

WHITE HOUSE STATE LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE
JUNE 3, 2025, TIME
Jess Kramer's Remarks

Who: The Georgia County Commissioners

What: Speak in place of the Administrator for 15 minutes including Q/A.

Location: EEOB Room 474

Open press:

Other EPA Speakers: No

Format: Keynote and Q/A

Key Topic Requested: "PFAS Regulations"

Run of Show

Time	Speaker	Notes
9:00 AM	Alex Meyer	Welcome Speech and overview of IGA
9:05 AM	Secretary Turner – HUD	Overview, updates on department and Q&A
9:20 AM	Secretary Collins – VA	Overview, updates on department and Q&A
9:45 AM	Scott Centorino – Domestic Policy Council	5-minute break for transition
10:00 AM	Break	
10:10 AM	Bryan Kellogg – DOE	Overview, updates on department and Q&A
10:30 AM	Greg Wischer – DOI	5-minute break for transition
10:45 AM	Open	Overview, updates on department and Q&A
11:00 AM	Bethany Hudson – DOD	Overview, updates on department and Q&A
11:30 AM	John Eunice – EPA, OCIR Jess Kramer – EPA, AO	Overview, updates on department and Q&A
11:35 AM	Open	5-minute break for transition
11:50 AM	Open	Overview, updates on department and Q&A
12:15 PM	Break	5-minute break for transition
12:20 PM	Administrator Loeffler – SBA	Overview, updates on the Small Business Association and Q&A
12:30 PM	Secretary Kennedy – HHS	Overview, updates on HHS and Q&A
12:45 PM	Closing	Closing (leaving room for discussion running over)

Note: John Eunice will introduce you (and cover Okefenokee).

Introduction

- Thank you for the introduction John.
- Jess' list of caveats (Senior Advisor until confirmed...)
- **Powering the Great American Comeback** – not just a talking point. We are ensuring that everything the Office of Water does aligns with this goal.
 - Pillar 1: Clean Air, Land, and Water for Every American
 - Pillar 2: Restore American Energy Dominance
 - Pillar 3: Permitting Reform, Cooperative Federalism, and Cross-Agency Partnership
 - Pillar 4: Make the United States the Artificial Intelligence Capital of the World
 - Pillar 5: Protecting and Bringing Back American Auto Jobs

PFAS, Generally

- **Addressing PFAS** is a priority for EPA.
 - Administrator Zeldin outlined an overarching plan in April.
 - The Office of Water will be central to advancing progress.
- Recognize that one of the best ways to **address PFAS** is **at the source**.
- A few weeks ago (on April 28), **Administrator Zeldin outlined a suite of EPA actions to address PFAS**.
- It included the **development of ELGs for certain PFAS and certain industries** – namely PFAS manufacturers and metal finishers.
- We're currently discussing internally and look forward to announcing next steps soon.

PFAS National Primary Drinking Water Regulation

- The Trump Administration **reviewed the 2024 National Primary Drinking Water Regulation** that established standards for six PFAS.
- This has been a **holistic review—including the science**, the monitoring data, statutory authority, Safe Drinking Water Act process, implementation flexibilities, etc.
- **When it comes to the science, especially when it comes to PFOA and PFOS, the agency's underpinning of the rule is robust and interconnected.**
- We have found that it's **not based on one study or one factor** that if changed, would change the outcome.

- Rather, if you **pull one string, the web of scientific underpinning remains substantial and compelling.**
- With that said, the Administrator gave direction that will **provide significant relief to drinking water systems, ensure that water systems can stay in business and protect American families from water rate hikes while reducing exposure to these substances in drinking water.**
- I will talk about the Administrator's intent to:
 - **Keep the current regulations for PFOA and PFOS and unpause litigation while**
 - **Extend compliance deadlines**
 - **Establish a federal exemption framework**
 - **Pursue proactive technical assistance to water systems—especially in rural and small communities**
 - **Use tools available to hold polluters accountable**
- **At the same time, we intend to rescind the regulations with respect to four additional PFAS.**
 - Specifically, the agency intends to **rescind the regulations and reconsider the regulatory determinations for PFHxS, PFNA, HFPO-DA (commonly known as GenX), and the Hazard Index mixture of these three PFAS plus PFBS.**
 - This action will ensure that the determinations and any resulting drinking water regulation **follow the legal process laid out in the Safe Drinking Water Act.**
- In terms of the **compliance deadlines for PFOA and PFOS**, the **2024 regulation gave public water systems until 2029 to comply with the maximum contaminant levels, or MCLs.**

- Water systems, associations, elected officials, and others have shared with us that **the compliance schedule is one of the biggest challenges for implementation.**
- The Administrator agrees with this, **especially in light of stacking requirements** on PFOA and PFOS and the Lead and Copper Rule.
- To that end, EPA plans to **develop a rulemaking** to provide additional time for compliance, including proposing an **extension of the compliance date to 2031.**
- EPA plans to issue a **proposed rule this fall** and finalize this rule in the Spring of 2026.
- In addition, in light of this extra time, **EPA encourages states seeking primacy for implementing the PFAS drinking water regulation to request additional time** for developing their applications.
- We also announced our **intent to establish a federal exemption framework for PFOA and PFOS.**
- And we are committed to working with communities to meet their needs through our **new PFAS OUT initiative.**
 - PFAS OUT will enhance engagement on addressing PFAS by **proactively connecting with every public water utility** known to need capital improvements to address PFAS in their systems.
 - EPA will **share resources, tools, funding and technical assistance** opportunities to help utilities meet the federal drinking water standards.
 - PFAS OUT will ensure that **no community is left behind** as we work to protect public health and bring utilities into compliance with federal drinking water standards.

- It is critical to underscore that drinking water systems are **passive receivers of PFAS into their source waters, including PFOA and PFOS.**

Policy Meets Practicality

- The Office of Water intends to align policy with practicality. We want to make sure our policies:
 - Follow the law (SDWA, CWA, SCOTUS)
 - Consider the state of the scienceInformed by practical, on the ground implementation

401

- On May 22, we rolled out a **memo reinforcing the alignment between Clean Water Act Section 401 and the “Powering the Great American Comeback” Initiative**
- This memo emphasizes the agency’s position that states and Tribes must **utilize section 401 only for its statutory purpose – to protect water quality** – and not for policy or political goals unattached to real and direct water quality concerns.
- We also announced our **intent to seek input on implementation challenges** by issuing a Federal Register Notice and opening a docket for public comment. I **look forward to your input** through this process.

WOTUS

- We fully recognize that **communities have been particularly affected by WOTUS ping pong** – meaning the back and forth of

different Administrations changing definitions. This has been going on for a decade or longer.

- We know that **your constituents need certainty.**
- The **Sackett decision added much-needed clarity.**
- We intend to provide **clear rules of the road that fully implement SCOTUS' direction** in Sackett v. EPA.
- The agencies have already taken action, by issuing a **memo to the field** addressing a confusing and expansive view of which wetlands are waters of the US.
- The memo clarifies that **wetlands are only considered jurisdictional if they directly abut a WOTUS and have a continuous surface connection.**
- Additionally, we **will undertake a rulemaking process to revise the 2023 definition of WOTUS** to ensure that it fully implements direction from the Supreme Court.
- We just wrapped up **listening sessions** to gather real-world perspectives and experiences with WOTUS implementation.

Steam Electric ELGs

- We have announced our **intent to revise costly wastewater regulations for coal burning power plants** issued in 2024.
- Our goal is ensuring that **all Americans can rely on low-cost electricity while also protecting our nation's water resources.**
- EPA will **reconsider the 2024 standards and consider how to provide immediate relief and flexibility in terms of compliance planning (e.g., retirement decisions) and existing requirements.**

- We've heard from a lot of power utilities that the electricity landscape is changing, with AI coming in, and they need more time to plan. We intend to accommodate that.

Oil and Gas ELGs

- We have announced our **intent to modernize outdated regulations on wastewater discharges for oil and gas extraction facilities to lower energy costs while supporting environmentally sustainable water reuse.**
- The agency's review will evaluate modern technologies and management strategies to provide regulatory flexibility for oil and gas wastewater – also known as produced water – to be **treated for beneficial reuse, including for Artificial Intelligence and data center cooling, rangeland irrigation, fire control, power generation, and ecological needs.**

Technical Assistance

- I want to close by talking about **Technical Assistance**.
- EPA stands ready to partner with your communities to **address their most-pressing water needs.**
- Through our Technical Assistance programs, which you can request by emailing [[HYPERLINK "mailto:WaterTA@epa.gov"](mailto:WaterTA@epa.gov)], we can engage directly with communities to understand their needs and help identify right-sized solutions.
- Additionally, EPA recently announced **\$30 million** for technical assistance available through **NRWA, RCAP, and the**

Environmental Finance Center at the University of New Mexico.

Close

- Thank you and I look forward to our discussion today and over the coming years.