

Revised Dialogue for Monday, Sept. 11

945-11 MT Changing the State-U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Paradigm:
Toward True Partnership

STINE: Transforming the state-federal relationship is not only timely, it holds promise for great benefits to the public, the regulated community, and frankly - to regulators. Since we launched Cooperative Federalism 2.0 in June, states and EPA officials have been hard at work discussing the principles embedded in this paper and how to begin the process of making change across the system of environmental protection we all carry out.

It has been incredibly refreshing to have the commitment of Ken Wagner, Senior Advisor to Administrator Pruitt for Regional & State Affairs to the 2.0 effort. I'm sure Ken is not a stranger to many of you - he'll let us know how many regions and states he's visited since his appointment - it's impressive. Thanks Ken, for joining us today.

I'm also pleased to be here with Todd Parfitt. Together, Ken, Todd and I would like to discuss a few of the "early wins" we've had working with the new Administration in the state-federal relationship. Then, we'll talk a little bit about where we're headed. Finally, we'll open the floor for discussion with all of you.

ECOS has now identified specific areas and programs where we want to specifically work with EPA on cooperative federalism. A few of those areas and programs are already moving forward with action.

Superfund and Brownfields is one of our identified Action Areas and Scott Thompson of Oklahoma - ECOS' Waste Committee Chair, is leading our work thus far. Ken, let me turn it to you to talk a bit about the Administrator's Task Force. KEN....

PARFITT: Another area where we're putting time in is the relationship between states and EPA's research agenda through meetings of ERIS, the Environmental Research Institute of the States - led by ERIS President David Paylor. Ken, let's talk a bit about how the states and EPA's research can be aligned in a way that we all get better results and valuable information. KEN.....

STINE: I'd like to touch for a minute on an area that is important to all of us. Water Infrastructure. Now this afternoon, we'll have a session on water and innovation and that will be really helpful. ECOS gathered earlier this year the top 20 "ready to go" water and wastewater projects per state and the total was over \$14 billion. The projects ranged from providing homes with running water and sewer service for the first time in several Alaska communities, to a new wellfield to enable a local farm to expand and provide needed jobs in Newton County, Indiana, to sewer improvements in several Wyoming towns. Let's talk a little about water infrastructure. Todd, what are you seeing? Ken, how can we work together?

PARFITT: Let's touch on making the processes we implement together work better. We have a whole track of the ECOS program at this meeting dedicated to business process improvement, lean, and doing our work together smarter and more efficiently. And, we've seen in a number of cases decisions that were "stuck" between states and EPA or in bureaucracy getting attention, shaken loose - IN SHORT, allowing us to deliver results that are tangible for all. Ken, can you touch on some of the actions you've seen

taken in the recent months that are outcome oriented and about getting things to move ahead? About making decisions?

STINE: So it's pretty exciting that two of our new regional administrators have been announced - former ECOS Members - Trey Glenn in Region 4 and Cathy Stepp in Region 7, formerly of Alabama and Wisconsin respectively. We're glad Cathy's here with us and Trey had to change his plan to attend due to the devastating impacts of Irma. We know that having this state expertise is going to be so valuable in the Regions. Let's talk a little about the Regions...Ken, you've been spending a lot of time out there, how's it looking?

PARFITT: John mentioned Hurricane Irma just on the heels of Hurricane Harvey. We know several of our ECOS members and EPA leaders are not here with us because they are part of the response teams in these situations. And we can't ignore the wildfires all over the west, somewhat impacting our views here in Jackson of the Tetons. We know that these trying times can provide opportunity to advance the state federal cooperative partnership. Ken, can you touch on some of the ways EPA has been working with the state environmental agencies on the ground in these impacted areas?

1040 AM or so:

STINE: Thanks to Todd and Ken for this great conversation. I'd now like to open the floor for discussion with all of you. First, I'd like to call on Jim Macy, our compliance committee chair from the Great State of Nebraska, and Patrick Traylor, Deputy Assistant Administrator of OECA, who are working together in the cooperative federalism arena of enforcement and compliance assistance for a few comments.

JIM AND PATRICK MAKE COMMENTS

JOHN TAKE A FEW MORE QUESTIONS....

AT 11 AM, JOHN THANKS TODD and KEN FOR BEING WITH HIM, and INVITES EVERYONE TO ENJOY THE BREAK

11-1130 Networking Break