

Conservation Committee Report

Volume 18 Issue 6

Jack Walters—Conservation Chairman

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The Conservation Pledge

I give my pledge as an American to save and faithfully defend from waste, the natural resources of my country; the soil, the water, the air, the minerals, the plant life and the wildlife.

This is my Pledge!

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New Disposal Options for Unwanted and Expired Medicines

Pennsylvanians have more options to dispose of unwanted and expired medicines and pharmaceutical drugs thanks to enactment of HB 1737, part of the opioid epidemic package of bills signed by Governor Tom Wolf.

“With this new legislation we want to remind PA residents that there are safe ways to dispose of

unwanted and expired medicines,” said Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Acting Secretary Patrick McDonnell. “We want to encourage everyone to safely and responsibly dispose of medicines and other pharmaceuticals rather than just flush them down the drain or send them to a landfill.”

The law, sponsored by Representative John Maher, allows pharmaceuticals delivered to collection events to be incinerated at permitted facilities, instead of solely being disposed of as hazardous waste and allows collection events

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EPA Issues Rule Finalizing Changes to Existing Hazardous Waste Export and Import Regulations

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) finalized a rule to improve the nation’s hazardous waste regulations to protect public health and the environment. The updated Hazardous Waste Import and Export

Regulations streamline the hazardous waste export and import process, implement mandatory electronic reporting for international shipments and electronically linking export information.

“EPA is dedicated to continuing to improve the tracking of

hazardous waste exports and imports to provide a safe and healthy environment for all. This new rule will provide greater protection to communities from mismanagement of hazardous waste

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New Disposal Options for Unwanted and Expired Medicines (continued)

conducted by law enforcement, medical facilities, pharmacies, and resource recovery facilities incinerating the pharmaceuticals to be exempt from registering with DEP prior to commencing operations.

“We hope that changing prior disposal restrictions will encourage more collection events to enable people to dispose of expired and unwanted drugs,” said McDonnell.

The Department encourages organizations hosting collection events to contact Pennsylvania’s Department of Drug and Alcohol or the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration for help in publicizing the events and for guidance on disposal options.

For more information on prescription drug disposal please visit the DEP website. For more information on the opioid epidemic package, visit <http://www.pa.gov/collections/opioid-epidemic/>.

Source: PA Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)

EPA Issues Rule Finalizing Changes to Existing Hazardous Waste Export and Import Regulations (continued)

when it is shipped across multiple countries to be disposed or recycled,” said Mathy Stanislaus, Assistant Administrator of EPA’s Office of Land and Emergency Management. “The rule provides for improved transparency, data sharing and tracking for international shipments.”

The final rule improves and consolidates previous regulations so that one set of requirements – the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development’s (OECD’s) more stringent controlling transboundary movements of hazardous waste requirements – applies to all U.S. hazardous waste exports and imports.

More efficient compliance monitoring will be provided by the rule’s requirement to link the consent to export with the electronic export information submitted to U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP). These regulations support a broader U.S. government effort led by CBP to convert from a paper-based border-crossing approval process for a wide range of exports and imports, to an electronic border-crossing approval process. This rule covers the hazardous waste export component of this larger International Trade Data System initiative.

Additionally, the new rule requires mandatory electronic reporting to EPA, which will enable increased sharing of hazardous waste export and import data with state programs, the general public and individual hazardous waste exporters and importers. While some electronic reporting will be required when the rule becomes effective, the full range of electronic reporting will not be mandatory until the respective electronic reporting functions are built and beta tested, at which point a compliance date will be announced in a separate Federal Register announcement.

Read Assistant Administrator Stanislaus’ blog on today’s actions: <https://blog.epa.gov/blog/2016/10/keeping-international-communities-safe>

For more information about the final Hazardous Waste Export and Import Regulations, visit: <https://www.epa.gov/hwgenerators/proposed-rule-hazardous-waste-export-import-revisions>

For more information about the Proposed Rule: Internet Posting for Hazardous Waste Exports and Imports Proposed Rule and Confidentiality Determination to Exclude Confidential Business Information (CBI) Claims for Hazardous Waste Export and Import Documents, visit: <https://www.epa.gov/hwgenerators/proposed-rule-internet-posting-and-confidentiality-determinations-hazardous-waste>

For more on OECD’s rules, visit: <http://www.oecd.org/env/waste/theoecdcontrolsystemforwasterecovery.htm>

Source: The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

EPA Offers Assistance to Help Rural Communities Revitalize Downtowns

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) invited rural communities to apply for planning assistance to develop strategies that help grow the economy and revitalize downtown neighborhoods. EPA is offering this assistance as part of Rural Advantage, a suite of federal economic development planning assistance programs for rural communities.

“Rural Advantage is helping communities reinvent themselves in ways that are good for the economy and the environment,” said EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy. “We are excited to partner with communities that want to use their unique rural assets to create a brighter, healthier future.

Communities may apply for assistance through the following programs:

Local Foods, Local Places (LFLP), which helps communities leverage local food enterprise to diversify their economy and renew their downtowns.

Cool & Connected, which helps communities use broadband service to create walkable, connected, economically successful neighborhoods.

Healthy Places for Healthy People, a new program that will help communities partner with health care facilities to catalyze downtown revitalization and to improve options for healthy living and economic opportunity.

Rural Advantage is part of the Obama Administration's commitment to place-based strategies to help communities develop competitive advantages. In these places, federal experts are working side by side with residents and local leaders to create customized solutions, bolstering coordination across agencies and improving how we interact with and serve community partners.

Under the Obama Administration, EPA and federal partners have provided rural advantage assistance to 83 communities, to date. Sixty-eight communities have been selected for assistance through Local Foods, Local Places, and 15 communities have received assistance through Cool & Connected, ten of which are in Appalachia.

In 2012, Williamson, W Va., was selected to participate in the Livable Communities in Appalachia program, the predecessor to LFLP. Through that effort, a team of small-town development experts worked with Sustainable Williamson to create an action plan tailored to achieving the town's goals, including improving access to food to realize better health outcomes.

Upon implementing the plan, Sustainable Williamson received an \$80,000 planning grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Health Resources and Services Administration. That grant helped create a Federally Qualified Health Center that later received an additional \$650,000 to support clinic operations. Sustainable Williamson also established a

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EPA Offers Assistance to Help Rural Communities Revitalize Downtowns

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downtown farmers' market and community garden that increased access to healthy foods for Williamson residents. The Williamson Health and Wellness Center also received LFLP assistance, in 2015, to provide support to new entrepreneurs starting up their businesses in the local food and health care sectors, and to expand the community's innovative approaches to creating a culture of health.

In Montrose, Co., the Cool & Connected action plan helped advance Proximity Space, an award-winning coworking project, and link it to the community's efforts to build a walkable and investment-ready downtown. Coworking space allows people to access high-speed internet, conference rooms, and office equipment, and is one of many ways that small towns can leverage broadband to boost main street development.

Communities selected for this latest round of assistance will work with an EPA-supported team of experts, including through a two-day workshop, to develop strategies and action plans that enable them to realize their local revitalization goals. The team will include people with expertise in community development, and representatives of the federal agencies that sponsor the three programs so communities can build connections and take better advantage of federal programs and resources.

Working with federal partners, EPA will select thirty or more communities for assistance through a competitive process.

EPA's Rural Advantage federal partners are the United States Departments of Agriculture, Health and Human Services, Housing and Urban Development, and Transportation, the Appalachian Regional Commission, the Delta Regional Authority and the Economic Development Administration.

Communities may apply by submitting letters of interest by November 6. For more information and to submit an application, see: <https://www.epa.gov/smartgrowth>

Source: The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

New Regulations of Shale Drilling Take Effect

Chapter 78A regulations strengthen water protections and improve public data access

New Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) regulations on unconventional gas drilling will be published in the October 8, 2016 edition of the Pennsylvania Bulletin and become effective upon publication. The new rules regulate unconventional drilling practices and hydraulic fracturing, as well as related activities. DEP has worked extensively with the natural gas industry to prepare for smooth adoption of the new requirements, which will help protect Pennsylvania's air, water, natural resources as well as the health of residents.

"These regulations are a long time in coming and have undergone one of the most transparent and participatory processes ever overseen by DEP," said Acting DEP Secretary Patrick McDonnell. "The final result is a set of regulations that increase protection for public resources and water supplies, improve data transparency, enhance access to relevant information for the public, and help provide business certainty to the industry."

The new rules, which have been under development since 2011, are the first modernization of the Commonwealth's oil and gas surface regulations since the implementation of new horizontal drilling and hydraulic fracturing techniques to capture natural gas from Pennsylvania's shale deposits.

Many of the changes to the regulations were made to comply with the 2012 Oil and Gas Act (known as Act 13). Among the changes to the current regulations:

- *Improved protections of public resources:* DEP can require additional protective measures if drilling would be near school property and playgrounds, parks, forests, and other public resources.
- *Strengthened water supply restoration standards:* If oil and gas development degrades a water supply, the operator must restore or replace the supply with one that meets Safe Drinking Water Act standards or is as good as pre-drilling conditions if the water supply was better than the Drinking Water Act standards.
- *Electronic filing:* In order to more efficiently track well development and operations, and to provide better public access to drilling data, operators will be required to submit electronic forms rather than paper.

"DEP heard from thousands of citizens across multiple comment periods and a dozen public hearings, as well numerous meetings with industry representatives, and the regulations have been improved as a result. We are very proud of the regulations we are putting into effect," said McDonnell.

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New Regulations of Shale Drilling Take Effect

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“These regulations codify many of the common industry practices to create some of the most protective regulations in the nation and ensure safe development of this important resource.”

The final regulations can be found in the Pennsylvania Bulletin here:

<http://www.pabulletin.com/index.asp>

Training sessions and information for oil and gas operators on complying with the new regulations has already begun – for more information and to view previous webinars, please click here:

<http://www.dep.pa.gov/Business/Energy/OilandGasPrograms/OilandGasMgmt/Public-Resources/Pages/Oil-and-Gas-Surface-Regulations.aspx>

EPA to award \$820,000 brownfields grant to Philadelphia To assess and clean up abandoned industrial, commercial properties

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency announced an \$820,000 brownfields grant to support the assessment and cleanup of abandoned industrial and commercial properties in Philadelphia.

The brownfields revolving loan fund grant goes to the Philadelphia Authority of Industrial Development (PAID). Philadelphia is one of 131 communities nationwide to receive \$55.2 million in EPA brownfields grants this year.

“Brownfields funding helps communities remove critical barriers to redevelopment and reuse,” said EPA Mid-Atlantic Regional Administrator Shawn M. Garvin. “This funding supports Philadelphia’s plans for improving the quality of life of residents by reclaiming areas for housing, commercial development and open space and at the same time protecting public health and the environment.”

Brownfields are properties where real or suspected environmental contamination has prevented productive reuse of those properties.

Regional Administrator Garvin made the announcement today during a celebration at the Penovation Works site in Philadelphia where \$600,000 in previous EPA brownfields funding was used to help assess and clean up abandoned property. Today, Penovation Works – located adjacent to the University of Pennsylvania – is a unique blend of offices, labs and production space being developed by the university.

EPA’s Brownfields Program strives to expand the ability of communities to recycle vacant and abandoned properties for new, productive reuses. Investments provide communities with the funding necessary to assess, clean up and redevelop contaminated properties, boost local economies and leverage jobs while protecting public health and the environment.

Brownfields grants provide resources early on, which is critical for the success of communities’ abilities to leverage additional partnerships and resources. Partnerships between neighborhoods, local developers and governments are essential for impacted communities to acquire the resources needed to meet their revitalization goals.

More on brownfields grants: <https://www.epa.gov/brownfields/types-brownfields-grant-funding>

More on EPA’s Brownfields Program: <https://www.epa.gov/brownfields>

More on successful Brownfields stories: <https://www.epa.gov/brownfields/brownfields-success-stories>

Source: The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Automakers Outperform Greenhouse Gas Emissions Standards for 4th Consecutive Year

Average fuel economy reaches record 24.8 miles per gallon

Passenger vehicles achieved record-high fuel economy while outperforming greenhouse gas emission standards in model year 2015, according to two reports released by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

The GHG Manufacturer Performance Report for 2015 Model Year finds automakers went beyond the model year (MY) 2015 standards by an average 7 grams of CO₂ per mile, equivalent to 0.9 miles per gallon (mpg), even as the fleet-wide standard became more stringent by 13 grams of CO₂ per mile. All large manufacturers have met the standards through MY 2015.

According to the 2016 CO₂ and Fuel Economy Trends Report, MY 2015 vehicles' fuel economy increased by 0.5 mpg to a record 24.8 mpg, with improvements across all vehicle types – including passenger cars, SUVs, vans and minivans, and light duty pickup trucks. Since 2011, the year before the national Greenhouse Gas and Fuel economy standards for passenger vehicles took effect, fuel economy has increased by 2.4 mpg, and CO₂ emissions per mile traveled have decreased by 10 percent.

“Car buyers can go to the showroom knowing that no matter what kind of vehicle they buy, it will be better for the climate – and their wallets – than ever before,” said Christopher Grundler, director of EPA's Office of Transportation and Air Quality. “This report highlights that the industry is providing vehicles that customers want, while reaching new levels of environmental performance.”

The automotive industry has seen six consecutive years of sales increases and a new all-time sales record in 2015, reflecting positive consumer response to vehicles complying with the standards. Automakers have been rapidly adopting fuel-efficient technologies like turbo charging, engine downsizing, more sophisticated transmissions, vehicle weight reduction, aerodynamics and idle stop-start, along with improved accessories and air conditioning systems. More than 100 MY 2016 vehicles on the market today already meet the 2020 standards.

EPA estimates that, through today, the GHG emissions standards have slashed almost 130 million metric tons of CO₂ – roughly the amount of GHGs emitted from the electricity use in about 20 million homes for one year. The National Program – which set coordinated regulations on fuel economy and GHG emissions between the EPA, the Department of Transportation and the California Air Resources Board – establishes separate footprint-based standards for passenger cars and light trucks. A manufacturer's compliance obligations depend on the mix of vehicles that it produces for sale in each model year. This approach ensures that consumers can continue to choose from the full range of fuel-efficient vehicles on the market, while these vehicles are improving efficiency and reducing emissions.

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Automakers Outperform Greenhouse Gas Emissions Standards for 4th Consecutive Year (continued)

Read the GHG Manufacturer Performance Report for 2015 Model Year: <https://www.epa.gov/regulations-emissions-vehicles-and-engines/greenhouse-gas-ghg-emission-standards-light-duty-0>

Read the 2016 Fuel Economy Trends Report: www.epa.gov/fuel-economy/trends-report
More information on Light Duty Vehicle Standards:
<https://www.epa.gov/regulations-emissions-vehicles-and-engines/regulations-greenhouse-gas-emissions-passenger-cars>

Source: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

EPA Releases the EJ 2020 Action Agenda, the Agency's Environmental Justice Strategic Plan for 2016-2020

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) released the Environmental Justice 2020 Action Agenda (EJ 2020), the Agency's environmental justice strategic plan for 2016 to 2020. EJ 2020 will further integrate environmental justice considerations in all of the Agency's programs, strengthen EPA's collaboration with partners, and demonstrate progress on significant national challenges facing minority and low-income communities.

EJ 2020 builds on the foundation established by EPA's previous strategic plan, Plan EJ 2014, as well as decades of significant environmental justice practice by the Agency, communities, and other environmental justice stakeholders.

"EPA is committed to ensuring every community in the United States has access to clean air, water and land," said EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy. "EJ 2020 is a product of listening to people in communities to better understand the challenges they face, and working closely with local leaders to identify solutions together."

The EJ 2020 Action Agenda has three overarching goals:

- Deepen environmental justice practice within EPA programs to improve the health and environment of overburdened communities.
- Work with partners to expand our positive impact within overburdened communities.
- Demonstrate progress on critical national environmental justice challenges.

Earlier this year, EPA released both the draft framework and final draft of the plan for public comment, and received thousands of comments from stakeholders and communities working on environmental justice. Additionally, Agency staff conducted over one hundred meetings across the country and held four national webinars to discuss the plan and answer stakeholder questions. EPA plans to continue its unprecedented level of dialogue with environmental justice stakeholders and governmental partners as it moves forward to implement the plan in the coming years.

Environmental justice is the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income, with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies. EPA's goal is to provide an environment where all people enjoy the same degree of protection from environmental and health hazards and equal access to the decision-making process to maintain a healthy environment in which to live, learn, and work. EPA works with all stakeholders to collaboratively address environmental and public health issues and concerns.

EPA's environmental justice mandate extends to all of the Agency's work, including setting standards, permitting facilities, awarding grants, issuing licenses, regulations and reviewing proposed actions by the federal agencies.

To read EJ 2020, visit <https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/ej-2020-action-agenda>
<https://blog.epa.gov/blog/2016/10/ej-2020-the-next-generation-of-environmental-justice-at-epa/>

Source: The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

EPA Acts on New Chemical Law to Fast-Track Five Chemicals

EPA is taking swift steps to carry out requirements in the Frank R. Lautenberg Chemical Safety for the 21st Century Act to reform the Toxic Substances Control Act and to reduce exposure to certain persistent, bioaccumulative, and toxic (PBT) chemicals.

“The threats from persistent, bioaccumulative and toxic chemicals are well-documented,” said Jim Jones, assistant administrator in EPA’s office of chemical safety and pollution prevention. “The new law directs us to expedite action to reduce risks for these chemicals, rather than spending more time evaluating them. We are working to ensure the Frank R. Lautenberg Chemical Safety Act signed in June of this year delivers on the promise of better protecting the environment and public health as quickly as possible.”

The five chemicals to receive expedited action are:

- Decabromodiphenyl ethers (DecaBDE), used as a flame retardant in textiles, plastics and polyurethane foam;
- Hexachlorobutadiene (HCBd), used in the manufacture of rubber compounds and lubricants and as a solvent;
- Pentachloro-thio-phenol (PCTP), used as an agent to make rubber more pliable in industrial uses;
- Tris (4-isopropylphenyl) phosphate, used as a flame retardant in consumer products and other industrial uses; and
- 2,4,6-Tris(tert-butyl)phenol, used as a fuel, oil, gasoline or lubricant additive.

The statutory deadline for EPA to propose action is June 22, 2019.

The new law gave manufacturers an opportunity to request by September 19, 2016, that EPA conduct risk evaluations for the PBT chemicals on EPA’s 2014 Work Plan, as an alternative to expedited action. Requests for risk evaluations were made for two chemicals that can be used in fragrance mixtures.

For the remaining PBT chemicals, EPA must move ahead to take expedited action to reduce exposure to those chemicals to the extent practicable. After EPA finishes identifying where these chemicals are used and how people are exposed to them, the Agency will move directly to propose limitations on their use.

PBT chemicals are of particular concern because they remain in the environment for significant periods of time and concentrate in the organisms exposed to them. These pollutants can transfer among air, water, and land, and span boundaries of geography and generations.

The new amendments to TSCA will help bring significant improvements to public health as EPA continues to take the steps necessary for its successful implementation.

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EPA Acts on New Chemical Law to Fast-Track Five Chemicals

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More about the Frank R. Lautenberg Chemical Safety for the 21st Century Act and EPA's implementation activities and to sign up for updates, visit: <https://www.epa.gov/assessing-and-managing-chemicals-under-tsca/frank-r-lautenberg-chemical-safety-21st-century-act>

Source: U.S. EPA

EPA Awards \$4.8 million to Six Universities to Research Water Quality Benefits

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced funding to six universities to work with local communities to better understand the economic value of water quality.

“Clean water is a cornerstone of a healthy community. Many communities face challenging decisions about investing in the protection of water resources,” said Thomas Burke, EPA science advisory and deputy assistant administrator of EPA’s Office of Research and Development. “These grants will help measure the costs and benefits of improving water quality, an important step toward protecting the environment and human health.”

Chemical and microbial contaminants continue to reduce the quality of our water – and often at a rate that outpaces water quality improvements from regulatory actions. The research grants announced today will help communities and experts conduct benefit-cost analyses for actions that protect our waterways.

This research will also provide a critical link between water quality science and the monetary value of the services that healthy waterways provide, including recreational uses.

The grants are being awarded to the following institutions:

- Clark University, Worcester, Mass. will estimate water quality benefits throughout river systems in the Northeast.
- Dartmouth College, Hanover, N.H. will create a framework for linking the health of small streams to water quality indicators and ecosystem services that people recognize and fundamentally value.
- University of Connecticut, Storrs, Conn., will quantify the value of changes in water quality, both in terms of the value to the environment and their value to the economy.
- North Carolina State University at Raleigh, Raleigh, N.C., will develop and demonstrate methods for valuing the benefits of water quality in wadeable streams in Southeast watersheds where the surrounding area is undergoing increased urban development.
- Michigan State University, East Lansing, Mich. will estimate value caused by changes in nutrients to the freshwater systems in Michigan.
- Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa will quantify the value water quality improvements in Midwestern ecosystems.

More information about the grants announced today:

https://cfpub.epa.gov/ncer_abstracts/index.cfm/fuseaction/recipients.display/rfa_id/583/records_per_page/ALL

More information about water research grants: www.epa.gov/research-grants/water-research-grants

Source: The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

EPA Announces Initiatives To Advance Tribal Sovereignty, Expand Environmental Observer Network

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced an interagency agreement on tribal treaty rights and other initiatives designed to advance tribal sovereignty and self-determination. EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy announced this and other initiatives to improve human health and the environment on Indian reservations in remarks at the White House Tribal Nations Conference in Washington.

“The Obama Administration has worked hard to foster an abiding culture of respect for tribal sovereignty and self-determination across the federal government,” said Administrator McCarthy. “The initiatives we are announcing today will help institutionalize the great progress we’ve made in recent years.”

Under the Constitution, treaties are part of the supreme law of the land, with the same legal force and effect as federal statutes. That’s why EPA announced a Memorandum of Understanding on interagency coordination and collaboration to advance protection of tribal treaty and similar rights related to natural resources affected by agency decisions. This MOU stems in part from EPA’s recent “Guidance for Discussing Tribal Treaty Rights,” an effort to encourage consideration of treaty rights in the agency’s consultation policy. The memorandum will be available for signature by federal agencies on a rolling basis. The U.S. Department of Agriculture, the U.S. Department of Commerce, the U.S. Department of the Interior, the U.S. Department of Justice and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation have so far signed the MOU, in addition to EPA.

EPA also announced the expansion of the Local Environmental Observers Network program, a concept tribal communities initiated and championed, beyond its current reach in Alaska and the Arctic region, and into the lower 48 states. This expansion will develop a lower-48 LEO network hub at Northwest Indian College in Bellingham WA; and create a model for the other 35 tribal colleges and universities in the lower 48 to replicate across the U.S.

The LEO network is a network of local observers and topic experts who share on-the-ground knowledge about unusual animal, environmental and weather events. The network uses valuable traditional and local knowledge to help observe and report changes in the local environment. Available Android and iPhone mobile apps give users a powerful reporting tool to use in the field.

Administrator McCarthy also reiterated EPA’s commitment to help close the gap in water quality protections on Indian reservations. Last week, the administrator signed an advance notice of proposed rulemaking to invite comments on whether to extend water quality standards effective under the Clean Water Act to all tribes with reservations. Fewer than 50, out of more than 300 tribes with reservations, currently have such water quality standards. Last week, Administrator McCarthy also signed a rule that significantly streamlines requirements for tribes to receive treatment as a state (TAS) to administer Clean Water Act regulatory programs.

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EPA Announces Initiatives To Advance Tribal Sovereignty, Expand Environmental Observer Network (continued)

The administrator also recently signed a rule to establish procedures for eligible tribes to obtain the authority, under the Clean Water Act section 303(d) program, to identify impaired waters on their reservations; and to establish total maximum daily loads of contaminants that can be discharged into those waters. This will allow each tribe to meet their own water quality standards.

For more information:

<http://www.bia.gov/WhoWeAre/AS-IA/WHCNA/index.htm>

<https://www.epa.gov/tribal/forms/consultation-and-coordination-tribes>

<https://leonetwork.org/en/leo/about>

<https://www.epa.gov/tribal/clean-water-indian-country>

Source: The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

EPA Environmental News

EPA to award \$820,000 brownfields grant to Philadelphia To assess and clean up abandoned industrial, commercial properties

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More on EPA’s Brownfields Program: <https://www.epa.gov/brownfields>

More on successful Brownfields stories: <https://www.epa.gov/brownfields/brownfields-success-stories>

Source: The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

EPA Releases National Assessment of Strategies to Reduce Air Pollution at Ports

An EPA report finds that air pollution at the nation's ports can be reduced significantly at all port types and sizes through a variety of strategies and cleaner technologies. Implementing these approaches, the report finds, would reduce greenhouse gas and other harmful emissions from diesel-powered ships, trucks and other port equipment.

"The National Port Strategy Assessment: Reducing Air Pollution and Greenhouse Gases at U.S. Ports" examines current and future emission trends from diesel engines in port areas, and explores the emissions reduction potential of strategies like replacing and repowering older, dirtier vehicles and engines and deploying zero emissions technologies.

"This report shows that there are many opportunities to reduce harmful pollution at ports that we know will work," said Christopher Grundler, director of EPA's Office of Transportation and Air Quality. "This is great news for the roughly 39 million Americans who live and breathe near these centers of commerce."

U.S. ports are set to expand significantly as international trade continues to grow, and the size of ships coming to ports increases. This growth means more diesel engines at ports emitting carbon dioxide that contributes to climate change. These engines also emit fine particulate matter, nitrogen oxides, and other pollutants that contribute to serious health problems including heart and lung disease, respiratory illness, and premature mortality. Children, older Americans, outdoor workers and individuals with respiratory and heart conditions can be especially vulnerable. Many ports are located in areas with a high percentage of low-income and minority populations, who bear the burden of higher exposure to diesel emissions.

Accelerating retirement of older port vehicles and equipment and replacing them with the cleanest technology will reduce emissions and increase public health benefits. For example, the report found replacing older drayage trucks with newer, cleaner diesel trucks can reduce NOx emissions by up to 48 percent, and particulate matter emissions by up to 62 percent, in 2020 when compared to continuing business as usual. In 2030, adding plug-in hybrid electric vehicles to these fleets could yield even more NOx and PM2.5 relative reductions from drayage trucks.

The new assessment supports EPA's Ports Initiative's goals to reduce air pollution and greenhouse gases, to achieve environmental sustainability for ports, and improve air quality for all Americans working in and living near our nation's ports. Through this initiative, EPA is engaging a wide range of stakeholders including ports and port operators, communities, tribes, state and local governments, industry, and other technical and policy stakeholders. EPA developed this national scale assessment based on a representative sample of seaports, and the results could also inform decisions at other seaports, Great Lakes and inland river ports, and other freight and passenger facilities with similar profiles.

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EPA Releases National Assessment of Strategies to Reduce Air Pollution at Ports

EPA's regulations are already reducing port-related diesel emissions from trucks, locomotives, cargo handling equipment and ships. For example, the North American and U.S. Caribbean Sea Emissions Control Areas require lower sulfur fuel to be used for large ocean-going vessels.

This requirement has reduced fuel-based particulate-matter emissions from these vessels by about 90 percent. In addition, some port areas are already applying the emission reduction strategies assessed in the report. The emissions reduction strategies assessed in the report would make a significant difference in reaching the nation's air quality goals, and would help reduce emissions of the greenhouse gases that contribute to climate change.

To view the report, visit www.epa.gov/ports-initiative/national-port-strategy-assessment.

For more information on EPA's Ports Initiative, visit www.epa.gov/ports-initiative.

Source: The U.S. EPA