

Message

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Sent: 5/12/2017 7:49:25 PM
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Subject: Invitation for Associations representing local government to the Local Government Advisory Committee's Water Workgroup's May 18th Teleconference
Attachments: LGAC-WOTUS-DraftCharge-05-01(1).pdf

Happy Friday Everyone:

On behalf of the EPA's Local Government Advisory Committee's *Protecting America's Waters Workgroup* Chair, Susan Hann, and Vice-Chair Mayor Elizabeth Kautz, meeting (via teleconference), I am writing to extend an invitation for you to join their Workgroup Teleconference on **Thursday, May 18th, 4:30-5:30 ET** to give your input in their discussion of their charge on Waters of the U.S. (*See Attached*).

The Workgroup is seeking input on their charge questions and issues:

Charge Questions

- 1) How would you like to see the concepts of 'relatively permanent' and 'continuous surface connection' be defined? How would you like to see the agencies interpret 'consistent with Scalia'? Are there particular features or implications of any such approaches that the agencies should be mindful of in developing the step 2 proposed rule?
- 2) What opportunities and challenges exist for your locality with relying on Justice Scalia's opinion?
- 3) Are there other approaches to defining "waters of the U.S." that you would like the agencies to consider to providing clarity and regulatory certainty?
- 4) The agencies' economic analysis for step 2 intends to review programs under CWA 303, 311, 401, 402 and 404. Are there any other programs specific to your locality that could be affected but would not be captured in such an economic analysis?
- 5) What additional information can you provide from a local government perspective that EPA should be aware of?
- 6) Are there other issues the agencies should consider which would help ease the regulatory burden for implementation of WOTUS for state, local and tribal government?

7) What should the agencies consider in communicating the final rule to state, local and tribal governments to help them fully understand these regulatory changes and implementing them efficiently and most cost-effectively?

8) The Workgroup will also develop recommendations on how the EPA can better work with local governments and engage local governments on issues such as: What additional regulatory issues could be revised or clarified to more effectively to help local governments understand how this rule would apply? Are there additional policy discussions that could help address local questions about implementation, in agricultural and rural small communities? Are there other considerations such as ditch maintenance, stormwater management or green infrastructure?

We would greatly welcome your participation and input! An agenda and call in information will be provided as soon as possible. If you are planning to participate, please rsvp Fran Eargle, the LGAC Designated Federal Officer, at (202)564-3115 or Eargle.frances@epa.gov.

Best Regards,

Jack Bowles
Director of State and Local Relations
U.S. EPA