Reforming the EPA

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National Air Quality average improved 64% since 1980

Source: EPA Air Quality Statistics Reports
% of Air Quality Standard

National Air Quality Standard

Source: EPA National Air Quality Trends
Improvements Stalled

• On average, air quality improved 2% a year from 1980 to 2009, but only 1% a year during President Obama’s term

• Ozone improved 1% a year from 1980 to 2009, but only ½% total during President Obama’s term

• Superfund site construction completion rate under President Bush was 35 a year, under President Obama 16 a year

• Chesapeake Bay water quality improved 49% under state compact from 1985 to 2010, no improvement since EPA took over in 2010

• Diminishing Returns!
EPA Lost Integrity

• Used health benefits for exposure levels below NAAQS
• Used exaggerated Value of Life estimates to calculate health benefits
• Used studies with hidden data and no peer review
• Used un-duplicated studies, studies under review
• Cherry picked studies
• Didn’t follow OMB guidelines; discount rates, domestic benefits only
• Skipped required Administrative Procedures
• Science Advisory Board stacked with EPA grant recipients
• All overturned by executive action, clearing the deck for positive action!
EPA Laying the Foundation for Progress

• Reviewing options to improve ozone air quality
• Establishing drinking water program priorities
• Cutting red tape for faster Superfund remediation
• Reinstating measuring employment impacts of regulations
• Reviewing better ways to interact with businesses
Some Quick Progress on Existing Rules

• Paris Treaty withdraw – EO
• Stream Protection Rule – overturned by CRA
• Resource Management Planning – overturned by CRA
• Coal mining moratorium on federal lands – DOI EO lifted
• Mercury & Air toxics – Overturned by Court
• SNAP Refrigerants Rule – Overturned by Court
• Mineral Valuation Rule Repealed – DOI
EPA Longer Term Agency Review of Rules

• WOTUS – Proposed Rule to return to old definition of navigable waterways
• Clean Power Plan – Proposed Repeal
• Ozone – Delay of implementation/review
• Effluent Limitations Guidelines – Delay of implementation/review
• Coal Combustion and Residual Rule – Considering review petition
• Cross State Air Pollution Rule – Considering review petition
• Renewable Fuel Standard – Reviewing but looks like no changes
DOI Longer Term Review

• Hydraulic Fracturing on Federal Lands
• Methane Venting & Flaring Rule
• Onshore and offshore leasing
• Working with states to improve application of the Endangered Species Act
EPA Staffing

- The Administrator’s key direct staff is in place
- Half the appointments needing Senate confirmation are in place
- 6 of nine areas needing Assistant Administrators either have AAs or Deputy AAs, remaining have acting AAs, and acting Deputy AAs
- 23 of 32 Senior Executive Service positions are filled
- 5 of 10 Regional Administrators are in place
- Staffing has been slower than past administrations, but given a requested 31% budget cut, some positions may be awaiting budget confirmation
EPA Needs

• Complete Senate Confirmation nominations
• Complete political nominations
• Reorganize the Agency
• Clean Air Act Amendment excluding CO2, legislatively establishing ozone NAAQS