



EPA Update

Roberta Parry
US EPA Office of Water
September 17, 2013

- Changing of the guard at EPA
- Recent water quality reports
- State nutrient frameworks
- Pathogens/emerging contaminants in manure report
- CAFO regulations
- AFO air monitoring study NAEMS
- Nutrient challenges/prizes

Changing of the guard at EPA

- **Gina McCarthy, new EPA Administrator**
 - We need to strengthen our relationship with America's agricultural community.
 - "Our farmers and ranchers share these goals: cleaner air, cleaner water and cleaner land. You know that by protecting the environment, you're protecting your livelihood. And by securing the future of agriculture, you're securing the economic future of rural America."
 - "My commitment to you is that at the end of my term, we will have a stronger, more productive, more trusting relationship between EPA and the agriculture community,"
 - "Why are we going to do that? It benefits me, it benefits you and it will make this country stronger."
- Sarah Bittleman, new EPA agriculture advisor
- Farm, Ranch, and Rural Community Federal Advisory Committee

Water quality—recent reports

- **EPA Rivers and Streams Assessment**
 - 55% river and stream miles do not support healthy populations of aquatic life.
 - 23% are in fair condition and 21% are in good condition.
 - Compared to a 2004 assessment, 7% fewer stream miles are in good biological condition.
 - Aquatic life is at increased risk for poor condition when N and P levels are high.
 - 40% have high levels of P. 27% have high levels of N.
- **USGS Ecological Health in the Nation's Streams**
 - At least one biological community (macroinvertebrates, algae, fish) was altered in 83% of assessed streams.
 - Unaltered communities in 17% of streams suggest that it is possible to maintain stream health in urban and agriculture watersheds.
 - Factors: low/high streamflow, concentrations of nutrients, pesticides, chlorides

State nutrient frameworks

- Addressing nutrient pollution is a top priority
- EPA nutrient framework memo
 - Reaffirms EPA's partnerships with states and collaboration with stakeholders.
 - **Prioritize watersheds** on a statewide basis for nutrient loading reductions
 - Set watershed **load reduction goals**.
 - Ensure effectiveness of **point source permits**.
 - Control **agricultural runoff, stormwater runoff, and nutrients from septic systems** .
 - Develop work plan and schedule for **numeric criteria development**.
 - Implement **accountability and verification** measures.
- Completed: Iowa, Mississippi, Ohio. Many other states in process.
- CCAs need to get involved in the process. They are part of several state programs.

Manure Report

- Purpose: better understand the environmental occurrence and potential effects related to contaminants of emerging concern such as antimicrobials and hormones that may affect water quality.
- Summarizes technical information on pathogens and contaminants of emerging concern.
- Identifies information gaps to help define research needs for EPA and its federal, state and local partners.
- The report has no policy implications.
- *Literature Review of Contaminants in Livestock and Poultry Manure and Implications for Water Quality*
<http://water.epa.gov/scitech/cec/>

CAFO regulations/lawsuits

- Data Collection Rule
 - After proposing rule, EPA decided not to finalize it.
 - Several food safety, environmental groups are suing to force EPA to finalize rule.
 - Agreement with states to provide CAFO data.
 - Freedom of Information Act request (FOIA) for information received from states.
 - EPA inadvertently released some private information.
 - EPA recalled all the released data.
 - Farm Bureau, Pork Producers suing EPA to prevent CAFO info from being released under FOIA.

Chesapeake Bay CAFO Rule

- EPA decided not to move forward with another round of CAFO regulations, in part focused on the Bay.
 - States have already made positive changes to their livestock programs.
 - Most livestock operations in the Bay region are below the CAFO threshold.
- **EPA commitments in the Chesapeake Bay region. EPA will:**
 - conduct **assessments** of each states' animal agriculture program
 - **inspect** animal feeding operations and take action if they are not in compliance.
 - ensure that the Chesapeake Bay TMDL and state watershed implementation plans establish the proper pollution reductions needed to meet water quality standards
 - by 2018, assess whether revisions to its CAFO regulations are needed.

National Air Emissions Study - NAEMS

- History

- 2005 voluntary air compliance agreement with livestock industry
- NAEMS—2-year study of emissions from poultry, dairy, and swine operations.
- EPA issued draft methodologies to estimate emissions for broilers and swine/dairy.

- EPA's Science Advisory Board Recommendations

- EPA should develop a process-based modeling approach, instead of the statistical approach.
- EPA should identify critical data gaps and key parameters for the models.
- The currently available data is not adequate to estimate emissions beyond farms used in the NAEMS study.

Nutrient Challenges/Prizes

- Open global competition to develop new technologies and approaches to solve nutrient problems in U.S.
- Three steps
 - Ideation Prize – “global brainstorm”
 - Visioneering Meeting—innovative experts to help design the prize.
 - Global competition(s)
- Federal agencies, foundations, states, universities, stakeholders