Update on EPA Leadership

Scott Pruitt of Oklahoma was confirmed and sworn in as the new EPA Administrator. He addressed EPA staff on Tuesday, February 21. A video of his address is available on youtube. EPA will provide the internet address to H-GAC (www.youtube.com/watch?v=UVKlKk5nR2o&feature=youtu.be).

It is expected that new Regional Administrators for the ten Regional offices and new Assistant Administrators will be named at some point. Sam Coleman is currently Acting Regional Administrator of EPA Region 6. EPA Region 6 covers Texas and the surrounding states.

Update on Implementing the 2015 Ozone Air Quality Standard

On February 13 the comment period closed for the proposal on nonattainment area classifications and SIP requirements for the 2015 ozone standard of 70 parts per billion. The comments that were received have been posted on the www.regulations.gov website. The docket number is EPA-HQ-OAR-2016-0202. It is expected that the next step is for EPA to issue a final rule which responds to the comments received.

The Clean Air Act deadline for EPA to issue area designations for the 2015 ozone standard is October 1, 2017. EPA has received State recommendations for area designations for the 2015 ozone standard and is currently reviewing them. It is expected that EPA will notify States of intended designations at least 120 days before final designation decisions are made.