

An aerial photograph of a city, likely Annapolis, Maryland, showing a large body of water in the background and a prominent building in the foreground. The city is densely packed with buildings and streets, and the water is a deep blue. The title text is overlaid on the image.

Transitioning to a New Administration

Presentation to the
Chesapeake Bay Commission
January 6, 2017
Frank Vlossak
Williams & Jensen

Overview

- **Key Dates**
- **The Trump Administration**
 - **Priorities & Policies**
 - **Key Appointees**
- **The 115th Congress**
 - **Agenda & Priorities**
 - **Congressional Review Act**
 - **Appropriations**
 - **The Farm Bill**



Key Dates

- January: Confirmation Hearings and Votes (Secretary of Agriculture, EPA Administrator)
- January 20: Inauguration/First Day Executive Actions
- April 28: FY 2017 Continuing Resolution Expires
- September 30: Deadline for FY 2018 spending bills
- September 30, 2018: Farm Bill Expires

The Trump Administration

- Energy/Environment Priorities:
 - Energy development: oil, gas, coal
 - Deregulation
 - Reversing Obama Administration climate policies
- But also:
 - Conserve “our wonderful natural resources and beautiful natural habitats”
 - Refocus EPA on “its core mission of ensuring clean air, and clean, safe drinking water for all Americans”
 - Respect for States

Deregulation

“Any regulation that is outdated, unnecessary, bad for workers, or contrary to the national interest will be scrapped. We will also eliminate duplication, provide regulatory certainty, and trust local officials and local residents.”

-Donald Trump, 5/26/16



Key Appointees

- EPA: OK AG Scott Pruitt*

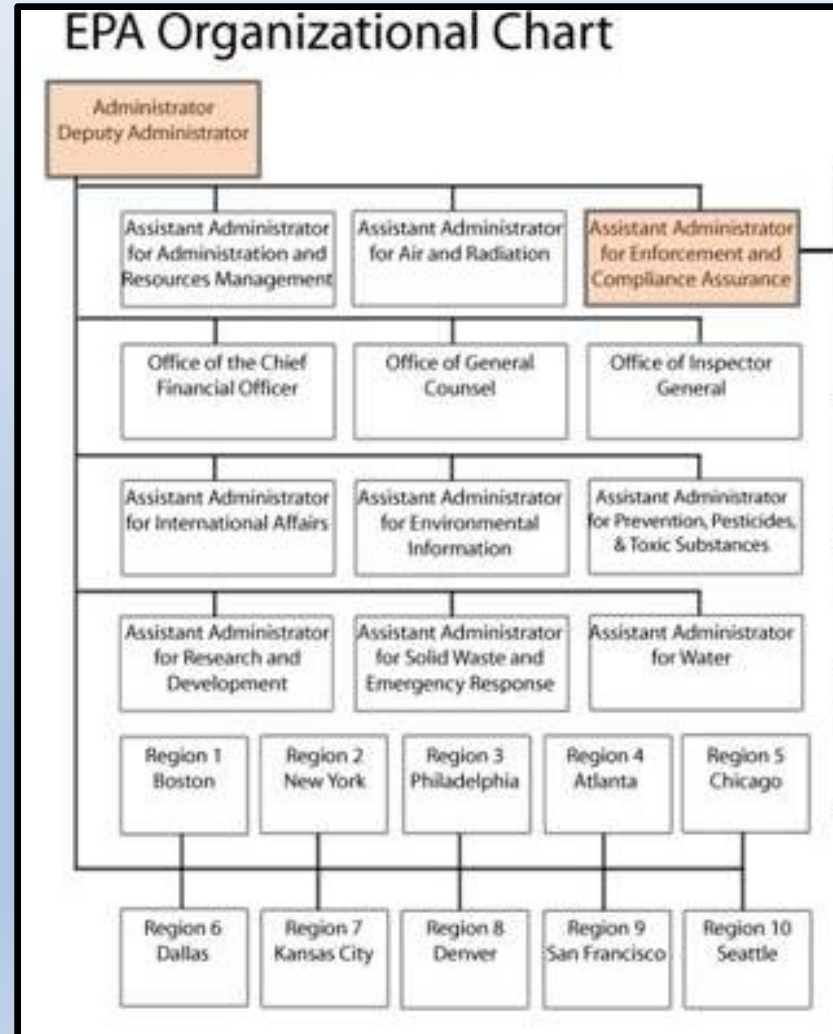
 - AA for Water*

 - Region 3 Administrator

- Secretary of Agriculture*

- CEQ

*Requires Senate Confirmation



115th Congress: Overall Agenda

- ACA Repeal
- Senate: Nominations
 - Cabinet
 - Supreme Court
- Tax Reform
- Congressional Review Act
- FY 2017 Appropriations
- Debt Limit
- FY 2018 Appropriations



115th Congress Environment Agenda

- New Committee Chairs/Ranking Members:
 - John Barrasso: Senate Environment & Public Works
 - Tom Carper: Senate Environment & Public Works
 - Patrick Leahy: Senate Appropriations
- End “War on Coal”/Climate Change
- Regulations (CRA)
- WOTUS
- REINS Act
- ESA/NEPA

Congressional Review Act

- Enacted in 1996 and used once in 2001
- Time limits: Final rules submitted after 6/13/2016 likely subject to CRA
- No filibuster – but takes Senate floor time
- Potential candidates include:
 - Stream Protection Rule
 - Dept. of Interior Gas Venting and Flaring Rule

Appropriations

- FY 2017:
 - CR expires 4/28
 - CR through 9/30?
- FY 2018: Regular Order?
- TMDL Amendment to FY 2017 Interior Bill
 - House approved 231-197 on 7/13/16
 - No provision in Senate
 - Not included in CR

Farm Bill

- Expires 9/30/2018
- Identify priorities and draft proposals now
- *Politico*: “Discussions around the 2018 farm bill are expected to pick up in earnest after the presidential election.”



Closing Thoughts

- Scope of change significant but will have limits
- “High Value Targets” will draw fire
- Strategic Assets:
 - State organization
 - Expertise/Reputation for Policy Analysis
 - State Delegations

