

Environment Management

Ohio EPA Director Nally to Speak at OMA on November 10

Ohio EPA Director Scott Nally will join the OMA Environment Committee on Thursday, November 10, for a briefing on the agency's progress and priorities.

The committee will also hear from a representative of the American Coalition for a Clean Coal Economy (ACCCE) on the status of federal environmental rules, including the Utility MACT.

Participate in person or by calling in. Either way, please **register** to attend. OMA committee meetings begin at 10:00 a.m. and run through noon, with a networking lunch following. Meetings are held at the OMA offices, 33 N. High St., 6th floor, Columbus.

To make sure you always receive Environment Committee meeting notices, as well as the committee materials in your email, go to **My OMA** and subscribe to the environment management community or email **Judy Thompson**. This is a free service for OMA members.

11/04/2011

Ohio Office of Compliance Assistance and Pollution Prevention Has Tons of Resources

The Ohio EPA Office of Compliance Assistance and Pollution Prevention (OCAPP) is a non-regulatory program that provides information and resources to help small businesses comply with environmental regulations. OCAPP also helps customers identify and implement pollution prevention measures that can save money, increase business performance and benefit the environment.

Services of the office include a toll-free hotline at (800)329-7518, on-site compliance and P2 assessments, workshops/training, plain-English publications library and assistance in completing permit application forms. **Check it out.**

11/04/2011

Manufacturers to U.S. EPA: Analyze Economic Impact of Utility-Impacting Regs

The U.S. EPA's failure to rigorously review the cumulative impact of Utility MACT (Maximum Achievable Control Technology) and the Cross-State Air Pollution Rule (CSAPR) regulations prompted the U.S. House of Representatives to pass recent legislation that would require the agency to slow down and conduct just such an analysis. That's good news for Ohio manufacturers and for Ohioans.

Here's why. The National Economic Research Associates, a firm that evaluates economic impacts for government agencies, associations and businesses, in a preliminary analysis for the American Coalition for Clean Coal Electricity projects that Utility MACT and CSAPR will result in 1.4 million lost jobs nationally over the next nine years, including 53,500 jobs in Ohio.

Both regulations target coal-fired electricity generation plants. Utility MACT would establish a new standard for the electric-utility industry's emissions of certain hazardous air pollutants, while CSAPR requires utilities to reduce power-plant emissions that contribute to ozone and fine-particle pollution in other states.

As OMA's Kevin Schmidt said in an **op-ed** for The Columbus Dispatch this week: now it's time for the U.S. Senate to take similar action.

10/21/2011

OMA Asks Senator Brown to Review Utility Environmental Regulations

The OMA delivered a **letter** to U.S. Senator Sherrod Brown today asking him to review the economic effect that two environmental regulations could have on Ohio.

The Utility Maximum Achievable Control Technology (Utility MACT) and the Cross State Air Pollution Rule (CSAPR) are projected to have a combined negative effect of more than \$15 billion on the electric utility industry. The timelines contained in both rules frontload those

costs on utilities and their customers and raise questions of technical feasibility.

In its letter the OMA asks Senator Brown to “consider the economic impact of these regulations and their implementation timelines on Ohio and engage U.S. EPA in a discussion to lessen the burden on Ohioans.”

09/30/2011

U.S. EPA Advances “Environmental Justice” Agenda

In a press release this week the U.S. EPA announced a comprehensive plan (entitled **Plan EJ 2014**) to advance "environmental justice" in nine areas including rulemaking, permitting, enforcement, and science. The plan is U.S. EPA's new strategy to meet a 15 year old Executive Order (**EO 12898**) put in place by President Clinton.

In the name of “environmental justice,” if minority or low-income populations are located near a facility regulated by U.S. EPA that facility must meet extra regulatory scrutiny. To learn more about U.S. EPA's environmental justice agenda click [here](#).

09/16/2011

White House to U.S. EPA: Reconsider Ozone Regulations

President Obama directed U.S. EPA to reconsider its proposal for tighter ozone standards. In a **letter** to the agency, the president told U.S. EPA that "he does not support finalizing the rule at this time."

Since the proposal was first announced the OMA has repeatedly **communicated** the rule's punitive effect on Ohio to policymakers. The president's letter is a welcome, if overdue, development.

09/02/2011

Ohio EPA Drafts General Permit for Shale Gas Production Sites

With natural gas production from Ohio's shale deposits projected to increase, Ohio EPA has **drafted** a new general permit “to make sure the air around production sites is safe, while providing business with the most efficient option to get operations up and running.”

“A general permit for shale gas production will streamline the process, giving producers the tools they need to comply with Ohio's air pollution regulations,” said Ohio EPA Director Scott Nally.

Director Nally has brought a welcome focus on efficiency of permitting, together with significant experience in environmental protection. These new general permits will simplify the permitting process for business, while providing citizens with clear standards for environmental protection.

08/26/2011

Deep Online Resources on Shale Play at ODNR

The Division of Geologic Survey at the Ohio Department of Natural Resources has developed **deep resources** for those interested in the Marcellus and Utica shale plays in Ohio.

Here's how the division set up the website:

“Resource estimates indicate the Devonian-age Marcellus Shale is the largest exploration play in the eastern United States. Recently, the application of horizontal drilling combined with multistaged hydraulic fracturing to create permeable flow paths from wellbores into shale units has resulted in a drilling boom for the Marcellus in the Appalachian Basin states of Pennsylvania, West Virginia, southern New York, and eastern Ohio.

This proven technology also may have application in other shale units, such as the Ordovician-age Utica Shale, which extends across much of the Appalachian Basin region. While limited production has occurred in the

Utica up to this point, thickness and widespread geographical extent indicate it may also have great oil-and-gas potential.”

08/26/2011

Ohio House and Senate Send Letter to Governor on Great Lakes Compact

Ohio House Speaker Bill Batchelder and Ohio Senate President Tom Niehaus co-authored a **letter** to Governor Kasich regarding the Great Lakes Compact implementation legislation that the Governor vetoed earlier this year.

The Governor’s veto came as a surprise to the legislature and the respective leaders. In the letter President Niehaus and Speaker Batchelder note the legislation (**House Bill 231**) “meets all necessary provisions in the Compact and does so in a way that works well for Ohio’s citizens and businesses.” The leaders went on to note they look forward to reviewing the Governor’s specific concerns and working collaboratively to finalize implementation of the Compact.

08/19/2011

Ohio EPA to hold Compliance Assistance Conference

On November 7-8, Ohio EPA is hosting its sixth annual Compliance Assistance Conference in Columbus. While a large part of the conference is targeted to businesses that need to learn the basics about environmental compliance, based on attendee feedback, the agenda will also include advanced topics, such as New Source Review (NSR) and Title V permitting and reporting. Agency staff will be available at an “Ask the Experts” session during the conference.

View the complete conference **agenda**.

08/19/2011

Business Coalition Runs Anti- EPA Regs TV Ads

While President Obama toured the Midwest this week, a coalition of industry groups including the

U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the National Association of Manufacturers and the American Petroleum Institute, launched an **advertising campaign** blasting the U.S. EPA's upcoming ozone regulations as a major burden on the economy. See story published in **The Hill**.

08/19/2011