



Announcing EPA's Selection of National Enforcement Initiatives for FY 2014-2016

The EPA's Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance (OECA) identifies multi-year national enforcement initiatives to address

overflows (CSOs), sanitary sewer overflows (SSOs), and municipal separate storm sewer systems (MS4s) by obtaining cities' commitments to implement timely, affordable solutions to these problems. In FY 2012, the EPA developed the Integrated Municipal Stormwater and Wastewater Planning Approach Framework, which is posted at <http://cfpub.epa.gov/npdes/integratedplans.cfm> to provide further guidance on developing and implementing effective integrated planning solutions to municipal wastewater and stormwater management. This approach allows municipalities to prioritize CWA requirements in a manner that addresses the most pressing public health and environmental protection issues first, while maintaining existing regulatory standards. All or part of an integrated plan may be incorporated into the remedy of enforcement actions. These remedies may include expansion of collection and

and enforcement activities to maximize environmental and human health benefits, which is particularly important for disproportionately burdened communities.

Reducing Widespread Air Pollution from the Largest Sources, Especially the Coal-fired Utility, Cement, Glass, and Acid Sectors:

The New Source Review/Prevention of Significant Deterioration (NSR/PSD) requirements of the CAA require certain large industrial facilities to install state-of-the-art air pollution controls when they build new facilities or make “significant modifications” to existing facilities. However, many industries have not complied with these requirements, leading to excess emissions of air pollutants such as sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxides and particulate matter. These pollutants can be carried long distances by the wind and can have significant adverse effects on human health, including asthma, respiratory diseases and premature death. These effects may be particularly significant for communities overburdened by exposure to environmental risks and vulnerable populations, including children. In recent years, the EPA has made considerable progress in reducing excess pollution by bringing enforcement actions against coal-fired power plants, cement manufacturing facilities, sulfuric and nitric acid manufacturing facilities, and glass manufacturing facilities. However, work remains to be done to bring these sectors into compliance with the CAA and protect communities burdened with harmful air pollution.

Assuring Energy Extraction Sector Compliance with Environmental Laws

Vast natural gas reserves, unlocked through technological advances in horizontal drilling and hydraulic fracturing, are a key part of the nation’s clean energy future. The full promise of this resource will be realized only if it is developed responsibly and the new technologies are controlled in a manner that protects the nation’s air, water and land. For example, an unprecedented acceleration of natural gas development has led to a significant rise in air pollution throughout the intermountain West. Geospatial analysis suggests that a similar rise in air pollution is possible elsewhere as unconventional gas development grows in other shale plays. Meanwhile, citizens continue to voice concern that drilling and hydraulic fracturing pose a risk to drinking water sources, either through improper well construction, wastewater management or otherwise. OECA initiated its Energy Extraction National Enforcement Initiative in FY 2011 to address these concerns and to take action where violations of environmental laws may cause or contribute to significant harm to public health and/or the environment. The EPA will continue to utilize a wide range of authorities, including the Clean Water Act, the Clean Air Act and the Safe Drinking Water Act, among others, to ensure that natural gas development proceeds in a manner protective of human health.

added every year, including operating facilities. The EPA has spent over \$2.4 billion to address the human health and environmental threats to communities as a result of mining and mineral processing. In some cases, the EPA had to sample drinking water wells due to potential impacts to children in low income communities. At some sites, EPA's inspections have found significant non-compliance with hazardous waste and other environmental laws. Some of the more serious cases required alternative drinking water supplies or removal of lead-contaminated soil from residential yards. In other cases, toxic spills into waterways from mining and mineral processing caused fish kills and impacted the livelihood of low income communities. The EPA will continue its enforcement initiative to bring these facilities into compliance with the law and protect the environment and nearby communities.

The National Enforcement Initiatives for FY 2014-2016 have been incorporated (1) 2 (of) 3 (lco(c)S EMI)-2