

## **Federal Government Affairs Update**

Jeff Hannapel The Policy Group

Los Angeles County Sanitation District's Industry Advisory Council November 14, 2023



## **Time in Perspective**



Joe Biden was born closer to Abraham Lincoln's second inauguration than to his own

- Biden was 78 years and 61 days old at his inauguration
- Lincoln was inaugurated 77 years and 261 days before Joe Biden's birth







## *In fact, there have only been 6 presidents since Lincoln who were born closer to their own presidencies than to Lincoln's.*



				Lincoln term ended		1865					
All presiden	ts k	oorn since Lincoln's presidency									
Index	Ŧ	"Name" =	Ŧ	Born closer on Lincoln's presidency or to own presidency? =	Birth year	Ŧ	Term start	Birth distance from Lincoln's term  ─	Age at start of presidency	Ŧ	
	46	"Joe Biden"		Lincoln		1942	2021	77		79	
	45	"Donald Trump"		Own		1946	2017	81		71	
	44	"Barack Obama"		Own		1961	2009	96		48	
	43	"George Walker Bush"		Own		1946	2001	81		55	
	42	"William Jefferson Clinton"		Own		1946	1993	81		47	
	41	"George Herbert Walker Bush"		Lincoln		1924	1989	59		65	
	40	"Ronald Wilson Reagan"		Lincoln		1911	1981	46		70	
	39	"James Earl Carter"		Own		1924	1977	59		53	
	38	"Gerald Rudolph Ford"		Lincoln		1913	1974	48		61	
	37	"Richard Milhous Nixon"		Lincoln		1913	1969	48		56	
	36	"Lyndon Baines Johnson"		Lincoln		1908	1963	43		55	
	35	"John Fitzgerald Kennedy"		Own		1917	1961	52		44	
	34	"Dwight David Eisenhower"		Lincoln		1890	1953	25		63	
	33	"Harry S. Truman"		Lincoln		1884	1945	19		61	
	32	"Franklin Delano Roosevelt"		Lincoln		1882	1933	17		51	
	31	"Herbert Hoover"		Lincoln		1874	1929	9		55	
	30	"Calvin Coolidge"		Lincoln		1872	1923	7		51	
	29	"Warren G. Harding"		Lincoln		1865	1921	0		56	

It is unlikely that get another president born closer to Lincoln than their own presidency. Some remote possibilities would be if Bernie Sanders or Elizabeth Warren became president. We are truly moving into a post-Lincoln era.

## **President -- Approval Rating**

#### **President Biden**

Approval rating – 38.8% (November 13, 2023) Disapproval rating – 55.5%

#### **Former President Trump**

Approval rating – 40.9% (November 13, 2023) Disapproval rating – 54.9%

## **Congressional Approval Is Less than 20%**





## ABC Poll – September 24, 2023



## ABC Poll – September 24, 2023





#### **Cook Political Report Race Ratings of 2024 Senate seats**

Democrat-held seat Republican-held seat Toss Ups (3) Independent-held seat\* Lean to Dem seats not up for Incumbent not seeking reelection GOP seats not up for Solid D reelection (28) reelection (38) Senate majority gained beyond 50 seats 13 Dem, 2 Independent Feinstein (CA) Murphy (CT) Carper (DE) 9 GOP Hirono (HI) Warren (MA) Cardin (MD) Klobuchar (MN) Braun (IN) Menendez (NJ) Hawley (MO) Heinrich (NM) 5 Dem Wicker (MS) 2 Dem, 1 Gillibrand (NY) Cramer (ND) Independent Whitehouse (RI) Stabenow (MI) Fischer (NE) Kaine (VA) Tester (MT) Ricketts (NE) Rosen (NV) 0 2 GOP Cantwell (WA) 0 Brown (OH) Blackburn (TN) Casey Jr. (PA) Manchin (WV) King (ME) Romney (UT) Scott (FL) Sanders (VT) Baldwin (WI) Sinema (AZ) Barrasso (WY) Cruz (TX) Solid Likely Likely Lean Lean Solid Toss Up Democrat Democrat Republican Republican Democrat Republican





#### **Cook Political Report Race Ratings of competitive** 2024 House seats

Democrat held seat Republican held seat Freshman member

17 Dem, 1 GOP

CA-09	Harder
CA-49	Levin
FL-09	Soto
FL-23	Moskowitz
KS-03	Davids
MD-06	Open
MI-03	Scholten
MI-08	Kildee
MN-02	Craig
NH-01	Pappas
NH-02	Kuster
NV-01	Titus
NV-04	Horsford
OR-04	Hoyle
TX-28	Cuellar
VA-07	Spanberger
WA-08	Schrier
AL-02	Moore
Like	y Democrat

	,
AL	Peltola
47	Open
05	Hayes
7	Sorenson
1	Mrvan
02	Golden
01	Davis
03	Lee
18	Ryan
01	Landsman
09	Kaptur
06	Salinas
17	Deluzio
34	Gonzalez
03	Santos

#### 10 Dem, 13 GOP

CO-08	Caraveo
MI-07	Open
NC-06	Manning
NC-13	Nickel
NC-14	Jackson
NM-02	Vasquez
OH-13	Sykes
PA-07	Wild
PA-08	Cartwright
WA-03	Perez
AZ-01	Schweikert
AZ-06	Ciscomani
CA-13	Duarte
CA-27	Garcia
CA-41	Calvert
CO-03	Boebert
LA-05	Letlow
NJ-07	Kean Jr.
NY-04	D'Esposito
NY-17	Lawler
NY-19	Molinaro
NY-22	Williams
OR-05	Chavez-DeRemer
	Toss Up

#### 

Lean Republican

12 GOP

CA-03	Kiley
CA-40	Kim
FL-13	Luna
A-01	Miller-Meeks
_A-06	Graves
MT-01	Zinke
NY-01	LaLota
PA-01	Fitzpatrick
PA-10	Perry
SC-01	Mace
TX-15	De La Cruz
Wi-03	Van Orden
Likely	/ Republican

ocrat L



#### **Cook Political Report 2024 House race ratings**

As of August 8, 2023, ratings have been released for all 435 House districts.



#### Year 3 of the Biden Administration: Regulatory Actions are Accelerating





## Tracking Biden's environmental actions

As Biden unwinds dozens of Trump's energy and environmental policies, he's forging his own.



Status of Trump administration's environmental policies

Targeted







## Recent Trends in Federal Rulemaking: Over the Last 10 Years $^{\Gamma}$

343	Trends in Rulemaking Volume Across Spring Unified Agendas											
New Rules	Year	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	
dded ince	Active Items	2389	2323	2239	1731	2224	2597	2697	2551	2673	2617	
anuary	Long-Term Items	441	460	502	696	647	610	575	623	574	582	
97	Total Prospective Items	<u>2830</u>	<u>2783</u>	<u>2741</u>	<u>2427</u>	<u>2871</u>	<u>3207</u>	<u>3272</u>	<u>3174</u>	<u>3247</u>	<u>3199</u>	
(ules V/	"Major" Active Items	122	141	125	49	88	123	155	170	217	236	
	"Major" Long-Term Items	27	33	43	51	34	30	40	47	38	44	
mall	Total "Major" Items	<u>149</u>	<u>174</u>	<u>168</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>122</u>	<u>153</u>	<u>195</u>	<u>217</u>	<u>255</u>	<u>280</u>	
0511655	"Significant" Active Items	934	905	800	429	707	919	974	945	1055	1042	
	"Significant" Long-Term Items	170	200	208	299	222	218	218	262	263	284	
	Total "Significant" Items	<u>1104</u>	<u>1105</u>	<u>1008</u>	<u>728</u>	<u>929</u>	<u>1137</u>	<u>1192</u>	<u>1207</u>	<u>1318</u>	<u>1326</u>	

## **Regulatory Activity**

#### **Number of Federal Register Pages**

- 2023 75,226 (11/1) 90,000 (projected)
- 2022 80,756
- 2021 74,532 (Biden)
- 2020 66,675
- 2019 72,564
- 2018 68,082
- 2017 61,949 (Trump)
- 2016 97,110
- 2015 82,035
- 2014 79,066
- 2013 80,462
- 2012 77,249
- 2011 82,419
- 2010 82,589 (Obama)





#### EPA Has Issued a New Assessment of Hexavalent Chromium Health Impacts Science Document will Drive Future Regulatory Decisions – October 2022





#### **Long-Anticipated Agency Action**

- EPA issued new draft human health assessment for Cr6 (1000 pages) on October 22, 2022
- Agency draft now being reviewed by panel of scientific experts
- Expert panel meeting March 29-31 recommended approval of EPA's draft

#### **Importance to Industry**

- More stigmatization, regulatory pressure on Cr6 processes and uses
- *New toxicity values* will inform federal drinking water standard, remediation levels under Superfund, use restrictions



AL ASSO

**IRIS Health Assessments Inform All EPA Regulations** 

Impacts of the Evolving Federal Approach to Hexavalent Chromium

## Integrated Risk Information System (IRIS)

#### IRIS assessments contribute to Agency decisions such as:

- Health-based national standards
- Health-based clean-up levels at local sites
- Health-based advisory levels
- Ranking across chemicals
- Information for the general public
- Cost-benefit analyses

€PA

Clean Air Act (CAA)

Broad

Input to

- Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA)
- Food Quality Protection Act (FQPA)
- Supports **Comprehensive Environmental Response,** 
  - Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA)
  - Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA)
  - **Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA)** 
    - Agency Strategic Goals
    - **Regions and States**
    - **Children's Health**
    - **Environmental Justice**



## EPA's Proposed Reconsideration of PM<sub>2.5</sub> National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS)



- Current Standard 12  $\mu$ g/m<sup>3</sup> (annual) 35  $\mu$ g/m<sup>3</sup> (24 hour)
- EPA proposed to lower current annual standard to a range of 9.0 to 10.0  $\mu$ g/m<sup>3</sup>
- EPA proposed to retain current 24-hour standard
- EPA solicited comments on lower annual standard and revising 24-hour standard as low as 25  $\mu g/m^3$
- NGOs, health organizations, community groups, and religious groups advocated for more stringent standard
  - Environmental and health advocates argue for 8µg/m<sup>3</sup> (annual) 25 µg/m<sup>3</sup> (24 hour)
  - WHO recommends 5μg/m<sup>3</sup> (annual) 15 μg/m<sup>3</sup> (24 hour)



#### U.S. PM<sub>2.5</sub> Concentrations (ug/m<sup>3</sup>)

(Seasonally-Weighted Annual Average)



Source: U.S. EPA's Particulate Matter (PM<sub>2.5</sub>) Trends: <u>https://www.epa.gov/air-trends/particulate-matter-pm25-trends</u>

## Current $PM_{2.5}$ NAAQS (12 $\mu$ g/m<sup>3</sup>) leaves room for economic growth



#### Map Notes/Approach:

- Used maximum PM<sub>2.5</sub> Design Values (DVs) for each monitored county
- Calculated non-monitored counties values using geospatial statistical interpolation ("kriging") "fills-in" estimates for locations between the monitors.
- Five (5) closest monitored values used to estimate non-monitored county values using inverse-distance weighted averaging method.

- Projects in non-attainment areas (red) will require LAER, offsets/alternatives NSR analysis, and SIPs with RACT.
- Before construction is permitted, new projects must use EPA models to show attainment with NAAQS.
- EPA's modeling guidelines represent continuous operation of all new and modified sources at the maximum allowable emission rate after best available controls and typically simulated a project's future annual PM<sub>2.5</sub> ambient contribution to be 1-3 ug/m<sup>3</sup>.
- Many areas of the country (green) have background levels of 6 to 9 ug/m<sup>3</sup>.
- With a standard of 12 ug/m<sup>3</sup>, areas with background of 9 ug/m<sup>3</sup> or less will have enough "headroom" to accommodate the typical contribution from the project (e.g., 3 ug/m<sup>3</sup>).
- **Currently:** Most projects can be built.

#### 21

## Immediate Impact of $PM_{2.5}$ NAAQS at 8.0 $\mu$ g/m<sup>3</sup>

New or expanded manufacturing projects may become too costly or unachievable in red/pink colored areas



#### Map Notes/Approach:

- Used maximum PM<sub>2.5</sub> Design Values (DVs) for each monitored county
- Calculated non-monitored counties values using geospatial statistical interpolation ("kriging") "fills-in" estimates for locations between the monitors.
- Five (5) closest monitored values used to estimate non-monitored county values using inverse-distance weighted averaging method.

- Before construction is permitted, new projects must use EPA models to show attainment with the NAAQS.
- EPA's modeling guidelines require assuming
  continuous operation of all new and
  modified sources at the maximum allowable
  emission rate using best available controls
  and typically simulate a project's future
  annual average PM<sub>2.5</sub> ambient concentration
  to be 1-3 ug/m3.
- Many PM<sub>2.5</sub> "attainment" areas have background levels of 6 to 9 ug/m<sup>3</sup>.
- With a standard of 8 ug/m<sup>3</sup>, areas with background as low as 5 ug/m<sup>3</sup> will not have enough "headroom" to accommodate the ambient concentration conservatively simulated for the project (e.g., 3 ug/m<sup>3</sup>).
- Impact: A violation of the NAAQS is predicted which effectively stops the project.

#### 22

## Immediate Impact of $PM_{2.5}$ NAAQS at 9.0 $\mu$ g/m<sup>3</sup>

New or expanded manufacturing projects may become too costly or unachievable in red/pink colored areas



#### Map Notes/Approach:

- Used maximum PM<sub>2.5</sub> Design Values (DVs) for each monitored county
- Calculated non-monitored counties values using geospatial statistical interpolation ("kriging") "fills-in" estimates for locations between the monitors.
- Five (5) closest monitored values used to estimate non-monitored county values using inverse-distance weighted averaging method.

- Before construction is permitted, new projects must use EPA models to show attainment with the NAAQS.
- EPA's modeling guidelines require assuming continuous operation of all new and modified sources at the maximum allowable emission rate using best available controls and typically simulate a project's future annual average PM<sub>2.5</sub> ambient concentration to be 1-3 ug/m3.
- Many PM<sub>2.5</sub> "attainment" areas have background levels of 6 to 9 ug/m<sup>3</sup>.
- With a standard of 9 ug/m<sup>3</sup>, areas with background as low as 6 ug/m<sup>3</sup> will not have enough "headroom" to accommodate the ambient concentration conservatively simulated for the project (e.g., 3 ug/m<sup>3</sup>).
- Impact: A violation of the NAAQS is predicted which effectively stops the project.

## Potential Impact of PM<sub>2.5</sub> NAAQS Proposal

- Much of the US will be impacted by lower standards
  - More Non-Attainment Areas
  - More than half of the country would be in nonattainment areas for proposed standards
  - Proposed limits are at or below background levels for many industrial facilities
- States required to impose restrictions on facilities in nonattainment areas
  - More complex permitting, costly emission controls, and production restrictions
  - New facilities and expansions of existing operations may be difficult
  - Could stifle production and economic growth for many metalcasting operations
- Contributions from smaller uncontrolled nonpoint sources are increasingly significant
  - Wildfires, prescribed fires, dirt roads, and bare agricultural soils account for more than 30% of PM<sub>2.5</sub> emissions
  - States many still impose restrictions on stationary and mobile point sources
- States will need to determine how to address nonpoint sources of
  - Help communities impacted by PM<sub>2.5</sub> from wildfires, prescribed fires, unpaved roads, and bare soils
- EPA's proposed reconsideration is discretionary
  - It is reconsideration of 2020 Trump Administration decision not to revise PM2.5 NAAQS
  - Not part of statutorily required five-year review
  - Cost and economic factors could be used to support withdrawal of proposal
  - Obama Administration set precedent with withdrawal of ozone reconsideration based on these factors



## Air Emissions Reporting Requirements (AERR) Proposed Rule

- Proposed August 9, 2023
- Significant changes in emissions reporting requirements
  - Improve National Emissions Inventory (NEI)
  - Allow EPA to have readily available data to identify and address air quality and exposure iss
  - Ensure communities have data needed to understand sources of air emissions and potential impacts
  - Title V Permit or Emit over Threshold Levels
- Starts with the 2026 Inventory and is due by March 31, 2027
- Includes reporting to EPA
  - HAP Emissions
  - Criteria pollutant and precursors (e.g., PM10, PM2.5 and condensable PM)
  - Fuel use from combustion sources
  - Facility level v. stack level
- Combined Air Emission Reporting System (CAERS)
- Could pose a significant burden \$50,000 -- \$190,000/facility
- Comments Due November 17, 2023



## **WOTUS Supreme Court Decision**



- May 25, 2023 -- U.S. Supreme Court narrows definition of WOTUS in Sackett v. EPA
- Wetlands must have a "continuous surface connection" to water bodies that are WOTUS in their own right
  - such that there is no clear demarcation between the "waters" and the "wetlands"
- The Court rejected the broader "significant nexus" standard that would regulate nearby wetlands that had any connection to jurisdictional water bodies

## **New WOTUS Regulation**



- September 8, 2023 -- EPA and the Army Corps of Engineers issued direct final rule in response to Sackett
- New rule provides most narrow definition of WOTUS
  - Even more narrow than Trump Administration
- CWA jurisdiction only if no clear demarcation between navigable water and the adjacent wetland
- New rule still lacks clear definition of key terms, i.e., "relatively permanent" and "continuous surface connection"
  - Further clarification needed to ensure federal agencies do not have more interpretive flexibility than Supreme Court intended
- Possible legal challenge
  - Is "direct final rule" with no opportunity to comment justified?
  - Stay or revocation of new rule would result in replacing new narrow rule with broader, existing version of WOTUS
  - No legal challenge would allow broader "jurisdictional determinations" by federal agencies
  - Will not resolve all of the disagreements of what should be covered as an adjacent wetland
    - Fact-specific, case-by-case determinations will still be needed
    - Further clarifications are needed

## Used Drum Management & Reconditioning ANPRM



- August 11, 2023 EPA issued ANPRM to solicit comments on regulatory and nonregulatory options to manage used plastic and metal drums to protect human health and the environment
- Prompted by September 2022 Drum Reconditioning Damage Case Report
  - Many drums received by reconditioners are not RCRA empty
  - Large volumes of "RCRA empty" drums equates to significant amounts of hazardous waste residues from empty containers that are not effectively regulated as RCRA hazardous waste
  - Significant number of damage cases reported from reconditioner facilities



## Used Drum Management & Reconditioning ANPRM



## **Existing Definition of RCRA "Empty Container" Not Subject to Hazardous Waste Requirements**

- All wastes have been removed that can be removed using "practices commonly employed" to remove materials from that type of container, AND
- No more than 2.5 cm (1 in) of residue remains or no more than 3% by weight remains in the container
- Container that contained an acute hazardous waste is tripled rinsed with a solvent or other equivalent removal procedure



## **Regulatory and Non-Regulatory Options**

#### **Non-Regulatory**

- Increase compliance assistance and enforcement of existing requirements
- Develop "Standard Operating Procedures" (SOPs) to achieve better compliance
- Advancements in drum handling and cleaning technologies

#### **Regulatory -- Generators**

- Reduce 2.5 cm (1 in) regulatory limits for residues
- Require drums to meet structural integrity requirements before shipping
- Clarify "commonly employed practices"
- Triple rinse all containers
- Track and/or keep records of shipments of all empty drums
- Require drum labeling to identify hazard posed by the residue in the drum
- Containers must be empty (not just RCRA empty) before going to scrap recycling or disposal
- Container with any amount of residue to meet treatment standards prior to land disposal





## **Regulatory and Non-Regulatory Options**

#### **Regulatory – Reconditioners**

- Waste analysis plans for characterizing rinsate
- Regular inspections of drum inventory
- Facilities must obtain financial assurance
- Emission controls for drum furnaces
- Permits for wastewater discharges from rinsing containers
- RCRA Subtitle C (hazardous waste) permits
- Containers must be empty (not just RCRA empty) before going to scrap recycling or disposal
- Container with any amount of residue to meet treatment standards prior to land disposal



## Used Drum Management & Reconditioning ANPRM



- EPA soliciting comments on these issues and others regarding the management of used drums under RCRA
- EPA identified significant environmental justice impacts from used drum management and reconditioning
- All drums could be subject to hazardous waste regulations
- Comment deadline extended to November 22, 2023





**Priority Federal Actions:** 



#### **One of the Most Expansive US Regulatory Efforts in the History of EPA**



# **PFAS**The Forever Chemicals



## **PFAS – Why Surface Finishers Should Care**

- Broad Class of Chemicals
  - Approximately 8,000 PFAS & only 600 used in commerce
  - Regulatory definition is key
  - Polymers v. non-polymer
  - Analyte list: 400 (Academic Labs) & 40 (Commercial Labs)
- PFAS Products Are Ubiquitous
  - Fire fighting foams
  - Surface and fabric treatments
  - Lubricants, seals, wire and cable coatings
  - Hydraulic fluids
  - Can be difficult to identify PFAS in products
- Uncertain Health and Environmental Impacts
  - Can be persistent, bio-accumulative and toxic
  - Limited number of toxicity assessments
  - Regulated as a class or by individual PFAS
  - Data gaps lead to precautionary approach







## **PFAS – Why Surface Finishers Should Care**



- Regulatory Efforts EPA, States & Global
- Potential Liabilities
  - Lawsuits Focus currently on manufacturers (downstream users?)
    - Dupont/Chemours -- \$4 Billion Settlement
    - 3M -- \$10.3 Billion Settlement
  - Extremely low regulatory limits ppt
    - Single drop in 20 Olympic-sized swimming pools
    - One second in 32,000 years
  - Expensive regulatory compliance
  - Uncertain and expensive cleanup costs
  - Emerging treatment technologies





## **EPA PFAS Regulatory Developments**

- Proposed Drinking Water Standard Final September 2024
  - 4 ppt for PFOA & PFOS
  - Hazard Index for mixtures of four additional PFAS
  - Economic and technological feasibility
- Proposed CERCLA Hazardous Substance Listing Final March 2024
  - PFOA & PFOS
  - Broad liability for cleanup costs
  - Uncertain cleanup levels
  - Unintended consequences and expensive cleanup costs
  - Legislative Exemptions for "Passive Receivers"?
    - E.g., POTWs, drinking water agencies, landfills, farms, and certain fire fighting uses
- ANPRM for Additional CERCLA Listing
  - Should other PFAS be listed?
- Proposed RCRA Hazardous Constituent Listing Still at White House
  - PFOA & PFOS Not Hazardous Waste Listing
  - Trigger corrective action
  - More targeted approach releases from solid waste management units
- PFAS ELG for Surface Finishing
  - EPA in Information Gathering Phase Survey Expected by Year End
  - Proposed Rule Expected December 2024
  - Chromium Operations Only
  - BAT Economically Achievable GAC Being Used in Michigan









## **PFAS Remediation:** A Closer Look

#### **Total PFAS Remediation Costs Across All Industry Sectors**

Remediation Costs	\$100 Billion
Additional 10% for Legal Costs	\$10 Billion
POTW and Water Utility (Treatment Equipment/System Upgrades)	\$100 Billion

<b>+</b>	Chromiu	m Electroplatin	g Operat	ions	Source: Environm	ental Business Journal,	2022	
	Number of Facilities	% of Facilities with	Average C	Cost	Total Industry Cost	Total Cost plus 10% for Legal	Total Annual	
		Contamination			,	Costs	Costs	
	4,400	40%	1 million		1.760 billion	1.936 billion	96.8 million	]
	2,200	40%	1 million		880 million	968 million	48.4 million	]
	1,100	40%	1 million		440 million	484 million	24.2 million	

### **NASF PFAS Resource Center**

#### **Technical Information for the Supply Chain, Regulators and the Public**





## **Environmental Justice** *Louisiana v. EPA*



- NGOs and community groups alleged discrimination in state permitting practices and potential impact on EJ communities in area known as "Cancer Alley"
  - Permits were allowing facilities to release harmful chemicals
- EPA initiated investigation into the allegations
- State of Louisiana challenged EPA's probe as unconstitutional and lacking statutory authority
- EPA concluded its investigation with a finding of no discrimination
- Status of federal statutory authority to enforce environmental justice is unclear – Civil Rights Act of 1964
  - Some states have their own statutory authority to enforce environmental justice

## Questions



