

Defending the EPA - How Nurses Can Take Action and Make a Difference

Alliance of Nurses for Healthy
Environments
Policy/Advocacy Workgroup



Alliance of Nurses for
Healthy Environments

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Mission: Promoting healthy people and healthy environments by educating and leading the nursing profession, advancing research, incorporating evidence-based practice, and influencing policy.



Overview

- EPA is a public health agency
- Regulatory Rollbacks
 - Clean Water Rule
 - Ozone
 - Methane
 - Clean Power Plan
 - TSCA
- EPA Funding
- Nurses taking action



Clean Water Rule



CLEAN
WATER
FOR ALL.
#DEFENDWATER



CLEAN
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Clean Water is Vital to Health

- Still a significant problem in US and worldwide
 - 30+ outbreaks and >1000 reported illnesses/year in US
 - WHO estimates waterborne illnesses kill 2,300 people/day
- Water pollution - Ohio algae bloom, Charleston WV, Flint, MI



Clean Water Act

- Passed in 1972
- 2 SCOTUS decisions made it unclear which bodies of water were protected
- 20% of wetland excluded
- Difficult to protect small streams and other bodies of water

Clean Water Rule

- Extensive public input
- Signed by EPA and Army Corp of Engineers
- Went into effect August 28, 2015 - on hold d/t suit



THE CLEAN WATER RULE

Guaranteed Protections



Traditionally navigable waters

Things appropriate for commercial navigation, but that can include commercial recreational navigation.



Interstate waters

Exactly what you'd think – anything that crosses state lines.



The Territorial Seas

Coastal waters out to 3 miles.



Impoundments of waters that are otherwise covered:

Things like reservoirs behind dams of protected waters.



Tributaries to traditional navigable waters, interstate waters and territorial seas

Contributes flow downstream to these waters and has indications of regular flow, namely bed and banks and ordinary high water mark.



Waters adjacent to categories 1-5.

Adjacent means a water body is:

Within 100 feet of the ordinary high water mark of any of above waters;

Within the floodplain of any of the above waters, but not beyond 1,500 feet if the floodplain extends more than 1,500 feet; or

Within 1,500 feet of the high tide line of a traditionally navigable water or the territorial seas, or the ordinary high water mark of the Great Lakes.



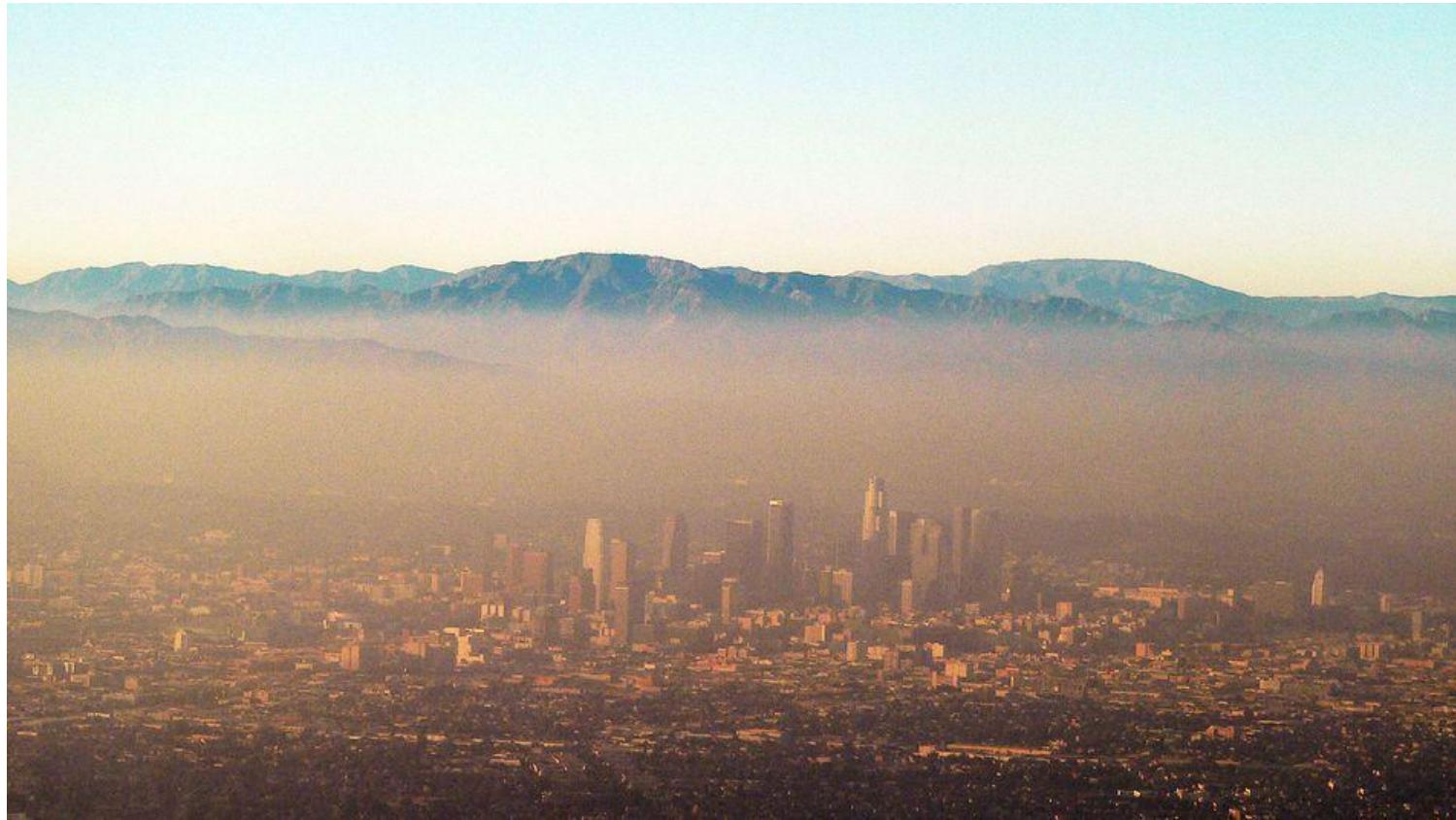
Clean Water Rule Repeal

- Announced June 2017
- Impacts drinking water of 1 in 3 Americans
- Disproportionate impacts:
 - Low-income communities
 - Communities of color
 - Rural Communities
- Comment period open until August 28, 2017



@littemissflint

Ozone



Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS)

- Updated in 2015
- Decreased to 70 ppb from 75 ppb
- States required to have plans in place by 2017 for attainment
- June 2017 - Pruitt announces 1 year extension



Victory!

Reversing course, Trump administration will not delay an Obama ozone rule

By **Darryl Fears** August 3 



https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/energy-environment/wp/2017/08/03/reversing-course-trump-administration-will-not-delay-an-obama-ozone-rule/?utm_term=.9a3a97ceab9c

Methane: Oil and Gas Industry

EDF STUDIES BY NATURAL GAS SUPPLY CHAIN SEGMENT

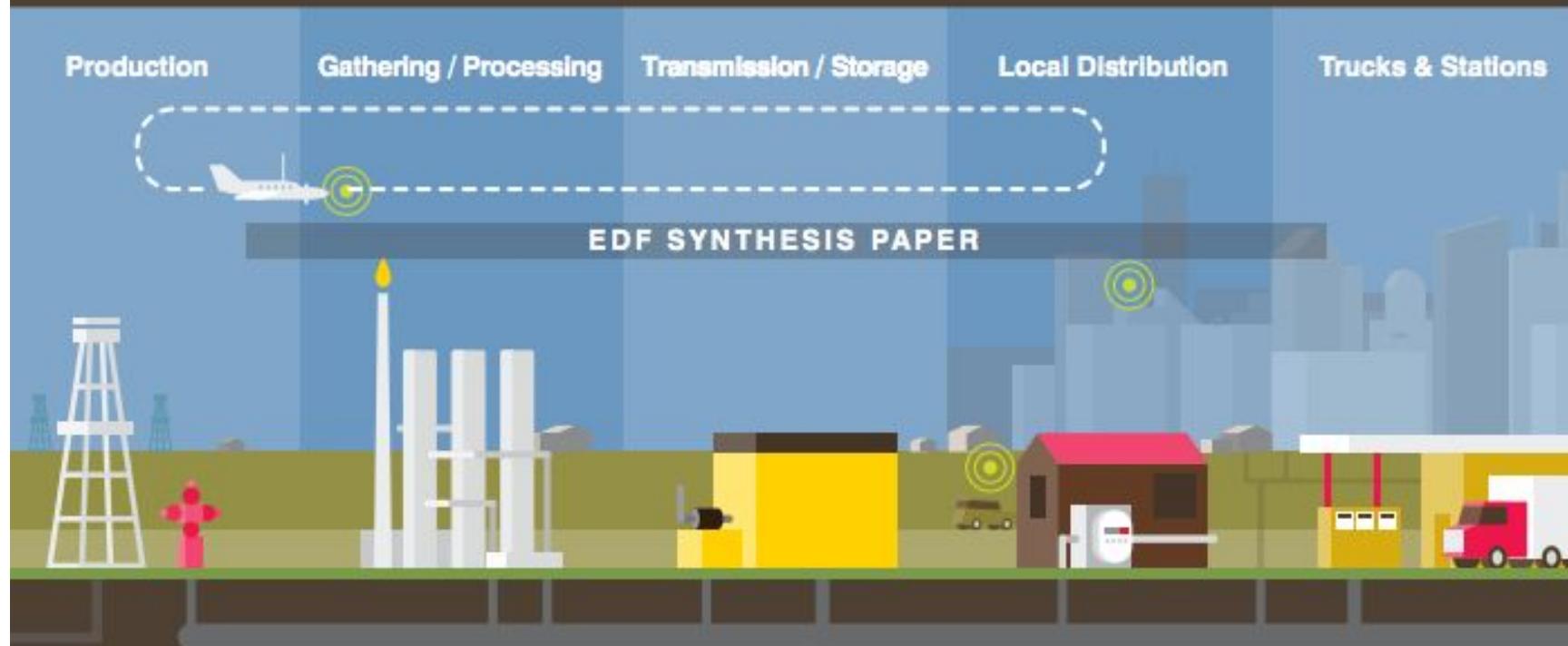


Image: EDF, 2017

Methane and Health

~Ten million metric tons of methane is leaked into the atmosphere every year from the oil and gas industry

- Methane is a major driver of climate change
- Release of volatile organic compounds (e.g. benzene, ethylbenzene, toluene)
- VOCs are precursors to ground-level ozone

Reducing Methane Emissions

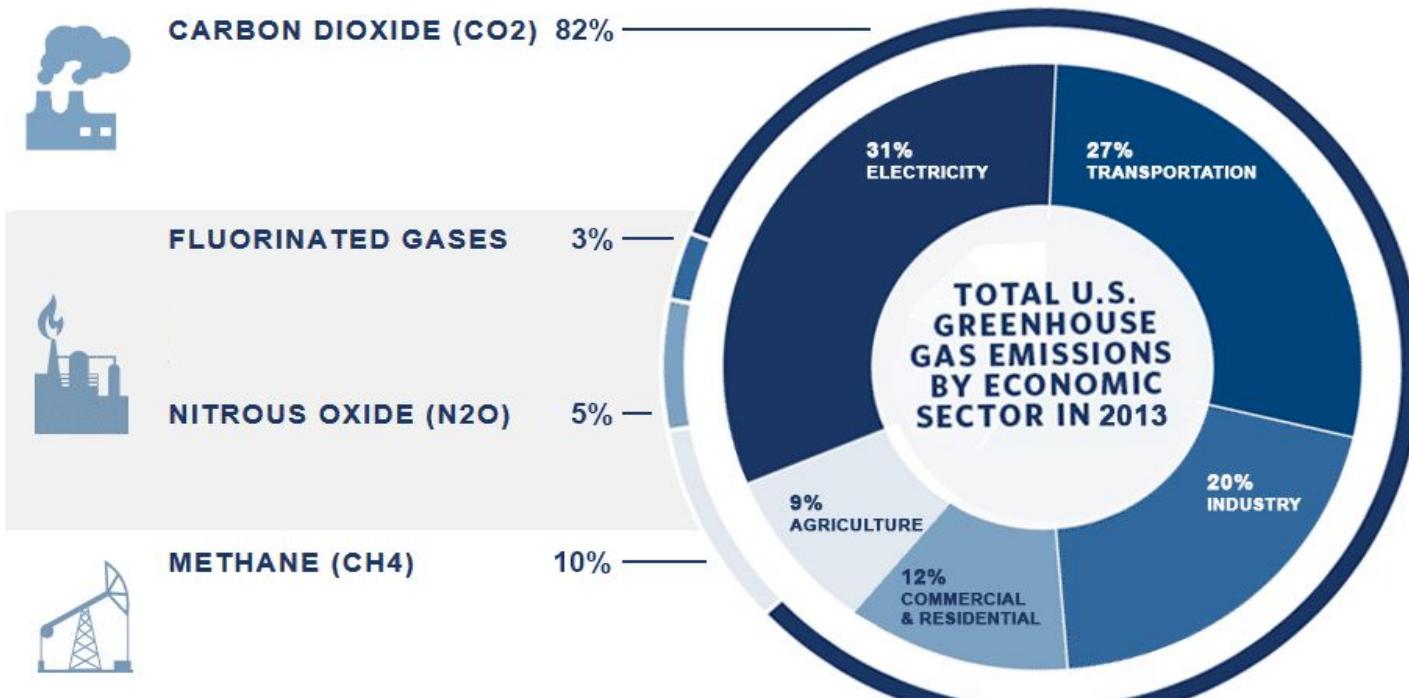
- EPA Methane Rule
 - EPA proposes 2-year delay
 - Federal court ruling
 - EPA plans to repeal rule
- BLM Methane Rule
 - Pending litigation
 - Implementation suspended



Both provide effective and low-cost solutions to cut emissions.

CPP: Reduce Carbon Pollution

POWER PLANTS ARE THE SINGLE LARGEST SOURCE OF CARBON POLLUTION



Clean Power Plan Benefits

Economic Benefits:

- ❑ Climate = \$20 billion
- ❑ Health = \$14 to \$34 billion
- ❑ Net benefit = \$26 to \$45 billion

Projected to Avoid:

- ❑ 3,600 premature deaths
- ❑ 1,700 heart attacks
- ❑ 90,000 asthma attacks
- ❑ 300,000 missed days of work or school

EPA Plan to Repeal the CPP



Photo: alohaspirit/iStock

Proposed Cuts to EPA Budget

- Cuts EPA budget by 31%
- Cuts to EPA's enforcement office
- Reduction in state grants
- Decreased funding for Superfund program
- Elimination of funding for climate change programs and CPP
- Close down 50 programs
- Eliminate 3, 800 jobs

Health Impacts of Budget Cuts

EPA efforts to improve health:

- Reduction in air pollutants
- Brownfield and Superfund
- Reduction in lead pollution

Environmental rollbacks:

- State enforcement
- Cuts funding to states
- Reduces action on climate



Image: EPA, 2017

Status of EPA Funding

- Trump administration proposal
 - Proposed 31% overall cut
- House Budget
 - Passed in July
 - ~ 7% budget cut
 - Environmental riders
- Senate Budget
 - In process

Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA)

- TSCA banned Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs) in statute
- Four other chemicals banned since, none since 1990
- EPA asbestos ban overturned in court, EPA gave up
- Only @ 200 chemicals with adequate safety data
- Over 80,000 chemicals in commerce
- Decade-long effort to update/review succeeded in 2016

Frank Lautenberg 21st Century Act

- Replaces burdensome with health-based safety standard
- Explicitly protects vulnerable populations
- EPA can require testing of new and existing chemicals
- Sets enforceable deadlines for EPA decisions
- EPA must prioritize and expedite action on persistent, bioaccumulative chemicals, known human carcinogens and those with high toxicity

TSCA Revisions A Year Later

- Departed dramatically from EPA's original proposal
- Heavily reflected the input of the chemical lobby
- Largely disregards public health community comments
- Fails to assure EPA will fully evaluate toxic chemicals
- Risk evaluations contain numerous exclusions
- Industry-driven language for scientific terms in risk evaluation rule

What We Can Do

- Oppose confirmation of EPA staff with chemical industry backgrounds (Michael Dorson, Nancy Beck)
- Emphasize importance of moving forward on TCE, NMP, DCM. If EPA can't do that, what can they do?
- Ensure EPA proposal on Chemical Data Reporting that would:
 - keep chemical reporting for (a) product category codes, (b) whether the use is intended for children, and (c) the volumes
 - separate out the current combined consumer and commercial use reporting
- Everyone on Committee except industry supports EPA proposal

Nurses: Opportunity for Action



Why nurses?

Highest honesty & integrity

- Nurses
- Medical doctors
- Pharmacists
- Police officers
- Clergy

Lowest honesty & integrity

- Bankers
- Lawyers
- Business executives
- Advertising
- Car salespeople
- Congress

And there are A LOT of us!

Role of the Nurse

- Information based on evidence
- We are the most trusted profession!
- Excellent communication techniques
- Five Rights of Political Advocacy
 - The right preparation
 - The right communicator
 - The right message
 - The right request
 - The right repetition



Political Action: Advocacy

- Social and political advocacy is just another form of caring (Morrell, D. 2005)
- Nurses need to speak out on issues related to nursing and the health of the public (Social Policy Statement, ANA)



What We Can Do

- Submit Letter to Editor from the nurse perspective on protecting public health from toxic chemicals or any of the other issues discussed today
- Place Op Ed to delve deeply into environmental health
- Organize in-district meetings with members
- Participate in ANHE- sponsored fly-in day from key states to Washington DC for meetings on Capitol Hill

What are the most effective means of influencing legislators?

Congressional staffers say:

- Visits from constituents
 - Citizen lobbyists are more effective than professional lobbyists
- Phone calls
- Individualized emails or letters
- Letter to the editor
- Postcards and petitions

Remember: Legislators work for you



Letters to the Editor (LTEs)

- Responses to published articles
- Send to newspaper editors
- Relatively easy to be published
- Most widely read section in the paper
- Should be interesting, informative and short!

Opinion Editorial (Op-Ed)

- Expresses an opinion
- Author is not affiliated with publication
- Has a large influence on readers
- Must be timely
- Clear, concise & fact based
- 600-1200 words

Meetings with Policy Makers



In-person Meetings

- Know your policy makers
- Know the issue: Anticipate and be prepared to counter opposing arguments
- Become an information resource
- Tie your information to legislators' issues
- Identify key people and communicate
- Share personal stories
- Show appreciation

In-person Meetings, cont.

- Call to schedule in advance – ask for scheduler and try and meet with policymaker in person
- Make sure your materials are concise and compelling – don't bury them in paper!
- Invite colleagues, experts, advocates, and meet with them in advance and afterward
- Be brief, competitive and concise, with offers to follow up
- Always have an ASK

What is an “Ask”?

- This is what you want to get out of the meeting.
- Decide on beforehand
- Be specific and concise

Potential Asks:

- Oppose/support action
- Issue statement
- Make a speech to members
- Host briefing or roundtable discussion

After the Meeting

- Leave a business card and info
- Copy of sign-on letter
- Follow up with a thank you email
- “Circle back” to follow up on ask
- Always leave with some sign of support
 - “We want to be a resource for you”



Testifying at Hearings

- Some are invitation-only
- If open to all, sign up and bring copies of your testimony for each
- Time your speech so you can be sure to make your most salient points
- If possible, go LAST, to debunk opposing claims
- Feel free to divert from what's in writing
- If you don't know, don't say. Use it as a p of follow up, to get the last word.



Tying It Together

- Tweet/Facebook right from your press events/hearings/legislative visits!
- Bring copies of your own blogs/press coverage to legislative visits in your information packets
- Use Twitter/emails/Facebook to invite people to your rallies/press events
- Each advocacy activity leverages and strengthens the others

Cloud
Tweets
Likeable
Facebook
Conversation
Friend
Marketing
Communities
Twitter
Gowalla
Follow
Create
Online
Posts

Sharing
Strategy
Share
Content
Networking
Blogs
Quora
Foursquare
Wordpress
LinkedIn
Socialize
Scvngr
Comment

Social Media

Social Media: Twitter Terms

- Hashtags: # - related to subject matter & is searchable
 - #Nurses
 - #CutMethane
- At replies or mentions: @ - directly tied to accounts
 - @envirn
 - @Senator



Social Media: Facebook

- Engage with supporters
- Post compelling content
- Share up-to-date information
- Make your community human
- Reply to comments





Katie Huffling, RN, MS, CNM
Executive Director, ANHE
katie@envirn.org



Cara Cook, MS, RN, AHN-BC
Climate Change Program Coordinator, ANHE
cara@envirn.org



Kathy Curtis
Policy-Advocacy Workgroup Co-chair, ANHE
kathy@cleanhealthny.org

Questions?
