



In the Works

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In The Works is a monthly newsletter providing Environment, Health and Safety (EH&S) news and regulatory updates. The newsletter is provided by Loureiro Engineering Associates, Inc. of Plainville, Connecticut. In this Issue you will find links to the following articles:

NATIONAL

EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt Hosts Nation’s Leaders to Discuss Efforts to Reduce Childhood Lead Exposure

WASHINGTON – In mid- February, 2018 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Scott Pruitt hosted fellow Cabinet members and other key senior leaders to outline a federal strategy to reduce childhood lead exposure and associated health risks.

“Lead exposure poses a significant health threat to hundreds of thousands of American children,” said EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt. “By refocusing Agency efforts, we can work with our government partners to develop solutions that address lead exposure and improve health outcomes for children.”

Administrator Pruitt was joined by members or their designees of the President’s Task Force on Environmental Health Risks and Safety Risks to Children (Task Force), and other principals to collaborate on a clear direction in the development and implementation of a new Federal Strategy to Reduce Childhood Lead Exposures and Eliminate Associated Health Impacts. The Task Force is co-chaired by Administrator Pruitt and Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Alex Azar. Notable attendees included: Secretary of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Ben Carson, Secretary of Labor Alexander Acosta, and HHS Deputy Secretary Eric Hargan.

“Reducing lead exposure for children and addressing the associated health impacts of exposure is a top priority at HHS, and across the Executive Branch,” said Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar “We are fully committed to drafting a federal strategy to fight this continuing threat to infants and children.”

“Children perform better at school and in life if they live in a healthy home,” said Housing and Urban Development Secretary Ben Carson. “A healthy start at home translates to a successful life outside of the home. HUD is committed to working across Federal agencies and with local

communities to eradicate lead poisoning to make sure our homes are safe and ensure positive outcomes for families and their kids.”

“Far too many Americans are exposed to lead in their workplace,” said Labor Secretary Alexander Acosta. “Finding solutions to better protect these workers and minimize the amount of lead that is taken home, and potentially exposed to their children, is a priority.”

Administrator Pruitt opened the meeting with his vision for a collaborative multi-federal agency approach to reduce childhood lead exposure across the country and his plans to make it a priority for EPA’s 2018 agenda. Following his remarks, each Task Force member or their designee shared how their respective agency can best contribute to the Task Force’s goals on lead and how the issue can be best communicated to the public.

At the meeting, attendees agreed to:

- Make addressing childhood lead exposure a priority for Task Force departments and agencies;
- Five goals that frame the new Federal Strategy to Reduce Childhood Lead Exposures and Eliminate Associated Health Impacts;
- Set an aggressive, near-term timeline for the Task Force to complete its work to draft the strategy; and,
- Schedule a follow-up principals meeting or event to issue the federal strategy and discuss next steps.

Representatives from the following agencies or offices attended:

- U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
- U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
- U.S. Department of Labor
- U.S. Department of Agriculture
- U.S. Department of Education
- U.S. Department of Justice
- U.S. Department of Homeland Security
- U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission
- Office of Management and Budget
- Office of Science and Technology Policy
- Council on Economic Advisers
- Council for Environmental Quality

Background on President’s Task Force and the challenges of childhood lead exposure:

Since the 1970s, EPA and other federal agencies have spearheaded and implemented many actions resulting in a significant reduction of lead exposure throughout our country. However, lead exposure, particularly at higher doses, continues to pose a significant health and safety threat to

children, preventing them from reaching the fullest potential of their health, their intellect, and their future. No blood lead level is safe for children. The time is now to impact future generations. EPA and our federal partners are committed to collaborate to address this threat, and improve health outcomes for our nation's most vulnerable citizens – our children.

The President's Task Force on Environmental Health Risks and Safety Risks to Children, which was established in 1997 by Executive Order 13045, is well positioned to take a leading role to address this problem. In 2000, the Task Force issued its first national strategy to address the childhood lead exposure. That first strategy focused primarily on expanding efforts to correct lead paint hazards (especially in low income housing) and put forward recommendations aimed at eliminating childhood lead exposure in the United States as a major public health problem by the year 2010.

Now, however, tackling the problem at this stage requires a coordinated federal-wide effort that evaluates the predominant sources of lead and also includes improving identification and treatment of children identified as lead exposed. It requires a more robust and coordinated communication with parents and others regarding the risks and methods to reduce exposure and a collaborative multi-agency research plan. To this end, the Task Force has been working on a new draft federal strategy that seeks to identify opportunities, including the 58 federal programs currently working on the issue.

CONNECTICUT

Connecticut DEEP Releases Finalized Comprehensive Energy Strategy (CES)

Updated CES will help to Lower Energy Costs to Residents and Businesses while Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions

The Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) released in early February, 2018 the finalized Comprehensive Energy Strategy (CES) for Connecticut which focuses on building a 21st energy system that lowers costs for homeowners and businesses and reduces carbon emissions to help achieve the state's aggressive climate change goals.

“Connecticut is committed to taking real action to address one of the most pressing global issues of our time, climate change. If we fail to take real action as a state, nation and global community to address climate change, future generations will suffer irreparable consequences,” Governor Dannel P. Malloy said. “This energy strategy will help guide our state into the future to ensure that no matter what policies come from Washington, our state will continue to lead in the deployment of renewable energy resources and reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.”

“The updated Comprehensive Energy Strategy provides a roadmap towards a cheaper, cleaner and more reliable energy system,” said DEEP Commissioner Robert Klee. “These strategies identify new tools and approaches that can help us achieve our ambitious goals as cost-effectively as possible.”

“Strengthening Connecticut’s commitment to energy efficiency and renewable generation rank high on the list of CES priorities. Energy efficiency helps reduce consumer energy bills, and improve the competitiveness of Connecticut businesses,” said DEEP Deputy Commissioner Mary Sotos. “Making smart investments in the clean energy economy will have a significant and positive impact upon future generations.”

Key Themes of the 2018 Finalized CES

- The finalized 2018 CES focuses on eight key strategies designed to further efforts to bring cheaper, cleaner, and more reliable energy to our state. These include:
- Ensure sustainable and equitable funding for efficiency
- Advance market transformation of the energy efficiency industry
- Grow and sustain renewable and zero-carbon generation in the state and region
- Expand deployment of all cost-effective distributed generation (“behind the meter”) in a sustainable manner
- Continue to improve grid reliability and resiliency through state and regional efforts
- Reduce transportation greenhouse gas emissions by accelerating the adoption of low and zero emission vehicles and strengthening alternative-fueling infrastructure
- Increase mobility, connectivity and accessibility by advancing smart-growth, mixed-use transit-oriented development, and innovative transportation partnerships
- Modernize the grid

The finalized 2018 CES released by DEEP provides an update to the state’s first-ever CES, which was released in 2013. The development and periodic updating of the CES is required in the landmark energy legislation, [Public Act 11-80](#), signed into law by Governor Malloy on July 1, 2011.

The completed report can be found on the [DEEP website](#).

MASSACHUSETTS

Baker-Polito Administration Awards \$610 Million in Loans to Fund Wastewater and Drinking Water Infrastructure Projects

The Baker-Polito Administration recently announced that 86 projects, impacting communities across the Commonwealth, are eligible to receive \$610.5 million in 2% interest-rate loans to fund construction and planning projects designed to improve water quality, upgrade or replace aging drinking water and wastewater infrastructure and cut treatment plant energy use and costs. The State Revolving Fund (SRF) awards were announced by Lieutenant Governor Karyn Polito and State Treasurer Deb Goldberg during an event in Billerica, which was awarded nearly \$44 million in financing for four local water projects.

“Water infrastructure projects supported through this fund help Massachusetts’ municipalities increase the availability of clean, reliable drinking water and modernize essential water infrastructure,” said Governor Charlie Baker. “Our administration is committed to working with cities and towns across the Commonwealth to fortify water quality programs that protect our waters and public health.”

“State Revolving Fund financing is vital part of our efforts to help local officials comply with federal and state water quality requirements and update their aging wastewater and drinking water facilities,” said Lieutenant Governor Karyn Polito. “Our administration is pleased to use the SRF to provide the subsidized capital needed to build new treatment plants, replace water mains and install renewable energy components.”

“The State Revolving Fund, administered by the Massachusetts Clean Water Trust, provides local cities and towns the funds they need to finance water infrastructure projects,” said Treasurer Goldberg, Chair of the Clean Water Trust. “This is another example of the excellent work the Trust does saving our local communities money and protecting the health of the citizens and the environment.”

SRF financing is administered by the Massachusetts Clean Water Trust (MCWT) and funds projects implemented by cities and towns, regional water supply and wastewater treatment districts and the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA). The projects include 58 clean water initiatives totaling more than \$483.8 million and 28 drinking water projects totaling more than \$126.4 million. Communities offered SRF funding in this round must decide to move forward with the project by June 30, 2018 and secure local funding authority.

“Through the State Revolving Fund loan program, the Commonwealth partners with communities and water utilities across Massachusetts to protect water quality, while investing in energy efficiency and renewable energy to make delivery of these essential local services sustainable and more affordable,” said Energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary Matthew Beaton.

Fifteen of the projects receiving funding are for renewable energy, energy efficiency or green infrastructure initiatives. These projects involve energy efficiency upgrades to treatment plants and the on-site installation of renewable energy technologies, such as solar cells and wind turbines. Energy use at wastewater and drinking water treatment facilities is a major contributor to overall energy consumption for many cities and towns, with communities statewide spending approximately \$150 million per year on electricity to treat 662 billion gallons of wastewater and drinking water. About 30 percent of municipal energy use derives from water treatment.

This year, 45 of the new projects are eligible to receive principal forgiveness. Principal forgiveness is awarded to renewable energy projects and for projects in communities that meet the affordability criteria established by the MCWT. The affordability criteria factors in per capita income, unemployment rate and population trends.

“These projects upgrade technology for important facilities in our communities,” said Commissioner Martin Suuberg of the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection

(MassDEP). “When we upgrade treatment plant equipment and processes or install renewable technologies, these facilities become more energy efficient, reduce air emissions, save ratepayers money and protect our natural resources.”

The SRF is composed of two programs that have provided more than \$7 billion to Massachusetts projects: the Clean Water Fund, first capitalized in 1989; and the Drinking Water Fund, which began operation in 1999.

This year, the Clean Water SRF provides more than \$484 million in financing for clean water projects across the Commonwealth. Approximately \$442 million will fund 39 new construction projects, \$21 million will be allocated towards funding five previously approved multi-year projects, \$3 million has been allocated to the emergency set-aside account, \$5 million will be directed to the Community Septic Management Program to remediate failed septic systems in participating communities, and \$12 million will fund 13 proposed planning projects.

The Drinking Water SRF provides more than \$126.4 million in financing for drinking water projects across the Commonwealth. Approximately \$93 million will fund 22 new construction projects, \$29.9 million will be allocated towards funding five previously approved multi-year projects, \$3 million will fund an emergency set-aside account, and \$250,000 is allocated for a single planning project.