

In this week's Washington Update:

- (1) Study Finds that Clean Air Act Saves Hundreds of Thousands of U.S. Lives, Trillions of Dollars
- (2) EPA Issues Final RTR for Integrated Iron and Steel Manufacturing Facilities
- (3) EPA Opens Registration for May 20-21 Virtual Public Hearing on PM NAAQS Proposal
- (4) EPA Designates New Federal Equivalent Method for NO₂ Monitoring
- (5) Air Enforcement Chief Exiting EPA

We also provide links to information on events scheduled for the week ahead.

This Week in Review

(1) Study Finds that Clean Air Act Saves Hundreds of Thousands of U.S. Lives, Trillions of Dollars (May 7, 2020) – A new report by Industrial Economics, Inc. (IEc) examines the costs and benefits of the Clean Air Act through 2020, with projections to 2030. The report was commissioned by the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) and is available on NRDC's website, along with an NRDC "Issue Brief" that summarizes and contextualizes its findings and an interactive map that allows users to view Clean Air Act benefits by county or zip code. IEc's analysis finds that the costs of implementing the Clean Air Act are dwarfed by the public health and economic benefits, which exceed its costs by 16 to 32 times. In looking at the outcomes of the full complement of EPA's Clean Air Act-driven programs that were in force in 2016, "IEc estimated that these pollution reductions would prevent between 185,000 and 370,000 premature deaths per year by 2020. To put this into perspective, about 140,000 people die of stroke in the United States every year. Additionally, IEc estimated that [Clean Air Act] programs would help avoid approximately 46,300 heart attacks; 189,300 hospital admissions for cardiac and respiratory illnesses; 119,000 ER visits by asthma patients; 21.9 million fewer lost work days; and 8.3 million fewer lost school days each year by 2020." The report finds large reductions across all Clean Air Act-regulated pollutants, including a 41 percent decline in PM_{2.5} concentrations and a 22 percent decline in ozone concentrations since 1990. IEc projects continued reductions through 2030, noting that with a total compliance cost of around \$160 billion by 2030, benefits to public health and avoided mortality result in \$2.6 trillion to \$5.1 trillion in annual economic benefits to the nation, and annual energy savings benefits of \$235 billion. IEc's analysis also found that nearly every county in the continental U.S. benefits economically and has improved health resulting from Clean Air Act programs. For further information: https://www.nrdc.org/resources/clean-air-acts-benefits-map?utm_source=tw&utm_medium=tweet&utm_campaign=CleanAir

(2) EPA Issues Final RTR for Integrated Iron and Steel Manufacturing Facilities (May 5, 2020) – EPA announced the final Risk and Technology Review standard

for the Integrated Iron and Steel Manufacturing Facilities source category. The rule states that the risks remaining after the implementation of the 2003 Maximum Achievable Control Technology standard are acceptable and that there have been no developments in controls that would warrant additional requirements to limit emissions of hazardous air pollutants. The agency is including measures intended to limit emissions of mercury from scrap metal used in steel operations. Sources can meet the requirements through stack tests, certification of the purchase of scrap from vendors that participate in the National Vehicle Mercury Switch Recovery Program or the use of scrap not likely to contain automobile scrap. The rule also clarifies that the standards apply during periods of startup, shutdown and malfunction and calls for electronic reporting of performance test results, notifications of compliance status and semi-annual reports. For further information: <https://www.epa.gov/stationary-sources-air-pollution/final-integrated-iron-and-steel-risk-and-technology-review>

(3) EPA Opens Registration for May 20-21 Virtual Public Hearing on PM NAAQS Proposal (May 5, 2020) – EPA published in the *Federal Register* (85 Fed. Reg. 26,634) a notification of the virtual public hearing on the proposal titled, “Review of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards for Particulate Matter” (Docket ID No. EPA–HQ–OAR–2015–0072), signed on April 14, 2020 and published on April 30, 2020 (85 Fed. Reg. 24,094). In this action, Administrator Andrew Wheeler proposes to retain the current primary and secondary PM NAAQS without revision. The deadline for submitting public comments on the proposal is June 29, 2020. The virtual public hearing will take place May 20-21, 2020 via teleconference with two sessions each day (9:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m. Eastern and 3:00 p.m.–7:00 p.m. Eastern, although EPA may close a session 15 minutes after the last preregistered speaker has testified if there are no additional speakers). The agency asks that those who wish to present oral testimony or listen to the hearing register in advance; information on how to register is available on EPA’s website. For further information: <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2020-05-05/pdf/2020-09480.pdf>, <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2020-04-30/pdf/2020-08143.pdf> and <https://www.epa.gov/pm-pollution/public-hearing-proposal-retain-national-ambient-air-quality-standards-particulate>

(4) EPA Designates New Federal Equivalent Method for NO₂ Monitoring (May 7, 2020) – EPA announced in the *Federal Register* (85 Fed. Reg. 27,221) that it has designated a new federal equivalent method (FEM) for measuring concentrations of nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) in the ambient air. The method utilizes an analyzer developed by Teledyne (Model N500) that measures nitrogen oxides using cavity-attenuated phase-shift spectroscopy. As a designated FEM, the analyzer is deemed acceptable for use by state, local and other air monitoring agencies under 40 C.F.R. part 58 for determining compliance with the NO₂ National Ambient Air Quality Standards in regulatory applications, when used in strict accordance with the operation or instruction manual associated with the method and subject to the specifications and limitations specified in the method description. For further information: <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2020-05-07/pdf/2020-09704.pdf>

(5) Air Enforcement Chief Exiting EPA (May 8, 2020) – Phillip Brooks, EPA’s lead enforcement official for air pollution issues, is leaving the agency next week to work in the private sector. Brooks, who currently serves as the Director of Air Enforcement at EPA’s Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance (OECA), will take on the role of associate general counsel for environmental compliance at the 3M Corporation. Brooks joined OECA in 2010, after a 23-year career at the U.S. Department of Justice working in a variety of roles in its Environmental Enforcement Section. In 2017 he was recognized among the Federal Employees of the Year with the Samuel J. Heyman Service to America medal for his work at EPA on the Volkswagen emissions cheating scandal, and in 2016 he was awarded the EPA Administrator’s Award for Excellence. A friend to many in the NACAA agencies, Brooks was a longtime partner to NACAA’s Enforcement Committee. Recently, he played a pivotal role in the February 2020 NACAA Joint Permitting & Enforcement Workshop in St. Louis, MO. His last day at EPA is May 15, 2020.

The Week Ahead

- [Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee Hearing on COVID-19: Safely Getting Back to Work and Back to School](#), in Washington, DC – May 12, 2020
- [House Committee on Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Health Hearing on Protecting Scientific Integrity in the COVID-19 Response](#), in Washington, DC – May 14, 2020

NACAA
1530 Wilson Blvd., Suite 320
Arlington, VA 22209
(571) 970-6678
4cleanair@4cleanair.org