 JUN 15.

WATER AND WASTEWATER FACILITY OPERATORS CERTIFICATION CDPHE adopted revisions to its water and wastewater facility operator certification requirements, Regulation 100, codified at 5 CCR 1003-2. The revisions include grammatical corrections, stylistic changes, and the use of simple declarative sentences when possible to avoid confusion or ambiguity. The final rule is effective 30 AUG 15.

LEGISLATIVE DEVELOPMENTS

The Colorado 2015 legislative session began 14 JAN 15 and adjourned 6 MAY 15. For more information about legislation in 2015, refer to the July 2015 edition of the Review.



AIR

MONTANA SIP: PM2.5 The Montana Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) is requesting public comment on a proposed certification of adequacy of the Montana State Implementation Plan (SIP) for attaining and maintaining the 2012 revised national ambient air quality standards (NAAQS) for fine particulate matter (PM2.5). Comments are due 31 AUG 15. To view an executive summary of the proposal, click here.

YELLOWSTONE COUNTY NONATTAINMENT AREA MDEQ is requesting public comment on proposed revisions to the Montana SIP. MDEQ is proposing to submit a request to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to redesignate the Yellowstone County sulfur dioxide (SO₂) nonattainment area to attainment and to approve the proposed Yellowstone County attainment area maintenance plan. Comments were due 12 AUG 15.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Noxious WEED LIST The Montana Department of Agriculture adopted amendments to the state noxious weed list and regulated plant list. The rulemaking amended the plant species identified in Administrative Rules of Montana (ARM) 4.5.206 (Priority 1A), 4.5.208 (Priority 2A), 4.5.209 (Priority 2B), and 4.5.210 (Priority 3 Regulated Plants). The final rule was effective 31 JUL 15.

TOXICS

ASBESTOS PROJECT PERMITTING MDEQ is proposing to amend rules associated with its asbestos project permit program, including revisions to training provider requirements, permit fees, accreditation and accreditation renewal fees, and course approval and renewal fees. MDEQ is also proposing to repeal rules pertaining to course audit fees. The proposed amendments would increase fees for department-issued accreditations, training course providers, and asbestos projects. The rulemaking would amend ARM 17.74.359, 17.74.364, 17.74.401, 17.74.402, and 17.74.403 and repeal ARM 17.74.404. A public hearing is scheduled for 20 AUG 15. Comments are due 27 AUG 15.

LEGISLATIVE DEVELOPMENTS

The Montana 2015 legislative session began 5 JAN 15 and adjourned 28 APR 15. For information about legislation in 2015, refer to the May 2015 edition of the Review.



LEGISLATIVE DEVELOPMENTS

The North Dakota 2015 legislative session began 6 JAN 15 and adjourned 29 APR 15. For information about legislation in 2015, refer to the May 2015 edition of the Review.



AIR

CONFORMITY WITH FEDERAL AIR RULES The South Dakota Department of Environment and Natural Resources is proposing to adopt revised federal regulations, clarify existing regulations, and streamline the existing air quality permitting process for specific types of operations. The purpose of the revisions to Article 74:36 is to align state rules with federal requirements to maintain approval of South Dakota's air quality program. Comments are due 18 AUG 15. A public hearing is scheduled for 20 AUG 15. Click here to view the proposed rule text.

LEGISLATIVE DEVELOPMENTS

The South Dakota 2015 legislative session began 13 JAN 15 and adjourned 30 MAR 15. For information about legislation in 2015, refer to the April 2015 edition of the Review.



TOXICS

PCBs The Utah Department of Environmental Quality (UDEQ) is proposing amendments to rule R315-15-18 (Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs)). The revisions would:

- Correct PCB concentration limits to reflect concentration limits found under federal rules;
- Remove an option to use generator knowledge for dielectric oil that is not allowed in federal rule;
- Require testing or generator knowledge for all other oils as required by federal rule; and
- Reword some sections of the rule to improve clarity.

Comments are due 5 NOV 15.

LICENSES FOR RADIOACTIVE MATERIALS UDEQ released revisions to its proposal to adopt amendments to rule R313-22 (Specific Licenses). The amendments are intended to align state rules with federal requirements and make the licensing process more efficient and effective. UDEQ is proposing to make requirements for distributors of radioactive material clearer, less prescriptive, more risk-informed, and up-to-date. The amendments redefine categories of devices to be used under exemptions, add explicit provisions regarding the sealed source and device registration process, and add flexibility to the licensing of users of sealed sources and devices. The final rule may become effective as early as 21 AUG 15.

WATER

WATER CONSERVATION: EXECUTIVE ORDER Utah Governor Gary Herbert issued Executive Order (EO) 2015-4, Water Conservation. The EO directs state agencies and state owned and state managed buildings to comply with specific indoor and outdoor water conservation measures.

WATER HAULING AND DISTRIBUTION UDEQ is proposing to amend state rules for hauling water, R309-550-10 (Water Hauling). The amendments would align state rules with current departmental practice, which requires all public water systems, community and non-community, to submit proposals for water hauling to the director for approval. The existing rule only specifies that non-community water systems submit proposals for water hauling to the director for approval. Comments are due 31 AUG 15.

LEGISLATIVE DEVELOPMENTS

The Utah 2015 legislative session began 16 JAN 15 and adjourned 12 MAR 15. For information about legislation in 2015, refer to the April 2015 edition of the Review.



AIR

WYOMING AIR QUALITY STANDARDS AND REGULATIONS The Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality (WDEQ) is proposing a suite of revisions to state air quality rules. The department is proposing revisions to Chapter 2 (Ambient Standards) and Chapter 6 (Permitting Requirements). Revisions to Chapter 2 would adopt the federal PM2.5 NAAQS and update the edition of the Code of Federal Regulation (CFR) incorporated by reference to 1 JUL 14. Revisions to Chapter 6 would be updated to include specific nonattainment new source review permit requirements and update the

edition of the CFR adopted by reference to 1 JUL 14. Revisions that affect the SIP will be submitted to EPA for approval. Comments are due 31 AUG 15. A public hearing is scheduled for 9 SEP 15.

WATER

INTEGRATED 303(b) AND 303(d) REPORT WDEQ released a revised draft of the 2014 integrated 303(b) and 303(d) report. Section 303(b) of the Clean Water Act (CWA) requires that a report of the surface water quality condition of each state be provided to the EPA every two years by April 1st of even numbered years. Section 303(d) requires that a list of the impaired and threatened waters requiring total maximum daily loads (TMDLs) be submitted to EPA for approval. Wyoming's Integrated 305(b) and 303(d) Report combines the requirements of both sections into a single document.

LEGISLATIVE DEVELOPMENTS

The Wyoming 2015 legislative session began 13 JAN 15 and adjourned 6 MAR 15. For information about legislation in 2015, refer to the April 2015 edition of the Review.

Department of Defense Activity

DOD CLIMATE CHANGE REPORT The DOD released a report titled *National Security Implications of Climate-Related Risks and a Changing Climate*. The report states that global climate change will have wide-ranging implications for U.S. national security interests over the foreseeable future because it will aggravate existing problems that threaten domestic stability in a number of countries. The report identified four general areas of climate-related security risks:

- Persistently recurring conditions such as flooding, drought, and higher temperatures increase the strain on
 fragile states and vulnerable populations by dampening economic activity and burdening public health through
 loss of agriculture and electricity production, the change in known infectious disease patterns and the rise of
 new ones, and increases in respiratory and cardiovascular diseases. This could result in increased intra- and
 inter-state migration, and generate other negative effects on human security.
- More frequent and/or more severe extreme weather events that may require substantial involvement of DOD
 units, personnel, and assets in humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HA/DR) abroad and in Defense
 Support of Civil Authorities (DSCA) at home.
- Sea level rise and temperature changes lead to greater chance of flooding in coastal communities and increase
 adverse impacts to navigation safety, damages to port facilities and cooperative security locations, and
 displaced populations. Sea level rise may require more frequent or larger-scale DOD involvement in HA/DR
 and DSCA. Measures will also likely be required to protect military installations, both in the United States and
 abroad, and to work with partner nations that support DOD operations and activities.
- Decreases in Arctic ice cover, type, and thickness will lead to greater access for tourism, shipping, resource
 exploration and extraction, and military activities. Land access—which depends on frozen ground in the
 Arctic—will diminish as permafrost thaws. These factors may increase the need for search and rescue
 capabilities, monitoring of increased shipping and other human activity, and the capability to respond to crises
 or contingencies in the region.

Federal Activity

AIR

GHG EMISSIONS AND FUEL EFFICIENCY STANDARDS FOR MEDIUM- AND HEAVY-DUTY ENGINES AND VEHICLES EPA and the Department of Transportation (DOT) are proposing to establish a comprehensive national program that will reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and fuel consumption for new on-road heavy-duty vehicles (80 FR 40137). The standards would be phased in, beginning with the 2018 model year over a 10-year period. DOT's proposed fuel consumption standards and EPA's proposed carbon dioxide (CO_2) emission standards are tailored to each of four regulatory categories of heavy-duty vehicles: combination tractors, trailers used in combination with those tractors, heavy-duty pickup trucks and vans, and vocational vehicles. The proposal also includes separate standards for the engines that power combination tractors and vocational vehicles. In addition, EPA is proposing hydrofluorocarbon standards to control leakage from air conditioning systems in vocational vehicles and nitrous oxide (N_2O) and methane (CH_4) standards for heavy-duty engines. Public hearings were scheduled for 6 and 18 AUG 15. Comments are due 11 SEP 15.

AIRCRAFT GHG EMISSIONS EPA is proposing to find that GHG emissions from aircraft engines contribute to climate change, endangering public health and welfare (80 FR 37757). EPA is taking comment on when carbon standards should take effect, how stringent they should be, and whether standards should apply only to newly designed aircraft or to designs already in production. In addition, EPA issued an Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking that provides information on the process for setting international CO₂ emissions standards for aircraft at the International Civil Aviation Organization (IACO). It also describes and seeks input on issues related to setting an international CO₂ standard for aircraft and the potential adoption of a corresponding domestic aircraft engine standard. The proposed endangerment finding and rulemaking would not apply to military aircraft. A public hearing was held 11 AUG 15. Comments are due 31 AUG 15. For more information, click here.

PROPOSED CONSENT DECREE: NESHAP FOR POTW SOURCE CATEGORY Under the terms of a proposed consent decree, EPA would agree to review, and revise if necessary, national emission standards for hazardous air pollutants (NESHAP) for the publicly owned treatment works (POTW) source category under 40 CFR Part 63 Subpart VVV (80 FR 38444). Comments were due 5 AUG 15. Under the terms of the agreement, EPA would propose any new POTW NESHAP by 8 DEC 16 and take final action by 16 OCT 17.

SNAP DETERMINATIONS EPA announced a determination of acceptability expanding the list of acceptable substitutes pursuant to EPA's significant new alternatives policy (SNAP) program (80 FR 42053). This action lists as acceptable additional substitutes for use in the refrigeration and air conditioning, foam blowing, solvent cleaning, aerosols, and adhesives, coatings, and inks sectors. The final rule was effective 16 JUL 15.

SNAP: CHANGE OF LISTING STATUS EPA is changing the listing status of certain substitutes under the SNAP program (80 FR 42869). The rulemaking changes the listing status from acceptable to unacceptable, acceptable subject to use conditions, or acceptable subject to narrowed use limits for a number of hydrofluorocarbons in various end-uses in the aerosols, refrigeration and air conditioning, and foam blowing sectors. EPA is allowing continued use of a number of foam blowing agents in military or space- and aeronautics-related applications, subject to narrowed use limits. The final rule is effective 19 AUG 15. Click here to view a fact sheet.

INADEQUATE SIPs EPA announced that 24 states failed to submit infrastructure SIPs to satisfy certain requirements of the Clean Air Act (CAA) with respect to the 2008 8-hour ozone NAAQS (80 FR 39961). Specifically, these requirements pertain to significant contribution to nonattainment, or interference with maintenance, of the 2008 8-hour ozone

NAAQS in other states. EPA will promulgate a Federal Implementation Plan if the state fails to submit the required infrastructure SIP in a timely manner. The finding is effective 12 AUG 15. States that failed to make timely interstate transport SIP submittals are:

- Region I: Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Vermont
- Region III: Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia
- Region IV: Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee
- Region V: Illinois, Michigan, Minnesota
- Region VI: Arkansas, New Mexico, Oklahoma
- Region VII: Iowa, Kansas, Missouri
- Region IX: California

DISPERSION MODELING SYSTEM AND OZONE AND FINE PARTICULATE MATTER EPA has proposed revising the guideline on Air Quality Models (80 FR 45339). The guideline is incorporated into EPA regulations to specify models to be used in the Prevention of Significant Deterioration (PSD) program. It provides EPA-preferred models and other recommended techniques, as well as guidance for their use in predicting ambient concentrations of air pollutants. The proposed revisions include enhancements to EPA's near-field dispersion modeling system and incorporation of a tiered demonstration approach to address formation of ozone and ozone precursors (PM2.5). The revisions are intended to streamline the compliance assessment process.

MONTANA NONATTAINMENT DETERMINATIONS EPA is finalizing two separate and independent determinations regarding the Libby, Montana, nonattainment area for the 1997 annual PM2.5 NAAQS (80 FR 40911). First, EPA is determining that the Libby nonattainment area attained the 1997 annual PM2.5 NAAQS by the applicable attainment date of April 2010. Second, EPA is finalizing that the Libby nonattainment area has continued to attain the 1997 annual PM2.5 NAAQS. The final rule is effective 13 AUG 15.

NORTH DAKOTA SIP EPA is proposing to approve revisions to the North Dakota SIP that address NAAQS for ozone (2008), lead (2008), and nitrogen dioxide (NO_2) (2010) (80 FR 41450). EPA is also proposing to approve actions related to the 2006 PM2.5 NAAQS. Comments are due 14 AUG 15.

SOUTH DAKOTA SIP EPA is proposing to approve revisions to the South Dakota SIP (80 FR 40952). Revisions to Administrative Rules of South Dakota (ARSD) Article 74:36 (Air Pollution Control Program) include grammatical changes, renumbering, revisions to the date of incorporation by reference of the federal regulations referenced throughout the article, and removal of obsolete language regarding variance provisions and clean units. Comments were due 13 AUG 15.

WYOMING SIP EPA is approving revisions to the Wyoming SIP that update its ambient air quality standards with regard to the 1-hour sulfur dioxide (SO₂) and secondary SO₂ NAAQS (80 FR 45607). The final rule is effective 29 SEP 15, unless the agency received adverse comment by 31 AUG 15.

ENERGY

FEDERAL BUILDING METERING IMPLEMENTATION PLAN TEMPLATE The Department of Energy's (DOE's) Federal Energy Management Program (FEMP) developed a template to assist agencies in complying with its November 2014 Federal Building Metering Guidance. The guidance defines which buildings are appropriate to meter, provides metering prioritization recommendations for those agencies with limited resources, and requires that a metering implementation plan be submitted to DOE describing the agency's five-year plan. Metering implementation plans are due November 2015.

ELECTRIC GRID SELF-ASSESSMENT TOOL FOR DISTRIBUTION SYSTEMS DOE'S Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability issued a request for information (RFI) on the design and implementation of a proposed tool to aid in understanding the relative resilience level of electric grid distributions systems (80 FR 37606). DOE is developing,

through a pilot, an interactive self-assessment tool to understand the relative resilience level of national electric grid distribution systems to extreme weather events. The department anticipates that an interactive tool could be used by distribution utilities to identify opportunities for enhancing resilience with new technologies and/or procedures to support investment planning and related tariff filings. Comments are due 17 AUG 15.

NATIONAL Power Transformer Reserve DOE is seeking public comment on the possible establishment of a national reserve of power transformers that would support the bulk power grid, and the design and implementation of such a National Power Transformer Reserve Program (80 FR 39422). Large Power Transformers (LPTs) have long been a concern for the U.S. electricity sector because the failure of a single unit can interrupt electricity service to a large number of customers, be difficult to replace, and lead to collateral damage. LPTs are large, custom- designed pieces of equipment that entail a significant capital expenditure and a long lead-time to manufacture and ship. They are not usually interchangeable. DOE is requesting comment on specific questions including whether it is technically feasible to develop a reserve of large power transformers when most are custom engineered. Comments are due 24 AUG 15.

HAZMAT

PIPELINE DAMAGE PREVENTION PROGRAMS The Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) issued a final rule intended to strengthen state programs to enforce damage prevention programs (80 FR 43835). Better, more effective enforcement of state excavation damage prevention laws, such as the requirement to "call before you dig," is important to reduce pipeline excavation damage incidents. Though all states have a damage prevention program, some states may not adequately enforce their state damage prevention laws. Pursuant to the PIPES (Pipeline Inspection, Protection, Enforcement and Safety) Act of 2006, this final rule amends federal pipeline safety regulations to establish the following:

- Criteria and procedures PHMSA will use to determine the adequacy of state pipeline excavation damage prevention law enforcement programs;
- An administrative process for states to contest notices of inadequacy from PHMSA should they elect to do so;
- The federal requirements PHMSA will enforce against excavators for violations in states with inadequate excavation damage prevention law enforcement programs; and
- The adjudication process for administrative enforcement proceedings against excavators where federal authority is exercised.

MULTI-MEDIA

REPORT ON THE ENVIRONMENT EPA announced the release of the final web-based Report on the Environment (80 FR 44104). The report is a comprehensive source of scientific indicators that describe the status and trends in the nation's environment and human health condition. The indicators help to answer important questions for EPA about the current status and historical trends in U.S. air, water, land, human health, and ecological condition at the national and regional levels. These indicators are based on data collected by EPA, other federal and state agencies, and non-governmental organizations. They meet high standards for data quality, objectivity, and utility. The Report on the Environment provides status and trends; it does not analyze or diagnose the reasons for, and relationships between, trends in stressors and environmental and health outcomes.

SOUTH DAKOTA: CROSS-MEDIA ELECTRONIC REPORTING EPA approved South Dakota's request to revise certain of its EPA-authorized programs to allow electronic reporting (80 FR 38196). The rulemaking authorizes the state to implement electronic reporting for its EPA-authorized programs under 40 CFR:

- Part 122 (National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System);
- Part 403 (General Pretreatment Regulations for Existing and New Source of Pollution); and
- Part 503 (State Sludge Management Program Regulations).

The final approval was effective 2 JUL 15.

WYOMING: CROSS-MEDIA ELECTRONIC REPORTING EPA approved Wyoming's request to revise certain of its EPA-authorized programs to allow electronic reporting (80 FR 38197). The rulemaking authorizes the state to implement electronic reporting for its EPA-authorized programs under 40 CFR:

- Part 122 (National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System);
- Part 145 (State Underground Injection Control Programs); and
- Part 239 (Requirements for State Permit Program Determination of Adequacy).

The final approval was effective 2 JUL 15.

NATURAL RESOURCES

GUIDANCE: ASSESSING ANTHROPOGENIC SOUND ON MARINE MAMMALS The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) released revised draft guidance for assessing the effects of anthropogenic sound on marine mammal species under its jurisdiction (i.e., whales, dolphins, porpoises, seals, and sea lions) (80 FR 45642). The draft guidance provides updated received levels, or thresholds, above which individual marine mammals are predicted to experience changes in their hearing sensitivity (either temporary or permanent) for all underwater anthropogenic sound sources. This guidance is intended to be used by National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) analysts and managers and other relevant user groups and stakeholders, including other federal agencies, when seeking to determine whether and how their activities are expected to result in particular types of impacts to marine mammals via acoustic exposure. Comments are due 14 SEP 15.

OBAMA ESTABLISHES THREE NATIONAL MONUMENTS On 15 JUL 15, President Obama established the Basin and Range National Monument in southeast Nevada (80 FR 41967), the Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument in northern California (80 FR 41975), and the Waco Mammoth National Monument in Waco, Texas (80 FR 41983). The Basin and Range National Monument, located east of the proposed Yucca Mountain Nuclear Waste Repository, encompasses approximately 704,000 acres and is managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). The Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument encompasses approximately 330,780 acres and is managed by the U.S. Forest Service and BLM. The Waco Mammoth National Monument encompasses approximately seven acres and is managed by the National Park Service, which is authorized to enter into agreements with the city of Waco, Baylor University, and the Waco Mammoth Foundation to further the purposes of the monument.

UAS TO MONITOR PROTECTED SPECIES NMFS prepared a draft Programmatic Environmental Assessment (PEA) that evaluates the potential environmental impacts of scientific research or enhancement activities involving unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) for monitoring protected species (80 FR 39077). The objectives of using UAS for research and enhancement may include determining the abundance, distribution, movement patterns, behavior, health and fitness, and stock structure of protected species (i.e., marine mammals and sea turtles) found in U.S. territorial and international waters and coastal areas. The purpose of the draft PEA is to assess impacts of UAS on protected species to support issuance of future permits and permit amendments. Comments were due 7 AUG 15.

Public-Private Agreements to Enhance Montana Sage-Grouse Conservation A new agreement signed by local, state, and federal leaders will streamline and coordinate sage-grouse conservation efforts on private lands in Montana. The U.S. Department of Agiculture's (USDA's) Natural Resouces Conservation Service (NRCS), the state of Montana, and the Soil and Water Conservation Districts of Montana Inc. signed a MOU to enhance joint efforts to conserve privately owned working rangelands that provide habitat for sage-grouse. The agreement provides the framework for cooperation, streamlining protection and enhancement of sage-grouse habitat on privately-owned working rangelands. Through the MOU, partners will be able to better explore innovative approaches to sage-grouse habitat conservation and management, promote voluntary and incentive-based approaches for delivery, and strategically align their collective resources to alleviate threats facing sage-grouse and ranching.

OTHER

NATIONAL STRATEGIC COMPUTING INITIATIVE President Obama issued an EO titled *Creating a National Strategic Computing Initiative*, which seeks to maximize the benefits of high-performance computing (HPC) research, development, and deployment. The EO establishes the policy of the United States to sustain and enhance its scientific, technological, and economic leadership position in HPC research, development, and deployment through a coordinated federal strategy. The EO also establishes the National Strategic Computing Initiative (NSCI) and NSCI Executive Council to implement the strategy. The three lead agencies for the NSCI are the DOE, DOD, and the National Science Foundation. The council will, within 90 days, establish an implementation plan to support and align efforts across agencies in support of the NSCI objectives. Annually thereafter for five years, the council will update the implementation plan as required and document progress.

SUSTAINABILITY

GSA Acquisition Policy Incorporates Sustainability The General Services Administration (GSA) updated parts 523 and 570 of the GSA Acquisition Manual to integrate sustainability policies. The policy institutionalizes, for GSA acquisitions, the use of the "Green Procurement Compilation" and reporting of sustainability data for individual procurements in Federal Procurement Data System.

THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES

PETITIONS FOR THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES FWS and NMFS extended the public comment period on their May 2015 proposal to revise their regulations governing petitions for threatened and endangered species conservation (80 FR 42465). The revisions would clarify and enhance the procedures by which the services will evaluate petitions under Endangered Species Act (ESA) Section 4(b)(3). The proposed changes are also intended to streamline the processes by which the services process petitions. The public comment period was extended to 18 SEP 15.

STATUS REVIEWS FOR 21 OF 31 SPECIES FWS announced that it will conduct status reviews for 21 species (80 FR 37568). The agency had received petitions to list 30 species and reclassify one species. The agency will conduct status reviews for the alligator snapping turtle, Apalachicola kingsnake, Arizona toad, Blanding's turtle, Cascade Caverns salamander, Cascades frog, Cedar Key mole skink, foothill yellow-legged frog, gopher frog, green salamander, Illinois chorus frog, Kern Canyon slender salamander, Key ringneck snake, Oregon slender salamander, Relictual slender salamander, Rim Rock crowned snake, Rio Grande cooter, silvery phacelia, Southern hog-nosed snake, spotted turtle, and Western spadefoot toad. Comments are due 31 AUG 15.

WASTE

FINAL CLARIFICATIONS TO COAL ASH DISPOSAL RULE EPA issued clarifications to its April 2015 final rule regulating the disposal of coal combustion residuals (CCR) as solid waste under Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) Subtitle D (80 FR 37988). The rulemaking clarifies the final rule is effective 19 OCT 15.

PCB MANIFEST CORRECTIONS EPA issued a technical amendment to correct the item number reference for the Special Handling Instructions Box in 40 CFR Part 761.207(a)(1), (2), and (3) (80 FR 37994). The technical amendment amends the final rule by revising sections 761.207(a)(1), (2), and (3) to correctly identify the item number as 14. The final rule was effective 2 JUL 15.

WATER

NEW UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANK REGULATIONS EPA adopted amendments to its 1988 underground storage tank (UST) regulation and state program approval regulation (80 FR 41565). The revisions:

- Add secondary containment requirements for new and replaced tanks and piping;
- Add operator training requirements;
- Add periodic operation and maintenance requirements for UST systems;
- Address UST systems deferred in the 1988 UST regulation;
- Add new release prevention and detection technologies;
- Update codes of practice;
- Make editorial corrections and technical amendments; and
- Update state program approval requirements to incorporate these new changes.

The final rule addresses UST systems deferred in the 1988 UST regulation by removing the deferral and regulating UST systems with field-constructed tanks, airport hydrant fuel distribution systems that meet the UST definition, and UST systems storing fuel solely for use by emergency power generators. Aboveground storage tanks associated with UST systems with field-constructed tanks or with airport hydrant fuel distribution systems are partially excluded in the final UST regulation. The final rules are effective 13 OCT 15. For more information, click here.

Surface Water Protection From Coal Mining The U.S. Department of Interior, Office of Surface Mining and Reclamation is proposing a new environmental regulation to prevent or minimize impacts to surface water from coal mining operations (80 FR 44435). The proposed Stream Protection Rule would revise regulations for coal mining, codified at 30 CFR Chapter VII, that have been in place since 1983. The proposed rule would require coal companies to test and monitor the condition of streams that their mining might impact before, during and after their operations, providing baseline data to ensure that operators could detect and correct problems if or when they arise. The proposed rule would also require companies to restore streams and return mined-over areas to the uses they were capable of supporting prior to mining activities, and replant them with native trees and vegetation unless a conflicting land use is implemented. The department will hold a series of public meetings on the proposed rule in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; Lexington, Kentucky; Charleston, West Virginia; Denver, Colorado; and St. Louis, Missouri. The times and venues of the public hearings will be announced at a later date.

STREAM PROTECTION RULE DRAFT EIS The Office of Surface Mining and Reclamation released the draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed Stream Protection Rule (80 FR 42535). Comments are due 15 SEP 15. For more information, click here (Docket Number OSM-2010-0021).

FINAL UPDATED AMBIENT WATER QUALITY CRITERIA EPA announced the final updated recommended ambient water quality criteria for protection of human health for 94 chemical pollutants to reflect the latest scientific information and implementation of existing EPA policies found in Methodology for Deriving Ambient Water Quality Criteria for the Protection of Human Health (2000) (80 FR 36986). EPA's final criteria documents for the 94 chemical pollutants, the response to views from the public on the draft criteria, and supporting information are available here.

WATER QUALITY: SELENIUM IN FRESHWATER EPA is opening the comment period for the draft recommended aquatic life water quality chronic criterion for selenium in freshwater (80 FR 44350). Upon finalization, the updated selenium criterion would supersede EPA's previous 304(a) freshwater criteria for selenium. Comments on the document titled, Draft Aquatic Life Ambient Water Quality Criterion for Selenium--Freshwater 2015, are due 25 SEP 15.

ENHANCED DMR POLLUTANT LOADING TOOL EPA released an enhancement to the Toxic Release Inventory (TRI) and Discharge Monitoring Report (DMR) Comparison Dashboard. The enhanced tool uses discharge monitoring report (DMR) data from the Integrated Compliance Information System-National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (ICIS-NPDES) to calculate pollutant discharge amounts.

NATIONAL HANDBOOK OF CONSERVATION PRACTICES NRCS issued a series of revised conservation practice standards in the National Handbook of Conservation Practices (80 FR 43057). These standards include: Channel Bed Stabilization (Code 584); Karst Sinkhole Treatment (Code 527); Open Channel (Code 582); Pond (Code 378); Surface Drain, Field Ditch (Code 607); Surface Drain, Main or Lateral (Code 608); Vertical Drain (Code 630); and Waste Hauling (Code

321). NRCS state conservationists who choose to adopt these practices for use within their states will incorporate them into section IV of their respective electronic Field Office Technical Guide. The revised conservation practice standards were effective 21 JUL 15.

Professional Development

USACE PROSPECT TRAINING USACE announces course availability for the FY15 PROSPECT (i.e., Proponent-Sponsored Engineer Corps Training) program. Courses are open to all federal, state, county, and city employees and contractors. There are different registration processes for each entity. Please refer to the Course Catalog and List of Classes and schedule for details. Environmental courses include, but are not limited to:

- Environmental Regulations Practical Application Course (Course Control Number (CCN) 398)
- CERCLA/RCRA Process (CCN 356)
- Hazardous Waste Manifesting & DOT Certification (CCN 223)
- Hazardous Waste Manifesting 16-Hour DOT Recertification Course (CCN 429)
- Radioactive Waste Transport (CCN 441)
- Hazardous/Toxic and Radioactive Waste Construction Inspection (CCN 141)
- Environmental Remediation Technologies (CCN 395)
- Environmental Laws and Regulations (CCN 170)

NAVY AND ISEERB ENVIRONMENTAL TRAINING The Navy and the Interservice Environmental Education Review Board (ISEERB) Environmental Training schedule is available. Course topics include environmental overview and management, law planning and sustainability, pollution prevention, restoration, conservation, supplemental and Internet/computer-based training, and more.

AIR FORCE CIVIL ENGINEERING SCHOOL TRAINING The Air Force Civil Engineering School offers a variety of environmental management courses and seminars, including ISEERB offerings. Courses offered by the Civil Engineer School are available to all military and civilian employees of the U.S. government, free of charges. Travel costs are borne by the student.

DEFENSE AND FEDERAL ENVIRONMENTAL TRAINING/AWARENESS The U.S. Army offers numerous environmental training courses (classroom and online). Explore training opportunities on the US Army Environmental Command (AEC) website, which has links to training provided by DOD organizations.

FEDERAL TRAINING SOURCES

FEDERAL FACILITIES ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP AND COMPLIANCE ASSISTANCE CENTER - FedCenter.gov is the federal government's home for comprehensive environmental stewardship, compliance assistance, and professional development information. FedCenter.gov provides a wide variety of information in the following areas:

- Program development (e.g., environmental management systems, green procurement program);
- Federal and state regulatory requirements for various facility activities;
- Regulatory Watch for information on new or changed laws or regulations;
- P2 opportunities and best management practices;
- EPA enforcement notices;
- Links to state environmental programs;
- Access to environmental assistance;
- Access to free, FedCenter-sponsored courses:

- Environmental Compliance for Federal Laboratories (FedCenter membership required);
- Environmental Management Systems (FedCenter membership required);
- Underground Storage Tanks (FedCenter membership required);
- Environmental conferences, meetings, training, and workshop information;
- Applicable laws and Executive Orders; and
- Industry sector-specific newsletters.

FedCenter also provides member assistance services such as:

- Collaboration tools for workgroups,
- Environmental reporting tools, and
- Daily newsletter and subscription services.

ONLINE TRAINING: SCHEDULED EVENTS

*2015 SMALL WATER AND SYSTEMS WEBINAR SERIES EPA's Office of Research Development and Office of water is hosting a monthly webinar series to communicate EPA's current small systems research along with agency priorities. The website includes an archive of past webinars.

- 29 SEP 15: UV Disinfections Systems: Treatment of Groundwater for Small/Medium Sized Water Utilities
- 27 OCT 15: Decentralized High-Rate Wastewater Treatment of Peak Wet Weather Flows
- 24 NOV 15: Treatability Databases, Cost Models, and other Tools for Water Systems
- 15 DEC 15: Reduction of Lead in Drinking Water

SERDP AND ESTCP WEBINAR SERIES The DOD environmental research and development funding programs (SERDP and ESTCP) are launching a webinar series to promote the transfer of innovative, cost-effective and sustainable solutions developed using SERDP and ESTCP funding. Live webinars will be offered every two weeks on Thursdays from 12:00 p.m. Eastern for 90 minutes. Most webinars will feature two 30-minute presentations and interactive question and answer sessions, on topics targeted for DOD and DOE audiences. Prior presentations are archived for viewing any time.

- Management of Contaminated Sediments Sites (20 NOV 14)
- Waste to Energy Technologies (4 DEC 14)
- Energy Audits (18 DEC 14)
- DNAPL (Dense Non-Aqueous Phase Liquid) Source Zone Management (8 JAN 15)
- Sustainable Materials (22 JAN 15)
- Acoustic Methods for Underwater Munitions (5 FEB 15)
- Solar Technologies (19 FEB 15)
- Lead Free Electronics (5 MAR 15)
- Bioremediation Approaches at Chlorinated Solvent Sites (19 MAR 15)
- Resource Conservation and Climate Change (26 MAR 15)
- Blast Noise Measurements and Community Response (16 APR 15)
- Munitions Mobility (7 MAY 15)
- Managing Munition Constituents on Training Ranges (28 MAY 15)

FEMP ETRAINING COURSES The Federal Energy Management Program (FEMP) offers interactive, online eTraining courses to help federal agencies develop core competencies and comply with energy-efficiency and renewable-energy water-management and sustainability requirements. FEMP is partnering with the National Institute of Building Sciences' Whole Building Design Guide (WBDG) to host these comprehensive, FEMP-developed eTraining courses. Promotional materials are available to help federal agencies encourage the completion of FEMP's eTraining courses.

For more information about FEMP eTraining courses, contact Beverly Dyer at (202) 586-7753. The following courses are available:

- Advanced Electric Metering in Federal Facilities (3.5 hours, .40 CEUs)
- Building Automation Systems for Existing Federal Facilities (3.5 hours, .40 CEUs)
- Commissioning for Existing Federal Buildings (4.5 hours, .50 CEUs)
- Energy-Efficient Federal Purchasing (4.5 hours, .50 CEUs)
- Energy Savings Performance Contracting (8.5 hours, .90 CEUs)
- Federal On-Site Renewable Power Purchase Agreements (2.5 hours, .30 CEUs)
- Launching a Utility Energy Services Contract (UESC): Getting to Yes! (3 hours, .40 CEUs)
- Managing Water Assessment in Federal Facilities (3.5 hours, .40 CEUs)
- Measurement and Verification in ESPCs (3 hours, .40 CEUs)
- Planning an Energy Assessment for Federal Facilities (4 hours, .50 CEUs)
- Selecting, Implementing, and Funding Photovoltaic Systems in Federal Facilities (3.5 hours, .40 CEUs)
- Sustainable Institutional Change for Federal Facility Managers (3 hours, .40 CEUs)
- Utility Service Contracts and Energy Project Incentive Funds (90 minutes)

ENERGY STAR WEBCASTS. Among the offerings:

- Portfolio Manager 101 This webcast demonstrates the core functionality of EPA's Energy Star Portfolio
 Manager tool. Attendees will learn to navigate the Portfolio Manager, add a property and enter details, enter
 energy and water consumption data, share properties, generate performance reports to assess progress, and
 respond to data requests.
- Portfolio Manager 201 This webcast will explore advanced functionalities of EPA's Energy Star Portfolio
 Manager tool, including managing and tracking changes to property uses over time; using spreadsheet
 templates to update property data; setting goals and targets to plan energy improvements for properties;
 generating and using custom reports; and using the Sustainable Buildings Checklist.

CLIMATE CHANGE SCIENCE AND MANAGEMENT WEBINAR SERIES This webinar series was developed to inform scientists, land managers, and the public about potential and predicted climate change impacts on fish and wildlife and to help guide resource management decisions across the United States. Video recordings with closed captioning are made available one to two weeks after each presentation.

READINESS AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION INTEGRATION PROGRAM — Webinar Series The REPI Webinar Series is presented by DOD in partnership with the Land Trust Alliance. This online series covers best practices, tutorials and knowledge sharing on REPI partnerships that support military mission and accelerate the pace and rate of conservation. All webinars begin at 1:00 p.m. Eastern unless otherwise noted. Previously scheduled webinars are available anytime.

EPA SUSTAINABLE MATERIALS MANAGEMENT ACADEMY Learn about key issues, successful projects, and a variety of best management practices for creating waste management programs, from the series of live and archived webinars. Building on the familiar concept of Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, sustainable materials management (SMM) is a systemic approach that seeks to reduce materials use and their associated environmental impacts over their entire life cycle, starting with extraction of natural resources and product design and ending with decisions on recycling or final disposal. The format is a formal presentation followed by a question and answer session.

ITRC Internet Based Training The Interstate Technology and Regulatory Council (ITRC) is a state-led coalition working with federal partners, industry, academia, and stakeholders to achieve regulatory acceptance of environmental technologies. In conjunction with EPA's Technology Innovation and Field Services Division, ITRC delivers training courses to reach a geographically dispersed audience of regulators, consultants, and other members

of the environmental community. The training sessions last approximately two hours, cover technical and regulatory information specific to environmental technologies and innovative approaches, and are supported by consensus-based ITRC guidance documents. Visit the site often to view upcoming internet-based training events.

ONLINE TRAINING: AVAILABLE ANYTIME

CLIMATE READY WATER UTILITIES EPA's Climate Ready Water Utilities initiative assists the water sector (drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater utilities) in addressing impacts from climate change. This information helps utility owners and operators better prepare their systems for the impacts of climate change. The website has links to tools and resources, new and recorded training webinars, and more.

WATER'S IMPACT ON THE ENERGY SECTOR This on-demand webinar from the Department of Energy's Wind Program offers research on the national impacts of water scarcity on the energy sector, including how the expanded use of renewable energy and energy efficiency can help reduce the potential impacts that prolonged droughts will have on the energy sector.

EPA RCRA TRAINING RCRA-related online courses, seminars, webinars, podcasts, and videos are posted throughout EPA's waste website. Introductory and advanced courses are included for federal and state regulators, the regulated community, organizations, associations, and consumers interested in environmental laws, regulations, and implementation. Topics include general RCRA, RCRA corrective action, Environmental Management Systems (EMS), ewaste, groundwater characterization and cleanup, land revitalization, land disposal restrictions, sustainable materials management web academy, and environmental justice and RCRA permitting.

AREA SOURCE BOILER RULE VIDEO SERIES This **EPA** video series explaining the Area Source Boiler Rule consists of modules regarding:

- An overview of rule applicability, including specific rule requirements and compliance dates;
- How to conduct an energy assessment;
- How to conduct a boiler tune-up; and
- Recordkeeping and reporting requirements of the rule.

Area sources are commercial (e.g., laundries, apartments, hotels), institutional (e.g., schools, churches, medical centers, municipal buildings) or industrial (e.g., manufacturing, refining, processing, mining) facilities that emit or have the potential to emit less than 10 tons per year (tpy) of a single hazardous air pollutant, or less than 25 tpy combined hazardous air pollutants. The Area Source Boiler Rule affects boilers at these facilities that burn coal (including coal refuse, petroleum coke, or synthetic fuels derived from coal), oil or other liquid fuel, biomass, and non-waste materials.

BEST PRACTICES FOR COMPREHENSIVE WATER MANAGEMENT FOR FEDERAL FACILITIES This comprehensive water management training provides federal facility and energy managers with knowledge and skills to assist in meeting water-related legislative and executive order requirements. Participants will develop skills in increasing water efficiency and reducing water use through sound operations and maintenance practices and water-efficient technologies. Several methods for meeting needs for non-potable water through alternate water sources, such as rainwater harvesting, reclaimed wastewater, and gray water are discussed. Water metering is covered, as well as life cycle costing and establishing the overall economics for strategic water management.

PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT AND SITE INSPECTION (PA/SI) WEBINAR SERIES The CERCLA Education Center is offering archived versions of its nine-part Preliminary Assessment and Site Inspection (PA/SI) webinar series. PA/SI is an intermediate training course designed for personnel who are required to compile, draft, and review PA, SI, and hazard ranking system (HRS) documentation records and packages submitted for sites proposed for the National Priorities List (NPL). More information is available at www.clu-in.org.

DISTRIBUTED-SCALE RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECTS: FROM PLANNING TO PROJECT CLOSEOUT This 2.5 hour webinar focuses on the planning and implementation of distributed-scale renewable energy projects (i.e., those smaller than 10

megawatts). The on-demand course outlines a detailed 10-step process from technology screening to project closeout. It explores online tools and resources for renewable energy projects on federal sites.

EPA AIR POLLUTION TRAINING INSTITUTE (APTI) EPA's Air Pollution Training Institute (APTI) offers a variety of online self instructional courses and videos for air pollution professionals. Although APTI courses are designed for state and local government officials, the courses, webinars, and videos are available to anyone.

AVERT TUTORIAL This training provides an overview of EPA's Avoided Emissions and generation tool (AVERT). AVERT estimates the potential of energy efficiency/renewable energy (EE/RE) programs to displace electricity system-related SO₂, NOx, and CO₂ emissions in the continental United States. The tool can be used to evaluate county, state and regional level emissions displaced by energy efficiency and renewable energy programs without the need for specialized resources or electricity system expertise.

FEMP Training Search Tool The FEMP Training Search is a web tool that lists free training opportunities to help agencies meet federal energy, water, and sustainability laws and requirements. The new search tool provides options to easily find and select training offerings by topic area, topic series, course format and type, and by level of difficulty—introductory (101), intermediate (201), and advanced (301).

EPA TMDL AND **NPDES PERMIT TRAINING** EPA developed three web-based training modules on topics related to TMDLs and NPDES permitting. The presentations are intended for TMDL developers and NPDES permitting staff to gain a better understanding of TMDL implementation through NPDES permits. Each module is offered as a recorded presentation that enables participants to review the material on demand in a self-paced environment. The modules are also available as unrecorded PowerPoint presentations with slides and scripts. Each recorded session is approximately two hours long.

- Module 1: Understanding TMDLs: A Primer for NPDES Permit Writers
- Module 2: Understanding Waste Load Allocation Implementation in Permits: A Primer for TMDL Developers
- Module 3: Understanding TMDLs with Stormwater Sources and the NPDES Stormwater Permitting Process

CLASSROOM/INTERNET TRAINING SOURCES

EPA NPDES TRAINING COURSES AND WORKSHOPS Training courses, workshops, and webcasts explain the regulatory framework and technical considerations of the NPDES permit program. They are designed for permit writers, dischargers, EPA officials, and other interested parties. Topics include vessel general permits, combined sewer overflows, energy management, green infrastructure, pesticides, pretreatment, sanitary sewer overflows, and stormwater.

19-20 Aug, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam DOD Native Hawaiian Cultural Communication and Consultation Course This free course provides valuable information for DOD employees in Hawaii whose work may have an effect on Native Hawaiians and for those already working with Native Hawaiians and Native Hawaiian Organizations. For more information or to register, please contact Mr. Chris Allen or Elisia Lukasik by 31 JUL 15.

*6-8 Oct, Pocatello, Idaho Remote Sensing for Wildfire Applications This training is intended for wildfire managers, land managers, and GIS users working with wildfires. The previously offered ARSET webinar "Introduction to Remote Sensing for Wildfire Applications" is a prerequisite for this course. This three-day workshop will provide students with a hands-on remote sensing training for pre-fire, active-fire, and post-fire applications. This training is free; however participants must make their own travel arrangements. ARSET does not provide travel support. There is limited space for this hands-on workshop and preference will be given to wildfire managers in the western U.S.

* indicates the first time a professional development opportunity appears in the Review.

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How the Regional Offices Work for You

The Army Regional Environmental and Energy Offices' close cooperation between the military and regional policymakers helps to resolve issues *before* they become laws and regulations. The REEOs monitor proposed state environmental and energy laws and regulations for impacts to installation missions. When legislation or a regulation important to the Army or DOD is being developed, REEOs work with the other military Services to assure that DOD and Services' interests are protected.

To comment on item in the Western *Review*, please contact the Regional Environmental Coordinator listed at the top of each region's section.

To be added to the Western Review distribution list, email Nancy Reese.