



# Southern Review

## of Legislative & Regulatory Actions

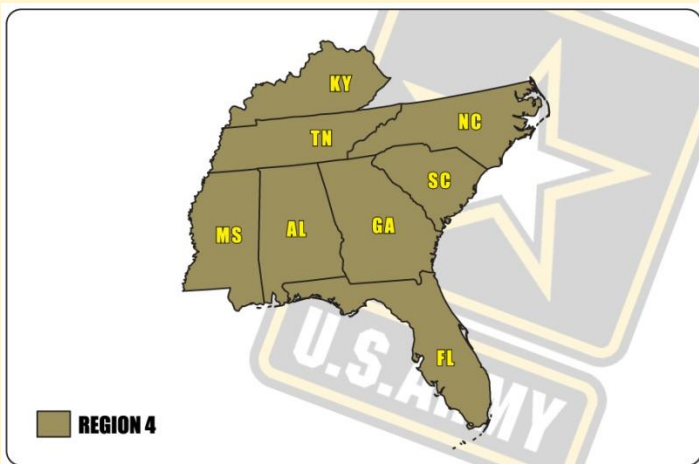
The U.S. Army Regional Environmental & Energy Office

January 2019

The ***Southern Review*** publishes environmental and energy related developments for DOD/Army leaders and installation staff. Covering the eight states in Federal Region 4, the *Southern Review* gives early notice of legislative and regulatory activities relevant to DOD interests. For installations that implement an environmental management system in accordance with ISO 14001 specifications, the content of the *Review* may help them identify emerging requirements.

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## ARMY COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP AWARDS

Five installations and two National Guard commands partnered with neighboring organizations on projects and services that earned them [recognition](#) in December from the Pentagon. The 2018 Army Community Partnership Awards acknowledge the Army's need for community bonds that enhance readiness, modernize processes, and improve business reform, according to Jordan Gillis, acting assistant secretary of the Army for Installations, Energy and the Environment. This year's winners include the following partnership initiatives:

- The South Carolina Army National Guard partnered with the SCANA Corporation on several initiatives involving enhanced defense capabilities in the cyber environment.
- Fort Detrick and the County of Frederick, Maryland, partnered on a computer-aided dispatch system to create interoperability and system synchronization. Fort Detrick also partnered with the county to integrate the installation into the County Solid Waste Management Plan, enabling the Army to reduce installation emissions and landfill use requirements.
- Fort Polk was recognized for three partnerships. First, the collaboration with the Vernon Parish Police Jury, Louisiana, for solid waste management, which enables the sorting of field waste associated with the rotational unit training missions. The second partnership was with the city of Leesville involving vegetation control, grounds maintenance, and tree-removal services. Finally, Polk partnered with the town of Rosepine to allow the town's staff to provide custodial services to the installation.

# Region 4

For more information or to comment on any state issue in Region 4, please contact [Dave Blalock](#), REEO-S Regional Counsel, (404) 545-5655.



## ***FINAL RULE***

**REVISIONS TO PUBLIC NOTICE PROVISIONS IN PERMITTING PROGRAMS.** The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has issued a [final rule](#) ([83 FR 64285](#)) approving portions of State Implementation Plan (SIP) revisions and Title V Operating Permit Program revisions submitted by the states of Alabama, Georgia, and South Carolina. The revisions address the public notice rule provisions for the New Source Review (NSR) and Title V Operating Permit programs (Title V) of the Clean Air Act (CAA). Specifically, the revisions remove the mandatory requirement to provide public notice of a draft air permit in a newspaper and allow electronic notice (e-notice) as an alternate noticing option. The final rule became effective 14 JAN 19.



## ***2019 LEGISLATIVE SESSION: 25 MAR THROUGH 23 MAY***

There are no significant legislative activities to report.

## ***PROPOSED RULES***

**PROPOSED AUTHORIZATION OF STATE HAZARDOUS WASTE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM REVISIONS.** EPA has issued a [proposed rule](#) ([83 FR 63461](#)) to grant final authorization of changes to the state of Alabama's hazardous waste program under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA). EPA has proposed a determination that these changes satisfy all requirements needed to qualify for final authorization. The comment period closed 9 JAN 19.

**REGIONAL HAZE PROGRESS REPORT.** EPA has issued a [proposed rule](#) ([83 FR 64797](#)) to approve a SIP revision submitted by the state of Alabama. The SIP revision addresses CAA and EPA requirements for states to submit: (1) periodic reports describing progress being made toward regional haze reasonable progress goals (RPGs); and (2) a determination of the adequacy of the state's existing regional haze SIP. EPA has proposed a determination that the state's regional haze plan is adequate to meet these RPGs for the first implementation period covering through 2018 and requires no substantive revision at this time. The comment period closed 8 JAN 19.



## ***2019 LEGISLATIVE SESSION: 5 MAR THROUGH 3 MAY***

**FLORIDA HB 85, ONSITE SEWAGE TREATMENT AND DISPOSAL SYSTEMS.** The bill directs the Department of Health to identify certain information for onsite sewage treatment and disposal systems, update the database of such systems, and submit a report to the governor and Legislature. This bill also requires periodic inspection of such systems, directs

the Department of Health to administer onsite sewage treatment and disposal system inspections performed by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP), and adopt rules. This bill provides inspection requirements, provides exceptions, and requires owners to pay costs of inspections and pump-outs. Inspections and pump-outs must be performed by registered contractors. The bill was introduced in the House 11 DEC 18.

**FLORIDA SB 66, DRINKING WATER IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS.** For the prevention of lead in drinking water in recognized public-school districts, this bill will require each school district to locate drinking water sources, install a barcode on the source, and install a lead-reducing filter on each source found to contain lead. The source must then be labeled with certain signage, and the drinking water source information is to be posted on the school district's website while providing an effective date. The bill was introduced 20 NOV 18.

**FLORIDA SB 134, FLORIDA BLACK BEARS.** This bill creates the Florida Black Bear Protection Act, Section 379.3018, Florida Statutes. It prohibits the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission from allowing the recreational hunting of Florida black bears mothering cubs that weigh less than 100 pounds under a Florida black bear hunting permit. It also designates Florida black bear habitats that are considered sensitive due to critical food sources or in which female bears are likely to be denning in February. The bill specifies a penalty for unlawful harvesting of saw palmetto berries on state lands and amends Section [590.125](#), Florida Statutes to prohibit prescribed burns in certain designated habitats during specified times. The bill was introduced 6 DEC 18.

## ***PROPOSED RULES***

**COASTAL CONSTRUCTION PERMIT REGULATIONS.** FDEP has [proposed rules](#) establishing that consistency with an inlet management plan developed by FDEP is no longer required under the provisions of the rule chapter. Applicants seeking a Joint Coastal Permit for activities to be conducted that are associated with an inlet, including management activities, will need to provide information that demonstrates the proposed project or activity will comply with the requirements of [Section 161.142](#), Florida Statutes. The comment deadline was 3 JAN 2019.

**FLORIDA CONDITIONAL AND PROHIBITED NON-NATIVE SPECIES.** The Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission has [proposed rules](#) adding new species to the prohibited list and creating grandfathering language for proposed prohibited species currently possessed as personal pets. This effort will improve clarity and conciseness and aid in addressing emerging invasive species issues. The Notice of Development of Rulemaking was published on 20 NOV 18.

**FLORIDA INDIAN RIVER LAGOON BASIN MANAGEMENT ACTION PLANS.** FDEP discussed the Indian River Lagoon Basin Management Action Plans (BMAPs) at a [public meeting](#). BMAPs are a means for implementation of the adopted Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs). The primary purpose of the meeting was to provide the annual update on adopted BMAPs. The meeting date was 11 DEC 18.

**FLORIDA LAKE OKEECHOBEE BASIN MANAGEMENT ACTION PLAN.** FDEP discussed the Lake Okeechobee BMAP at a [public meeting](#). The BMAP is the means for implementation of adopted TMDLs. The primary purpose of the meeting was to provide the annual update on the adopted BMAP and discuss the process for developing the five-year review and its components. The meeting date was 13 DEC 18.

**FLORIDA ST. LUCIE RIVER AND ESTUARY BASIN MANAGEMENT ACTION PLAN.** FDEP discussed the St. Lucie River and Estuary BMAP at a [public meeting](#). The BMAP is the means for implementation of the adopted TMDLs. The primary purpose of the meeting was to provide the annual update on the adopted BMAP. The meeting date was 12 DEC 18.



***2019 LEGISLATIVE SESSION: 14 JAN THROUGH 20 MAR***

There are no significant legislative activities to report.

## ***PROPOSED RULE***

**ADDENDUM TO AMBIENT AIR MONITORING NETWORK PLAN.** The Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) is [requesting public input](#) on its intent to issue an addendum to the Ambient Air Monitoring Network Plan to the EPA in January 2019. Georgia EPD's 2018 Ambient Air Monitoring Plan shows how the state agency plans to meet EPA regulations for monitoring air quality in the state by assessing monitoring objectives, site appropriateness for air quality characterization, spatial scale represented by each monitor and appropriate new technologies. A notice was issued 10 DEC 18. The comment deadline was 9 JAN 19.

## ***FINAL RULE***

**REVISIONS TO VOC DEFINITIONS AND AMBIENT AIR QUALITY STANDARDS.** EPA has issued a [final rule](#) ([83 FR 62466](#)) approving a SIP revision submitted by the state of Georgia to address modification to the state's air quality regulations. Specifically, the revision pertains to definition changes, including the modification of the definition of "volatile organic compounds" (VOC) and changes to the state's air quality standards for sulfur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>), particulate matter (PM), carbon monoxide (CO), ozone, lead and nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) to be consistent with the National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS). The final rule became effective 3 JAN 19.



## ***2019 LEGISLATIVE SESSION: 8 JAN THROUGH 30 MAR***

There are no significant legislative activities to report.

## ***PROPOSED RULES***

**CRITERIA FOR IDENTIFYING AND DESIGNATING ENDANGERED OR THREATENED SPECIES OF PLANTS.** The Kentucky Energy and Environment Cabinet has proposed amendments to [400 KAR 3:020](#), Criteria for Identifying and Designating Endangered or Threatened Species of Plants. The [proposed amendment](#) was published 1 DEC 18 with a public hearing date of 27 DEC 18. The comment deadline was 31 DEC 18.

**DEFINITIONS FOR STATE THREATENED AND ENDANGERED PLANT RULES.** The Kentucky Energy and Environment Cabinet has proposed amendments to [400 KAR 3:010](#): Definitions for State Threatened and Endangered Plant Rules. The proposed amendment would authorize the Office of Kentucky Nature Preserves to promulgate administrative regulations for identification and designation of state threatened and endangered plant species. The Kentucky Energy and Environment Cabinet filed the [proposed amendment](#) 1 DEC 18 and held a public hearing on 27 DEC 18. The comment deadline was 31 DEC 18.

**ENDANGERED OR THREATENED PLANT LISTS.** The Kentucky Energy and Environment Cabinet has proposed amendments to [400 KAR 3:040](#), Endangered or Threatened Plant Lists. The proposed amendment establishes the lists of such plant species. The Kentucky Energy and Environment Cabinet filed the [proposed amendment](#) 1 DEC 18 and held a public hearing 27 DEC 18. The comment deadline was 31 DEC 18.

**PROCEDURES FOR INCLUSION, REMOVAL OR CHANGE OF STATUS OF PLANT SPECIES.** The Kentucky Energy and Environment Cabinet has proposed amendments to [400 KAR 3:030](#), Procedures for Inclusion, Removal, or Change in Status of Plant Species on the State Endangered or Threatened List. The Kentucky Energy and Environment Cabinet filed the [proposed amendment](#) 1 DEC 18 and held a public hearing 27 DEC 18. The comment deadline was 31 DEC 18.

## ***FINAL RULE***

**UPDATES TO ATTAINMENT STATUS DESIGNATIONS.** EPA has issued a [final rule \(83 FR 65088\)](#) approving portions of a SIP revision submitted by the commonwealth of Kentucky. The final rule approves the attainment status designations, as of 6 OCT 16, for geographic areas within the commonwealth for several NAAQS. The updates are being made to conform Kentucky's attainment status tables to the federal attainment status designations made for these areas. The final rule becomes effective 18 JAN 19.



## ***2019 LEGISLATIVE SESSION: 9 JAN THROUGH 31 MAY***

There are no significant legislative activities to report.

## ***FINAL RULE***

**PREVENTION OF SIGNIFICANT DESTRUCTION INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN FOR 2012 PM<sub>2.5</sub> NAAQS.** EPA has issued a [final rule \(83 FR 64746\)](#) approving portions of a SIP revision submitted by the state of Mississippi to demonstrate that the state meets the CAA infrastructure requirements for the 2012 annual fine particulate matter (PM<sub>2.5</sub>) NAAQS. The CAA requires that each state adopt and submit a SIP for the implementation, maintenance and enforcement of each NAAQS promulgated by EPA, which is commonly referred to as an "infrastructure" SIP. Specifically, EPA is approving the portions of the submission that relate to the prevention of significant deterioration (PSD) requirements. All other applicable infrastructure requirements for the 2012 Annual PM<sub>2.5</sub> NAAQS have been addressed in separate rulemakings. The final rule becomes effective 17 JAN 19.



## ***2019 LEGISLATIVE SESSION: 16 JAN THROUGH 30 JUN***

There are no significant legislative activities to report.

## ***FINAL RULE***

**NORTH CAROLINA CLIMATE CHANGE INTERAGENCY COUNCIL.** North Carolina Governor Roy Cooper issued [Executive Order No. 80](#) establishing the North Carolina Climate Change Interagency Council led by the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). The Executive Order directs DEQ to develop a North Carolina Clean Energy Plan among other actions designed to comply with the 2015 Paris Agreement and North Carolina's commitments under that agreement. The Executive Order was issued 3 DEC 18.

**MISCELLANEOUS SIP REVISIONS.** EPA has issued a [final rule \(83 FR 65091\)](#) approving portions of SIP revisions submitted by the state of North Carolina. The revisions update several regulations concerning nitrogen oxides (NO<sub>x</sub>), emission control standards, monitoring, and reporting requirements. The final rule becomes effective 18 JAN 19.

**NO<sub>x</sub> RULE REVISIONS.** EPA has issued a [final rule \(83 FR 66133\)](#) approving portions of a SIP revision submitted by the state of North Carolina. The revision updates the state's SIP-approved rules regarding NO<sub>x</sub> emissions from large stationary combustion sources. The final rule becomes effective 25 JAN 19.



## ***PROPOSED RULE***

**RULES GOVERNING PUBLIC WATER SYSTEMS.** DEQ [proposed amendments](#) to [15A NCAC 18C](#) governing public water systems. The rules are being revised to clarify rule requirements and reduce ambiguity, provide greater flexibility to the regulated community, and provides an improved mechanism to consider innovative design and emerging technology. The [proposed rule](#) was published 3 DEC 18. The hearing date is 15 JAN 19, and the deadline for comments is 1 FEB 19.

## ***FEDERAL ACTIVITY***

**NOTICE OF VERBATIM ADOPTION OF FEDERAL STANDARDS.** The Department of Labor, Division of Occupational Safety and Health issued a notice to adopt, verbatim federal standards of the occupational safety and health-related provisions. The [notice](#) was issued 3 DEC 18.



## ***2019 LEGISLATIVE SESSION: 8 JAN THROUGH 8 JUN***

**SOUTH CAROLINA SB 92, SURFACE WATER STEWARDSHIP ACT.** This bill amends section [49-4-35](#) of the 1976 South Carolina Code of Laws relating to the registration of surface water use with the state Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC). The bill changes when surface water withdrawals are permitted by: providing that surface water withdrawers under certain conditions must obtain a surface water withdrawal permit versus registering withdrawals; certain registered withdrawers are exempt from permitting; and increases in surface water withdrawals by registered withdrawers are subject to permit requirements on the increased amount under certain circumstances. The bill was introduced and referred to the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources 12 DEC 18.

**SOUTH CAROLINA SB 107 (SB 0081), DAM AND RESERVOIRS SAFETY.** This bill amends sections of the South Carolina Code relating to dams. The following sections have been amended: Section [49-11-120\(4\)](#), relating to the definition of "dam"; Section [49-11-150](#), relating to an owner's responsibility for safe maintenance of a dam or reservoir; Section [49-11-160](#), relating to orders to maintain, alter, repair, or remove a dam or reservoir; Section [49-11-170](#), relating to bringing unsafe dams to the attention of the DHEC; Section [49-11-200](#), relating to DHEC approval required for construction or alteration, enlargement of dam or reservoir, or removal or repair of an existing dam or reservoir must not begin unless approved by the department. The bill also provides exceptions to Section [12-6-3370](#), relating to tax credits for the construction, installation, or restoration of water impoundments and water control structures, to provide that a taxpayer may claim a credit of up to \$50,000 for repairs required as a result of the DHEC reclassifying the dam. The bill was introduced 12 DEC 18.

**SOUTH CAROLINA SB 180, UNMANNED AERIAL VEHICLES.** This [bill](#) amends Article 7, Chapter 11, Title 16 of the South Carolina Code relating to trespasses and the unlawful use of the property of others. It adds Section 16-11-605 to provide that it is unlawful to operate unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV) within a certain distance of a federal military installation; to provide for disposition of a confiscated UAV; to provide for exceptions; and to provide penalties for the violation. The bill was introduced 12 DEC 18.

**SOUTH CAROLINA SB 237, CONSERVATION EASEMENTS.** This [bill](#) amends the South Carolina Code by adding Section 27-8-85 allowing for the holder of a conservation easement to contest an action to condemn property encumbered by a conservation easement under certain circumstances. This bill also establishes a procedure for a contested action and provides exceptions under certain circumstances. The bill was introduced 12 DEC 18.

## ***PROPOSED RULE***

**REGULATION 61-62, AIR POLLUTION CONTROL REGULATIONS AND STANDARDS.** DHEC has [proposed amending Regulation 61-62](#), Air Pollution Control Regulations and Standards, and the South Carolina Air Quality Implementation Plan. The drafting notice was published 23 NOV 18.



## **2019 LEGISLATIVE SESSION: 8 JAN THROUGH 8 MAY**

**TENNESSEE SB 2, NAAQS STATE/FEDERAL IMPLEMENTATION PLAN.** This bill amends Tennessee Code Annotated, Section [55-4-130](#), by allowing owners and operators of vehicles with an illuminated check engine light to elect to have the tailpipe test performed in lieu of the onboard diagnostics test. The bill was introduced 5 DEC 18.

### **PROPOSED RULE**

**DRAFT GUIDANCE FOR CONSTRUCTION STORMWATER GENERAL PERMIT COVERAGE.** The Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) has [requested public input](#) regarding [draft guidance](#) for construction stormwater general permit coverage involving sites with Non-Engineer Design Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plans (SWPPP). This guidance is intended to provide clarification regarding sites where an SWPPP prepared by someone who is not licensed may be adequate for obtaining general permit coverage, as well as an example template that may be utilized in support of these SWPPP submittals. Notice was issued 30 NOV 18. Comments were due 31 DEC 18.

**NO<sub>x</sub> SIP CALL AND CLEAN AIR INTERSTATE RULE.** EPA has issued a [proposed rule](#) ([83 FR 64497](#)) to conditionally approve a portion of a SIP revision submitted by the state of Tennessee to establish a SIP-approved state control program to comply with the obligations of the NO<sub>x</sub> SIP Call with respect to certain sources. EPA has also proposed to fully approve the remaining portion of the same revision to remove the portions of the state's Clean Air Interstate Rule (CAIR) program rules from the SIP. In addition, EPA has proposed to fully approve a revision to remove regulations related to a previous NO<sub>x</sub> trading program. Comments are due 16 JAN 19.

## **Federal Activity**

### **NOTICE DUE TO PARTIAL GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN**

**Note that due to the partial government shutdown, information in the following Federal notices could potentially change (hearing dates, comment deadlines, agency links to information, etc.) resulting in unexpected delays, cancellations, or lack of updated information available on some government websites.**

### **AIR**

**GREENHOUSE GAS PERFORMANCE STANDARDS FOR ELECTRIC GENERATING SOURCES.** The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is proposing to amend several portions of the [2015 rulemaking](#), *Standards of Performance for Greenhouse Gas Emissions from New, Modified, and Reconstructed Stationary Sources: Electric Utility Generating Units (EGUs)* ([83 FR 65424](#)). Specifically, EPA is proposing to amend its previous determination that the best system of emission reduction (BSER) for newly constructed coal-fired steam EGUs is partial carbon capture and storage (CCS). Instead, EPA is proposing to find that the BSER for this source category is the most efficient demonstrated steam cycle—e.g.,

supercritical steam conditions for large units and subcritical steam conditions for small units—in combination with the best operating practices. In this rulemaking, EPA also proposes to:

- Revise the standard of performance for newly constructed steam generating units as separate standards of performance for large and small steam generating units that reflect EPA's amended BSER determination;
- Revise the standard of performance for reconstructed steam generating units to be separate standards of performance for reconstructed large and small steam generating units;
- Adopt separate standards of performance for newly constructed and reconstructed coal refuse-fired EGUs; and
- Revise the maximally stringent standards for large modifications of steam generating units.

**MERCURY EMISSIONS FROM COAL-FIRED PLANTS.** EPA is proposing to revoke its prior determination that it was "appropriate and necessary" to curb releases of mercury, arsenic, and other hazardous air pollutants from coal- and oil-fired power plants. The proposal takes its cue from a 2015 Supreme Court ruling that EPA should have considered compliance costs in making the "appropriate and necessary" determination to proceed with creation of what are formally known as the Mercury and Air Toxics Standards (MATS). Text of the proposed rule is available [here](#).

**RISK MANAGEMENT PLANS.** The Accidental Release Prevention Requirements for Risk Management Programs under the Clean Air Act, as published in the Federal Register on [13 JAN 17](#), are in effect ([83 FR 62268](#)). The rule effective date had been postponed three times. The 2017 final amendments improve chemical process safety, assist local emergency authorities in planning for and responding to accidents, and improve public awareness of chemical hazards at regulated sources. The amendments were effective 3 DEC 18.

**OZONE NONATTAINMENT AREA SIP REQUIREMENTS.** EPA finalized nonattainment area and ozone transport region (OTR) implementation requirements for the 2015 Ozone NAAQS ([83 FR 62998](#)). The final rule addresses a range of nonattainment area and OTR state implementation plan (SIP) requirements for the 2015 Ozone NAAQS, including attainment demonstrations, reasonable further progress (RFP) and associated milestone demonstrations, reasonably available control technology (RACT), reasonably available control measures (RACM), major nonattainment new source review, emissions inventories, the timing of required SIP submissions, and compliance with emission control measures in the SIP. According to EPA, the final rule is largely an update to the implementing regulations previously promulgated for the 2008 Ozone NAAQS. The final rule is effective 4 FEB 19.

**ALLOCATIONS OF CROSS-STATE AIR POLLUTION RULE ALLOWANCES.** EPA provided notice of the availability of preliminary lists of units eligible for second-round allocations of emission allowances for the 2018 control periods from the new unit set-asides (NUSAs) established under the Cross-State Air Pollution Rule (CSAPR) trading programs ([83 FR 62860](#)). Comments were due 4 JAN 19.

**CSAPR GOOD NEIGHBOR PROVISIONS.** EPA finalized its determination that the 2016 CSAPR Update fully addresses state obligations under the CAA good neighbor provisions regarding interstate pollution transport for the 2008 Ozone NAAQS ([83 FR 65878](#)). The CSAPR Update, published 26 OCT 16, promulgated Federal Implementation Plans (FIPs) for 22 states in the eastern U.S. The determination applies to states currently subject to CSAPR Update FIPs as well as any states for which EPA has approved replacement of CSAPR Update FIPs with CSAPR Update SIPs. The final rule is effective 19 FEB 19.

## ***CLIMATE CHANGE***

**ARCTIC REPORT CARD.** The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration [released](#) its 13th annual Arctic Report Card. The report reflects on a range of land, ice, and ocean observations made throughout the Arctic during the 2018 calendar year. The report card measures the changing climate of the polar region including warmer air and ocean temperatures and declines in sea ice that are driving shifts in animal habitats. According to the report: 1) surface air temperatures in the Arctic continued to warm at twice the rate relative to the rest of the globe—Arctic air temperatures for the past five



years (2014-18) have exceeded all previous records since 1900; 2) in 2018 Arctic sea ice remained younger, thinner, and covered less area than in the past; 3) growing atmospheric warmth in the Arctic results in a sluggish and unusually wavy jet stream that coincided with abnormal weather events in both the Arctic and mid-latitudes. Notable extreme weather events coincident with deep waves in the jet stream include the heat wave at the North Pole in autumn 2017, a swarm of severe winter storms in the eastern U.S. in 2018, and the extreme cold outbreak in Europe in March 2018. The report is available for download [here](#).

**AGREEMENT FOR PARIS CLIMATE CHANGE ACCORD OF 2015.** In December, the 2018 24th Conference of Parties (COP24) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change was held in Poland. At the COP24 conference, the parties [approved](#) an agreement that charts a path forward for countries to set targets for cutting greenhouse gases under the 2015 Paris climate accord. The agreement reached in Poland also establishes stronger transparency rules for countries in disclosing their emissions. However, questions remain on how to use markets to limit carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>). The U.N. will meet in 2019 in Chile to continue discussions.

**TRANSPORTATION CAP-AND-TRADE IN NORTHEAST.** In December, nine Northeastern states and the District of Columbia [announced](#) their intent to design a new regional low-carbon transportation policy proposal that would cap and reduce carbon emissions from the combustion of transportation fuels, and invest proceeds from the program into low-carbon and more resilient transportation infrastructure. The states issued a [statement](#) that describes the goals of the program, including reducing climate changing pollution, creating economic opportunity, and improving transportation equity for currently underserved and overburdened populations. It also sets a goal of completing the policy design process within one year, after which each jurisdiction will decide whether to adopt and implement the policy. To learn more, click [here](#).

## **ENERGY**

**RENEWABLE FUEL STANDARD PROGRAM.** EPA has set annual volume requirements for cellulosic biofuel, advanced biofuel, and total renewable fuel that are below the statutory volume targets ([83 FR 63704](#)). EPA has also established the applicable volume of biomass-based diesel for 2020. Entities potentially affected by the final rule are those involved with the production, distribution, and sale of transportation fuels, including gasoline and diesel fuel or renewable fuels such as ethanol, biodiesel, renewable diesel, and biogas. The final rule is effective 11 FEB 19.

**REPORT EXPLORES FEDERAL INCENTIVES FOR SMALL MODULAR REACTORS.** A new [report](#), funded by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), explores how federal incentives could encourage private sector investment in the deployment of small modular reactors. The report examines how subsidies and federal incentives, such as mandates, tax incentives, loans and research grants, stimulated the development of solar plants and wind farms. The report's authors estimate that if a similar federal program were extended to small modular reactors, the payoff could be higher than that used to deploy renewable energy.

**POWER PLANT RETIREMENTS REPORT.** The U.S. Energy Information Administration released a [report](#) on power plant retirements from 2008-2017. According to the report, nearly all of the utility-scale power plants in the U.S. that were retired between 2008 and 2017 were fueled by fossil fuels. Of the total retired capacity, coal power plants and natural gas steam turbines accounted for the highest percentages. Various factors influence the decision to retire a power plant. For example, the coal power plants retired since 2008 were relatively old and small, averaging 52 years and 105 megawatts (MW), compared with the fleet of coal plants still operating, which are newer and larger. The report also details changes in regional electricity generation over the same time period.

## **MISCELLANEOUS**

**NATIONAL EARTHQUAKE HAZARDS REDUCTION PROGRAM REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2017.** The [National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program Reauthorization Act of 2017](#), PL 115-307, has been enacted. The law amends the Earthquake Hazards Reduction Act of 1977 to expand activities under the National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program by: 1) gathering information on the ability of a community to prepare for, recover from, and adapt to earthquakes; 2) publishing

a systematic set of maps of active faults and folds, liquefaction susceptibility, susceptibility for earthquake-induced landslides, and other seismically induced hazards; and 3) continuing the development of the Advanced National Seismic System, including earthquake early warning capabilities.

**USGS SPECIAL-ISSUE NEWSLETTER ON ALGAL TOXINS.** The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) released a special edition of its Environmental Health Newsletter focused on [algal toxins](#). USGS scientists are working to answer the following questions:

- What are the environmental drivers of algal toxin production in freshwater and saltwater environments?
- What can be done to predict or mitigate drivers to minimize exposure and health risks?
- How often and by which pathways are humans, pets, livestock, and wildlife exposed to algal toxins?
- What are the algal toxin doses—water concentration and duration of exposure—that lead to harm for humans, pets, livestock, fish, and wildlife?
- If toxins are not produced within an algal bloom, what are the other unwanted effects—taste, odor, fouling, and dissolved oxygen depletion—and how can they be mitigated?

## ***NATURAL RESOURCES***

**2018 NATIONAL PRESCRIBED FIRE USE SURVEY REPORT.** The National Association of State Foresters and the Coalition of Prescribed Fire Councils released the [2018 National Prescribed Fire Use Survey Report](#). The report, compiled every three years, addresses challenges that state agencies navigate in managing fire programs. The 2018 survey results showed 11.3 million acres were treated with prescribed fire in 2017. Eighty percent of the acreage was burned to meet forestry objectives with the balance related to agriculture. Weather, capacity, and air quality/smoke management remain the top three impediments for prescribed fire implementation. Weather outranked all other categories with eight out of every 10 states identifying it among their top three impediments. Only one state chose the wildland-urban interface (WUI) as the number one limitation on the use of prescribed fire, and WUI was the impediment category with the fewest states listing it among the top three impediments. The survey documents for the first time the degree of liability as defined in each state's prescribed fire statute(s). Five states have no prescribed fire law, and only seven states have the highest degree of liability protection in the form of gross negligence laws.

## ***THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES***

**12-MONTH FINDINGS FOR PETITIONS TO LIST 13 SPECIES.** The U.S Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) announced 12-month findings on petitions to list 13 species as endangered or threatened ([83 FR 65127](#)). FWS has determined that it will not list the Cedar Key mole skink, Florida sandhill crane, Fremont County rockcress, Frisco buckwheat, Ostler's peppergrass, Frisco clover, MacGillivray's seaside sparrow, Ozark pyrg, pale blue-eyed grass, San Joaquin Valley giant flower-loving fly, striped newt, Tinian monarch, and Tippecanoe darter. The finding was made 19 DEC 18. For information about each of the affected species, including its distribution, follow the above link to the Federal Register notice.

**TRISPOT DARTER.** FWS has determined threatened status for the Trispot Darter (*Etheostoma trisella*), a fish species found in the Coosa River system in Alabama, Georgia, and Tennessee ([83 FR 67131](#)). The threatened designation is effective 28 JAN 19. FWS is also proposing to designate critical habitat for the species ([83 FR 67190](#)). In total, approximately 181 river miles and 16,735 acres in the Coosa River system in Alabama, Georgia, and Tennessee fall within the boundaries of the proposed critical habitat designation. Comments on the proposed critical habitat designation are due 11 FEB 19. Also, FWS is proposing a rule under section 4(d) of the Endangered Species Act for the Trispot Darter ([83 FR 67185](#)). Under the proposed 4(d) rule, certain actions would not be prohibited: 1) species restoration efforts; 2) channel restoration projects that create natural, physically stable, and ecologically functioning streams and wetland systems; 3) certain streambank stabilization projects; 4) certain silviculture activities; 5) certain development activities where transportation corridors cross streams; and 6) activities carried out under the Working Lands for Wildlife

program of the Natural Resources Conservation Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture; or similar projects throughout the range of the Trispot Darter.

## ***TOXICS***

**SIGNIFICANT NEW USE RULES WITHDRAWN.** In response to adverse comment, EPA withdrew significant new use rules (SNURs) for 26 chemical substances that were the subject of premanufacture notices under the Toxic Substances Control Act ([83 FR 62463](#)). The withdrawal was effective 3 DEC 18. The list of chemicals affected by this action is available [here](#). In a second action, EPA promulgated SNURs for an additional [28 chemicals](#), effective 10 DEC 18.

**BERYLLIUM STANDARDS FOR GENERAL INDUSTRY.** The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) is proposing to modify comprehensive general industry standards for occupational exposure to beryllium and beryllium compounds, as adopted in [January 2017](#) ([83 FR 63476](#)). OSHA is proposing clarifications and simplifications to the standards. Comments are due 11 FEB 19.

**INTERAGENCY CONSULTATIONS ON PESTICIDE REGISTRATIONS.** Under the terms of a proposed agreement, EPA will complete Endangered Species Act (ESA) effects determinations for registration of the pesticides clothianidin and thiamethoxam and, as appropriate, request initiation of any ESA consultations with the FWS that EPA may determine to be necessary as a result of those effects determinations ([83 FR 63865](#)). The effects determinations are to be completed by 30 JUN 22. The proposed agreement is in response to a court case claiming that EPA failed to consult with FWS prior to issuing registrations for certain pesticides. Comments on the proposed agreement were due 11 JAN 19.

**FEDERAL ACTION PLAN TO REDUCE CHILDHOOD LEAD EXPOSURE.** In December, a presidential task force released the [Federal Action Plan to Reduce Childhood Lead Exposures and Associated Health Impacts](#). The action plan identifies actions being taken by various federal agencies with regard to childhood exposure to lead.

## ***WASTE***

**WASTE PHARMACEUTICALS RULE.** In December, EPA released the text of the final rule, [Management Standards for Hazardous Waste Pharmaceuticals and Amendment to the P075 Listing for Nicotine](#). The final rule establishes streamlined standards for handling hazardous waste pharmaceuticals to better fit the operations of the healthcare sector. The final rule, which prohibits sewerage of waste pharmaceuticals, is predicted to reduce the amount of waste pharmaceutical entering waterways by 1,644 to 2,300 tons annually. In addition, Federal Drug Administration (FDA)-approved, over-the-counter nicotine replacement therapies (i.e., nicotine patches, gums and lozenges) will no longer be considered hazardous waste when discarded. The final rule reaffirms EPA's long-standing policy that non-prescription pharmaceuticals and other unsold retail items that have a reasonable expectation of being legitimately used/reused or reclaimed are not solid waste. It also provides regulatory certainty that the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) applies when healthcare facilities send unused, unsaleable prescription hazardous waste pharmaceuticals to reverse distributors to receive manufacturer credit. Simultaneously, the rule incorporates flexibilities to accommodate current reverse distribution business practices to facilitate its implementation. A webinar on the final rule is scheduled for 23 JAN 19.

**E-MANIFEST FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQS).** EPA published new FAQs about the e-Manifest system. The FAQs include questions on use of the e-Manifest system, discrepancy reporting, and rejected wastes. The e-Manifest FAQ page can be found [here](#).

**INTERPRETATION OF HIGH-LEVEL RADIOACTIVE WASTE.** DOE extended the public comment period for its [proposed interpretation](#) of the term "high-level radioactive waste" (HLW) ([83 FR 62569](#)). DOE is proposing to interpret the term such that some reprocessing wastes may be classified as non-HLW and may be disposed of in accordance with their radiological characteristics. The agency says the change could save the federal government \$40 billion in cleanup costs across the nation's entire nuclear weapons complex, which includes the Hanford Nuclear Reservation in Washington,

Savannah River Plant in South Carolina, and Idaho National Laboratory. The comment period was extended to 9 JAN 19.

**EUROPEAN UNION MOVES FORWARD ON SINGLE-USE PLASTIC BAN.** Officials from European Union (EU) member states and the European Parliament are moving forward with a [proposal](#) to reduce marine pollution by banning single-use straws, cutlery, plates, and cotton swabs. After the ban is formally approved, countries will have two years to restrict the use of single-use plastic products, which will also include drink stirrers, balloon sticks, and polystyrene food and beverage containers. Collectively, these products make up over 70 percent of marine litter. A news report is available [here](#). In a related matter, the Australia National Retail Association (NRA) [reports](#) that single-use plastic bag use in Australia has been reduced by 80 percent over a three-month period. Two major grocery chains eliminated light-weight plastic bags and implemented a fee for heavy-weight plastic bags.

## ***WATER***

**WATERS OF THE U.S.** EPA and USACE have [released](#) the text of a proposed rule to clarify the scope of waters federally regulated under the Clean Water Act (CWA). The proposed rule would replace the 2015 definition of Waters of the United States; i.e., those waters subject to the CWA, with a narrower definition, based on navigable waters. Under the proposed rule, ephemeral streams, which only flow after rain or snow, and wetlands without continuous surface water connections to waters would not be considered waters of the U.S. According to the U.S. Geological Survey, ephemeral streams make up about 18 percent of waterways nationwide, but they are more common in seven Colorado River Basin states. In Nevada, 85 percent of streams are ephemeral; in New Mexico, 66 percent; and in Arizona, 51 percent. A webcast was held 10 JAN 19. A public hearing for interested parties to present data, views, or information is scheduled for 23 JAN 19 ([83 FR 67174](#)). The agencies will take public comment on the proposal for 60 days following publication in the Federal Register. For more information, click [here](#).

**REPORT TO CONGRESS—WATERS OF THE U.S.** The Congressional Research Service released a report to Congress titled, [Waters of the United States \(WOTUS\): Current Status of the 2015 Clean Water Rule](#). The report explains although the CWA protects “navigable waters,” which it defines as “the waters of the United States, including the territorial seas,” the law does not define the term waters of the United States. Therefore, USACE and EPA have defined the term in regulations several times as part of their implementation of the act. The report goes on to explain how Supreme Court rulings have affected agency actions to implement the CWA via the Clean Water Rule.

**S. 3760.** This bill would narrowly define which wetlands and waterways are covered by the CWA. It defines “waters of the U.S.” as only waters that are “navigable in fact” or have permanent, standing, or continuously flowing water. Introduced.

**WATER QUALITY CRITERIA—ALUMINUM.** EPA announced the availability of final updated Aquatic Life Ambient Water Quality Criteria for Aluminum in Freshwater ([83 FR 65663](#)). Water quality criteria are used by states and authorized tribes to establish water quality standards for specific water bodies under authority of the CWA. The recommended criteria concentrations for aluminum in freshwater to protect aquatic life depends on a site's water chemistry parameters. Rather than a single value, the final 2018 recommended national criteria are now based upon Multiple Linear Regression models for fish and invertebrate species to quantify the effects of these water chemistry parameters on the bioavailability and associated toxicity of aluminum to aquatic organisms. The 1988 criteria values of 87 micrograms per liter (µg/L) for chronic exposure, and 750 µg/L for acute exposure have been replaced with site-specific results, which may range widely.

**STORMWATER DISCHARGES FROM CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES.** All 10 EPA Regional Offices are proposing to modify the 2017 National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) general permit for stormwater discharges from construction activities, also referred to as the 2017 Construction General Permit (CGP) or 2017 CGP ([83 FR 63858](#)). The modifications are intended to clarify the intent of several requirements and ensure consistency with the Construction and Development Effluent Limitations Guidelines and New Source Performance Standards. The proposed modifications,

if finalized, would replace several existing conditions in the 2017 CGP and require modification of relevant fact sheet sections, but would not affect any other terms and conditions of the existing permit, including: 1) the eligible coverage area; 2) the number or type of entities eligible to be covered by the permit; or 3) the five-year permit term of the current 2017 CGP. Comments are due 28 JAN 19. Visit the website for [Stormwater Discharges from Construction Activities](#) to learn more or to view the draft proposed permit modifications.

**DESALINATION RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE.** DOE [announced](#) it is establishing an Energy-Water Desalination Hub to address water security issues in the U.S. The hub, funded with \$100 million, will focus on desalination research and development to provide low-cost alternatives that treat “non-traditional” water sources such as seawater, brackish water, and produced waters for use in municipal and industrial water supplies, or to serve other water resource needs. The DOE Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy’s Advanced Manufacturing Office will lead the Energy-Water Desalination Hub. DOE will fund one new five-year award, subject to appropriations. The hub team will work to achieve the goals of four technical topic areas: 1) materials research and development; 2) new processes research and development; 3) modeling and simulation tools; and 4) integrated data and analysis. To view the funding application and submission requirements for the Energy-Water Desalination Hub, click [here](#). Concept papers are due 7 FEB 19.

## Department of Defense Activity

**PRESIDENTIAL MEMORANDUM ESTABLISHING NEW SPACE COMMAND.** President Trump issued the memorandum, *Establishment of United States Space Command as a Unified Combatant Command* ([83 FR 65483](#)). The memorandum directs the establishment of the United States Space Command as a functional Unified Combatant Command. The memorandum also directs the Secretary of Defense to recommend officers for nomination and Senate confirmation as Commander and Deputy Commander of the new United States Space Command. In a related action, Defense News [reports](#) that the new Space Force may reside under the Department of the Air Force.

**ALTERNATIVES REPORT FOR OPEN BURN/OPEN DETONATION.** In December, the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine released a report on alternate technologies to open burning and open detonation (OB/OD). The report is the result of an 18-month study, mandated by the Fiscal Year 2017 National Defense Authorization Act. Key findings of the report include:

- There are no significant technical, safety, or regulatory barriers to deploying alternative technologies for disposal of the vast majority of the conventional waste munitions, and the Army has made progress in implementing some of them.
- Each alternative technology that the study assessed as a potential replacement to the current practice would have lower emissions and fewer environmental and public health impacts and would therefore likely be more acceptable to the public.
- Although the Office of the Product Director for Demilitarization at DOD has a strategic plan for increasing the use of alternative technologies and transitioning away from OB/OD, it lacks a detailed implementation plan. Both the DOD and Army have placed relatively low priority on funding the demilitarization program, including the implementation of additional alternative technologies, as reflected in past budgets.

The committee recommended DOD develop a detailed implementation plan for transitioning from OB/OD to alternative technologies, with appropriate performance metrics, and institutionalize it through the demilitarization program. A news release about the report is available [here](#). A prepublication edition of the report can be viewed [here](#).

**2019 REPI CHALLENGE REQUEST FOR PRE-PROPOSALS.** The 2019 Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration (REPI) Challenge seeks to leverage public and private funds that enhance installations and ranges that host key capabilities identified in the National Defense Strategy. The 2019 REPI Challenge is open to all eligible partners at DOD



installations and will award up to \$15 million by July 2019. All REPI Challenge pre-proposals will be coordinated with the military services and are due 25 JAN 19. Pre-proposals that are approved will then be invited to submit full proposals. Applicants will be notified of their pre-proposal status no later than 22 FEB 19. The 2019 REPI Challenge Request for Pre-Proposals and the downloadable PDF pre-proposal form are available through the U.S. Endowment for Forestry and Communities [website](#). The REPI website is available [here](#).

**POSSIBLE PERMANENT BUFFER FOR JOINT BASE ELMENDORF-RICHARDSON.** The Eagle River-Chugiak Parks and Recreation Department is in talks with an Oklahoma-based nonprofit that could result in a permanent buffer zone for Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson. According to its [website](#), the Tulsa-based Compatible Lands Foundation purchases conservation easements “from willing landowners, prohibiting incompatible land uses but allowing open space activities such as farming, ranching, and hunting.” The foundation wants to acquire a conservation easement to prevent development on about 1,300 acres of 1,750-acre Beach Lake Park, which borders Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson. Municipal officials stressed that the proposal is only in the discussion phase and would require voter approval before it could be finalized. To read a news report about the proposed buffer zone, click [here](#).

**PILOT PROJECTS FOR BENEFICIAL USE OF DREDGED MATERIAL.** USACE selected 10 proposed projects for beneficial use of dredged material ([83 FR 67239](#)). The 10 projects were selected as having a high likelihood of delivering environmental, economic, and social benefits described in the proposals, and exhibit geographic diversity.

# Professional Development

## ***DOD TRAINING SOURCES***

**US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS PROSPECT TRAINING (CLASSROOM).** USACE announces course availability for the Fiscal Year 2019 PROSPECT ([Proponent-Sponsored Engineer Corps Training](#)) program. Courses are open to 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:

- CERCLA/RCRA Process (Course Control Number (CCN) [356](#))
- Environmental Laws and Regulations (CCN [170](#))
- Environmental Regulations Practical Application Course (CCN [398](#))
- Environmental Remediation Technologies (CCN [395](#))
- Hazardous Waste Manifesting/DOT Certification (CCN [223](#))
- Hazardous Waste Manifesting 16-Hour DOT Recertification Course (CCN [429](#))
- Hazardous/Toxic and Radioactive Waste Construction Inspection (CCN 141)
- Radioactive Waste Transport (CCN [441](#))
- The Complete RCRA Course (Hazardous Waste Generation, Management, and Corrective Action) (CCN [226](#))

**NAVY CIVIL ENGINEER CORPS OFFICERS SCHOOL TRAINING.** The [Navy Civil Engineer Corps Officers School](#) (CECOS) offers training on environmental management, pollution prevention, environmental compliance, environmental conservation and planning, and environmental restoration. Energy course offerings include Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, Energy Information Administration, and Energy Technology Information. Click [here](#) for information on course offerings and times. Courses offered by CECOS are available to all military and civilian employees of the U.S. government, free of charge. Travel costs are borne by the student.

**AIR FORCE CIVIL ENGINEERING SCHOOL TRAINING.** The [Air Force Civil Engineer School](#) offers a variety of environmental management courses and seminars, including Interservice Environmental Education Review Board (ISEERB) offerings.

Courses are available to all military and civilian employees of the U.S. government, free of charge. Travel costs are borne by the student.

**STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM (SERDP) AND ENVIRONMENTAL SECURITY TECHNOLOGY CERTIFICATION PROGRAM (ESTCP) WEBINAR SERIES.** DOD's environmental research and development funding programs ([SERDP and ESTCP](#)) launched a [webinar series](#) to promote the transfer of innovative, cost-effective, and sustainable solutions developed using SERDP and ESTCP funding. Live webinars are offered every two weeks on Thursdays from 12:00 p.m. Eastern for 90 minutes. Most webinars feature two 30-minute presentations and interactive question and answer sessions on topics targeted for DOD and Department of Energy audiences. Prior presentations are archived for viewing any time. Recently archived webinars are available on demand [here](#).

**REPI WEBINAR SERIES.** DOD's Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration program offers [webinars](#) on best practices, tutorials, and knowledge sharing on partnerships that support the military mission and accelerate the pace and rate of land conservation.

## ***FEDERAL TRAINING SOURCES***

**FEDERAL FACILITIES ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP AND COMPLIANCE ASSISTANCE CENTER (ONLINE).** [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, such as:

- Program development (e.g., environmental management systems, green procurement program);
- Federal and state regulatory requirements for various facility activities;
- Access to [environmental assistance](#);
- Access to free, [FedCenter-sponsored courses](#); and
- [Partnerships](#).

FedCenter also provides member assistance services such as collaboration tools for workgroups, environmental reporting tools, and daily newsletter and subscription services.

**BIOBASED PRODUCT TRAINING SERIES (ONLINE).** The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) offers a series of [on-demand training modules](#) about biobased products and the BioPreferred® Program:

- [Fundamentals: Biobased Products and the BioPreferred® Program](#)
- [Contracting Officer Role in Contractor Reporting of Biobased Product Purchases](#)
- [BioPreferred® Training for USDA Acquisition Community](#)
- [From Awareness to Action: The BioPreferred® Federal Procurement Preference Program](#)
- [Products in Operations, Maintenance, and Cleaning](#)

**GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR SUSTAINABLE FEDERAL BUILDINGS (ONLINE).** This training series from the Federal Energy Management Program (FEMP) provides updated guidance for complying with the 2016 Guiding Principles for Sustainable Federal Buildings. The series consists of five on-demand courses:

- [2016 Guiding Principle I: Employ Integrated Design Principles and Introduction](#)
- [2016 Guiding Principle II: Optimize Energy Performance](#)
- [2016 Guiding Principle III: Protect and Conserve Water](#)
- [2016 Guiding Principle IV: Enhance Indoor Environmental Quality](#)
- [2016 Guiding Principle V: Reduce Environmental Impact of Materials and Guiding Principle VI - Assess and Consider Climate Change Risks](#)

**EPA SUSTAINABLE MATERIALS MANAGEMENT ACADEMY (ONLINE).** 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 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.

**SUSTAINABLE ACQUISITION FOR FEDERAL AGENCIES (ONLINE).** The two-hour [course](#) provides staff involved in specifying and purchasing with a thorough introduction to compliance requirements, processes, and tools for procuring sustainable products and services. Participants will receive specific guidance in how to meet executive order and Federal Acquisition Regulation requirements and understand how sustainable acquisition benefits their agency, community, and the environment.

**SUSTAINABLE ACQUISITION TRAINING RESOURCES (ONLINE).** The interagency federal Sustainable Acquisition & Materials Management Practices Workgroup compiled a [spreadsheet](#) of sustainable acquisition training resources developed or hosted by federal agencies that are available to government employees, businesses, and non-governmental organizations.

**FEMP eTRAINING COURSES (ONLINE).** FEMP offers interactive, [eTraining courses](#) to help federal agencies develop core competencies and comply with energy efficiency, renewable energy, water management, and sustainability requirements. FEMP is partnering with the National Institute of Building Sciences' Whole Building Design Guide to host these comprehensive, FEMP-developed eTraining courses.

**ENERGY STAR (ONLINE).** EPA's [Energy Star program](#) helps identify and promote energy efficiency in products, homes, and buildings. EPA hosts a [webinar series](#) that covers a range of topics, from how to benchmark in Portfolio Manager to financing energy efficiency improvements to how to engage building occupants.

**INTERSTATE TECHNOLOGY AND REGULATORY COUNCIL TRAINING (ONLINE).** 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.

**GENERAL CONFORMITY TRAINING MODULES (ONLINE).** The General Conformity Rule ensures that the actions taken by federal agencies in nonattainment and maintenance areas do not interfere with a state's plans to meet national standards for air quality. EPA's [online conformity training program](#) covers all aspects of the rule and is divided into four modules.

**WATER MANAGEMENT BASICS (ONLINE).** This FEMP [online course](#) provides a concise introduction to comprehensive water management, to include key topic areas of basic water management terminology, history of federal water mandates, best practices associated with comprehensive water management, and proven water conservation financing mechanisms and strategies. The three-module course offers a thorough overview of water management in the federal context:

- Module One: Introduction to Federal Water Management
- Module Two: Introduction to Comprehensive Water Management
- Module Three: Financing and Launching Water Management Projects

**CLIMATE CHANGE SCIENCE AND MANAGEMENT WEBINAR SERIES.** This U.S. Geological Survey [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. Information on upcoming webinars is available from the BioClimate newsletter ([click](#) to subscribe).

**WATER/WASTEWATER UTILITY ALL-HAZARDS BOOTCAMP TRAINING (ONLINE).** Hosted by EPA, this [training course](#) is designed for water and wastewater employees responsible for emergency response and recovery activities. It also explains why and how to implement an all-hazards program, and will cover prevention and mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery.

## ***OTHER TRAINING RESOURCES***

**COOPERATIVE FEDERALISM WEBINAR.** The Environmental Council of the States (ECOS) released a [webinar](#), available on demand, highlighting ECOS' [paper](#) on Cooperative Federalism 2.0 and offering a deeper look into the EPA-state relationship.

**4-8 MAR 19, DENVER, CO: NATIONAL MILITARY FISH AND WILDLIFE ASSOCIATION (NMFWA) MEETING.** NMFWA will hold its annual training workshop and meeting in conjunction with the Wildlife Management Institute's 84<sup>th</sup> North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference. See the meeting website for a draft agenda, training courses available, and event details.

**4-5 MAR 19—WORKSHOP ON COMPUTATIONAL MODELS FOR LARGE OUTDOOR FIRES.** The National Institute of Standards and Technology will host a [workshop](#) 4-5 MAR 19 to discuss the current state of measurement science gaps in implementing computational tools to model large scale outdoor fires, such as those found in the wildland and wildland-urban interface communities. Portions of the workshop will be available via web broadcasting.

**21-22 MAY 19, CHAMPAIGN, IL: 2019 EMERGING CONTAMINANTS IN THE ENVIRONMENT CONFERENCE.** The Illinois Sustainable Technology Center and the Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant are cohosting the conference. The conference will expand beyond the aquatic environment to also include air and soil studies along with effects on human and animal health. The conference will feature presentations on the latest in emerging contaminant research, policies, and outreach.

# Staff Directory

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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 represented.

To comment on items in the *Southern Review*, please contact the Regional Environmental Coordinator listed at the top of page two.

To be added to the *Southern Review* distribution list, email the [Regulatory Affairs Specialist](#).

