



## AGRICULTURE COUNCIL OF INDIANA NEWSLETTER

*Promoting Agribusiness Policy in Indiana*

*July 27, 2017*

### **Administration Drops Combustible Dust Standard**

*Source: NGFA*

The Trump administration removed the combustible dust standard from a list of potential Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) regulations in its first semiannual regulatory agenda last week.

The agenda provides a complete list of all federal regulatory actions that are under active consideration for promulgation, proposal or review and covers regulatory actions for more than 60 federal departments, agencies and commissions. Trump's agenda lists 14 OSHA standards in either the pre-rule, proposed rule or final rule stages compared to the 30 listed in the Obama administration's fall 2016 agenda.

The NGFA strongly opposed including grain elevators and other agricultural facilities subject to OSHA's grain handling safety standard in yet another new combustible dust rule. The combustible dust standard, first proposed more than eight years ago, proved to be a complicated and expensive rule to complete.

"OSHA is withdrawing this entry from the agenda at this time due to resource constraints and other priorities," the regulatory agenda noted.

The NGFA works with OSHA to promote the best safety practices to avoid combustible dust dangers, including this recent [Safety Tips Sheet](#).

### **EPA Proposes to Rescind the Obama WOTUS Rule**

*Source: TFI*

Following an executive order signed by President Trump in February, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) today proposed to rescind a Waters of the U.S. (WOTUS) rule, issued by the Obama administration in 2015. The proposal outlines a two-step process that simply would withdraw the 2015 rule and reinstate the prior WOTUS definitions, which had been in place previously for decades. The second step will involve the development of another proposal, later in 2017, where EPA will propose changes to WOTUS to further implement the directives in

the executive order. TFI is a member of the multi-sector Waters Advocacy Coalition and will join in that group's comments and also develop a brief TFI comment in support of the proposed rescission.

## What's Next – INDOT Call for Projects



Each summer, INDOT District Offices open a 6-month Call For Projects (state projects) for proposed new projects on state facilities (interstates, U.S. Highways, and State Roads). A Call for Projects is the beginning of a process by which project proposals for new projects can be presented, reviewed and prioritized. The purpose of the call is to give the opportunity for submittal of projects, which can originate from cities, towns, Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) and Regional Planning Organizations (RPOs).

INDOT Central and District Offices submit project proposals as part of ongoing transportation planning activities. Although changes to existing projects can occur at any time, proposals for new projects can be submitted only in response to a Call for New

Projects. Separate Call for Project processes are held for local projects and multiple calls may be issued each year <http://www.in.gov/indot>.

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## Purdue Pesticide Program Reorganized

Source: *Hoosier Ag Today*

A reorganization of the [Purdue Pesticide Programs](#) (PPP) will enhance outreach to producers, applicators, agribusiness professionals and the general public with a renewed emphasis on educational programming, according to program administrator [Fred Whitford](#).

“We’re grateful that Cheri Janssen and Cindy Myers on our team have agreed to take on new responsibilities and excited to welcome Jeff Stouppe as e-learning coordinator,” Whitford said. “These changes are part of our continuing effort to utilize the latest in educational strategies and communication technologies to support Indiana’s critical agricultural industry and help safeguard our crops, fields, wildlife and waterways.”

Whitford will continue to write Extension publications and manage outreach activities. Continue reading the [full article here](#).

## **ACI Supports Revamping EPA's Ozone Standard**

In 2015, the Agribusiness Council of Indiana joined with a broad coalition in Indiana urging the White House to focus on implementing the 2008 ozone standard instead of allowing US EPA to lower the standard even further to unattainable levels. Despite the public outcry from businesses and local government across the country, US EPA lowered the ozone standard to .070ppm.

According to the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM), there are several areas in Indiana on the verge of violating the lower standard as of July 2017. Violations will cause the areas to be designated “nonattainment” as the rule currently stands. New US EPA administrator Scott Pruitt, and the White House are considering revising the standard.

ACI has signed onto a letter to support urging the new administration to revamp US EPA's ozone rule. [Click here](#) to read the letter.

## **Senator Donnelly Hosting Farm Bill Listening Session**

Mark your calendars for a Farm Bill Listening Session with Senator Joe Donnelly on Tuesday, August 15<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. in the Normandy Barn. More information will be coming soon.

## **Indiana Department of Labor Agriculture Worker Safety & Health Webinar**

The Indiana Department of Labor works to collaborate with industry stakeholders on educating employees about work-related safety and health. Please [click here](#) to review the webinar and presentation and use it as a resource in your workplace.