

WPMA MIRAGE ROOM BLOCK FOR THE 2014 CONVENTION ENDS JANUARY 15, 2014

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HOUSE TO TARGET EPA REGS NEXT WEEK

When the House returns next week, three bills are likely to be on the floor for consideration to streamline EPA's rulemaking process. H.R. 2279, the "Reducing Excessive Deadline Obligations Act," would authorize EPA to review regulations related to solid waste disposal only when necessary instead of every three years as required under current law. H.R. 2279 also amends the "Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980" (CERCLA) which would prohibit EPA from imposing overlapping financial responsibility requirements on affected entities in states that have them on solid waste disposal.

Another bill called the "Federal and State Partnership for Environmental Protection Act" (H.R. 2226) would streamline regulations between the EPA and the states.

Finally, the House will consider the "Federal Facility Accountability Act" (H.R. 2318) which would require federally-owned facilities and non-government entities to comply in the same manner with state requirements on hazardous materials.

The bills were approved by the House Energy and Commerce Committee last summer and are expected to pass the House next week by a simple majority vote. However, it is doubtful the Senate would consider any of these measures without significant changes.

ENERGY AGENDA FOR 2014

This year expect an intensified push by the Obama Administration to expand environmental regulations even with Republicans in the House of Representatives pursuing legislation to redefine and reduce regulations. The President will continue to pursue regulations to curb fossil fuel consumption believing reductions will limit climate change. Last September, EPA proposed new greenhouse gas regulations aimed at new power plants which, for all practical purposes, bans the construction of new coal-fired power plants.

A DOE regulation published in June included an update to the government's social cost of carbon (SCC) estimate which used a different discount rate to estimate the SCC versus the rate for other regulations. Along with efforts to reduce carbon, the Administration will focus on rules for hydraulic fracturing, natural gas export approval and the Keystone XL pipeline.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR UPCOMING EVENTS IN 2014

May 8-9, 2014 – NPM&CSA Big Dog event – Red Rock Hotel & Casino Las Vegas, Nevada

June 3-5, 2014 – MPMCSA Convention – Hilton Garden Inn – Missoula, Montana

June 16-19, 2014 - WOMA Convention – Suncadia Lodge – Cle Elum, Washington

August 6-8, 2014 – IPM&CSA Convention – Coeur d'Alene Resort – Coeur d'Alene, Idaho

August 19-20, 2014 – NMPMA Convention – Marriott Pyramid North – Albuquerque, New Mexico

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