

Environmental Protection Agency

Priorities and Updates

Thomas McGill, Chief
Ocean, Wetlands, and Streams Protection Branch
U.S. EPA Region 4



Government Reform

➤ Executive Order 13771

- Reducing Regulation and Controlling Regulatory Costs
- Two for One Requirement

➤ Executive Order 13781

- Comp. Plan for Reorganizing the Executive Branch
- Improve efficiency, effectiveness and accountability
- Head of each Agency required to submit plan to the Office of Management and Budget



FY18-22 Transformation Strategy



2018-2019 Agency Priority Goals

- Improve air quality by implementing pollution control measures to reduce the number of non-attainment areas.
- Accelerate the pace of cleanups and return sites to beneficial use in their communities.
- Meet new statutory requirements to improve the safety of chemicals in commerce.
- Empower communities to leverage EPA environmental infrastructure investments.
- Accelerate permitting-related decisions.
- Increase environmental law compliance rate.

EPA's Regulatory Reform Agenda Update

- Finalized 10 deregulatory actions in FY2018
 - Estimated savings of \$1.2 billion in regulatory costs.
- Regulatory Agenda currently includes 45 actions intended to be deregulatory
- 25 priority actions planned for proposal or completion this year including:
 - The Affordable Clean Energy Rule
 - Revised definition of Waters of the United States (WOTUS)
- The Administration's Fall 2018 Unified Agenda of Regulatory and Deregulatory Actions
 - <https://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/eAgendaMain>

Revised Definition of WOTUS

- Clarifies where the Clean Water Act applies.
- EPA and the Army signed a proposed rule on Dec 11, 2018.
- Agencies will take comment for 60 days following publication in the *Federal Register*.
- Pre-publication (unofficial) version of the rule currently available:
 - https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2018-12/documents/wotus_2040-af75_nprm_frn_2018-12-11_prepublication2_1.pdf

Revised Definition of WOTUS (cont.)

- Public Hearing will be held Feb 27-28, 2019 in Kansas City, KS.
- EPA and the Army will hold an informational webcast on Feb 14, 2019.
- Information about registration for these events:
 - <https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-and-army-announce-public-hearing-proposed-new-waters-united-states-definition>
- Please consider participating in this very important rulemaking effort!

EPA Strategies to Address Nutrients

- Promoting collaborative approaches
- Overseeing regulatory programs
- Outreach
- Providing technical/programmatic support to States
- Developing Partnerships
- Financing Nutrient Reduction Activities
- Conducting Research and Development

Updated Policy on Water Quality Trading

- Promotes market-based mechanisms for improving water quality
- May operate in coordination with or independent of traditional regulatory programs
- EPA will host a webinar on Mar 7, 2019
 - To participate send an email to nutrients@epa.gov
- Information about trading and this policy:
 - <https://www.epa.gov/nutrient-policy-data/collaborative-approaches-reducing-excess-nutrients>

Examples of Partnerships that Help EPA Achieve our Mission

- Mississippi River/Gulf of Mexico Hypoxia Task Force
 - <https://www.epa.gov/ms-htf>
- Animal Agriculture Discussion Group
 - [https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2017-06/documents/aadg_factsheet - june2017.pdf](https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2017-06/documents/aadg_factsheet_-_june2017.pdf)
- Source Water Collaborative
 - <https://sourcewatercollaborative.org/about/>
- Farm, Ranch and Rural Communities Federal Advisory Committee
 - <https://www.epa.gov/faca/frrcc>

Questions?

