

BRAD PURYEAR

(ends self-introductions)

...and I'm Brad Puryear, Mansfield Energy, Gainesville, GA.

Today we are thrilled to have with us a very special guest – the 14th Administrator for the Environmental Protection Agency, Scott Pruitt. Confirmed to the position on February 17th of this year, he is recognized as a national leader in the cause to restore the proper balance between the states and federal government.

Administrator Pruitt has a long career as a civil servant, serving eight years in the Oklahoma State Senate before being elected Attorney General for the State of Oklahoma, establishing the state's first federalism unit to combat unwarranted regulation and overreach by the federal government.

I would be remiss if I didn't take this opportunity to give our thanks and appreciation on behalf of our industry and the American public to the Administrator for helming the EPA's quick and decisive response to Hurricanes Harvey and Irma earlier this year. His leadership inspired the rapid action taken by the agency to issue countless waivers for our industry, ensuring the flow of product did not stop to the affected areas, keeping emergency services functioning and getting the affected states back on their feet much faster with a steady fuel supply to keep the recovery efforts moving.

SIGMA is proud to welcome to the stage Administrator for the EPA, Scott Pruitt.

General Starting Information

- We all have in our minds what we *think* the EPA does and what your role is as Administrator, but what really defines your position?
- What is the full scope of the EPA?
 - Air and water quality, various specific environmental issues
 - Regulation/deregulation
 - Policy making and ensuring fair and effective enforcement of existing federal laws
 - All forms of energy (petroleum, renewable, nuclear, etc)
 - Human health (protect from significant risk)
- What led you to decide to serve in the role?
- You have a unique perspective of the EPA, as a private citizen, a state official and now as the leader of the agency– What have you found most surprising about the role/function of the EPA?
- What is the most common misconception that the public has about the agency?
- Regarding laws and regulations (two different things)
 - First discuss the difference of federal law vs. regulation (where does each originate, who enforces, easier process vs. harder process)
 - Once a law is on the books, it's usually a broad scope – how does something like that work when it moves to the agency level? Who is responsible for the interpretation of that law into agency policy?
 - What do you see as EPA's role? Is the Agency a resource for industry, one that guides and facilitates compliance with environmental regulation? Or is the primary role to enforce environmental laws and policies?
- With each administration, different philosophies come into play at the various agencies – how much oversight does an administration have at an agency like the EPA? And do you see the courts adapting to different EPA philosophies?
- What strikes you as the biggest challenge facing the EPA? And the biggest opportunity?

Renewables

- How sensitive is the EPA to the blend wall and how does the agency measure it?
- Biodiesel, bio-gas, other bio fuels
 - Do you see a future to drive homogenization of transport fuels to lessen regional and seasonal blends? (it would lower costs and help in crises situations)
- Does the EPA have a stance on natural gas as a transport fuel? Is there thought to helping spur that into adoption as an abundant resource?
- Renewable energy
- EPA perspective on the electric vehicle
- As we draw closer to 2022, in what ways do you plan to improve the RFS program?

Agency Interaction

- State interactions
 - How does the EPA work with individual state organizations?
 - Example: How does the EPA interact with organizations like the California Air Resources Board, the Oklahoma Water Board, Texas Water Development Board, or the Virginia Air Pollution Control Board?
 - What is the historical relationship that the EPA has had with states? Do you foresee more/less latitude with those relationships under your tenure?
 - Are there other ways in which the EPA and State Agencies work collaboratively?
 - When it comes to enforcement philosophies, do you see a partnership with state agencies/policies that could relieve a bit of the process?
 - Example: New York has both federal and state inspectors for the same tanks – is there a way to make those dual inspections less of a frustration for companies?
- International
 - Global issues seem to be more top of mind in recent years – do you as EPA Administrator work with your contemporaries from other countries on issues?

Wrap Up

- The EPA will be around long after this and many more administrations – what kind of institutional knowledge would you like to leave for those future administrations?
- How can we as an industry be of assistance to the goals of the EPA?