

# **Region 4 Air Regulatory & Permitting Updates**

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**Heather Ceron, APS**

**State/Local Spring Meeting – June 5, 2018**



# Advance Program

The Advance Program is a collaborative effort by EPA, states, tribes, and local governments to encourage emission reductions in attainment areas, to help them continue to meet the air quality standards for ozone and PM<sub>2.5</sub>.

Benefits include collaboration, connectivity and EPA technical assistance.

## Program Goals:

- Help attainment areas to ensure continued health protection
- Better position areas to remain in attainment
- Efficiently direct available resources toward actions to address ozone and PM<sub>2.5</sub> problems quickly

## Participants in Region 4

SC – entire state  
Catawba Tribe, SC  
Middle GA (including Robins Air Force Base)  
Louisville, KY  
Cumberland County, NC (including Fort Bragg)  
Charlotte, NC  
NC – Entire State

## Annual R4 Advance Forum

September 11-13, 2018  
Atlanta, GA

EPA Region 4 contact: Kelly Sheckler 404-562-9222;  
sheckler.Kelly@epa.gov  
<https://www.epa.gov/advance>



## Southeast Prescribed Fire and Air Quality Workgroup



- Consists of State Air Agencies and State Forestry Fire Chiefs for 8 Southeast States
- Initiated in 2013, Co-leads are Joseph W. Jones Ecological Research Center, National Wildland Fire Council, and EPA Region 4
- Purpose: Forum of exchange for state, regional, and national prescribed fire, smoke management and air quality goals and issues
- Recent activity includes webinars with Southern Fire Exchange: *Prescribed Fire 101 for Air Quality Staff* in Dec 2017 and *Air Quality 101 for Foresters and Prescribed Burners* in May 2018
- Quarterly Conference Calls among group







# Smoke Summit IV – in 2019



- **Primary Goal:**
  - *Convene Southeast state forestry and environmental air quality agencies located in EPA Region 4 for a forum to discuss state, regional and national issues and concerns related to prescribed fire, smoke management and air quality.*
  - *Event being planned for **February or April 2019** at the Joseph Jones Ecological Center in Ichauway, GA. Planning for **2 attendees** from each State, plus additional local and Regional invitees.*
  - *Email survey to select dates will be going out in mid-June.*



# Air Permitting Updates

**Metro4-SESARM Meeting**  
*Atlanta, GA*

**June 5, 2018**

**Heather Ceron**  
**U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 4**  
**Atlanta, GA**



# Air Permitting Topics

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**Title V Petitions**

**Biomass Permitting Update**

**Title V Sublead**

**Title V and NSR Kaizen Updates**

**Permitting Workshop FY 19**

**Staff Updates**



## Title V Petitions

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- Actively working on:
  - US Sugar/Okeelanta - Florida
    - No mandated deadline
    - Anticipated Administrator signature September 2018
  - Mill Creek – Kentucky
    - No mandated deadline
    - Anticipated Administrator signature September 2018
- Continuing work on process to address backlog at a national level



## Biomass Permits

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- Comments have been submitted for a variety of permit types including PSD, title V, and synthetic minor permits by Environmental Integrity Project (EIP).
- R4 states that have received comments on draft permits include: AL, FL, GA, MS, NC, and SC.
- Some states are reopening permits, and some facilities are undergoing retroactive BACT/PSD review in cases where the facilities are unable to comply with avoidance limits due to underestimated emissions and inaccurate emission factors.
- On April 26, 2018, EIP released a report entitled "*Dirty Deception: How the Wood Biomass Industry Skirts the Clean Air Act*" and sent "Action Letters" to 10 Governors across the country to include the Governors of AL, FL, GA, MS, NC and SC, specifically addressing air pollution emitted by wood pellet facilities and alleged deficiencies in their permits.





## Title V Sublead Region

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- Region 4 is the Title V Sublead
  - Two year rotation (FY17-18) – extended 1 year for FY 2019
  - Serve on workgroups to represent the regional perspective
    - Biogenic CO2
    - Title V Kaizen
    - Major Source to Area Source (MM2A) Workgroup (new Once In Always In policy)
    - Part 70 Revisions Workgroup
  - Coordinate information gathering from the regions
  - Organize monthly national staff calls and Permit APM calls
  - Annual Permit APM Meeting – June 12-13 in RTP, NC
  - Yolanda Adams is the R4 staff contact
- Region 6 is the NSR Sublead



## Title V and New Source Review Kaizens

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- Two 5-day events held in DC for HQ and selected Regions
  - Title V - Region 4 had 2 representatives (March 26-30)
  - NSR – Region 4 had 2 representatives (April 9-13)
- Focus on EPA-issued air permits
- Goal is for EPA to issue permits within 6 months
- Outcomes:
  - Future process that approaches the 6 month mark
  - Standard work products list that we will be prioritizing
  - Development of a Community of Practice to aid in permitting process



## Region 4 Air Permitting Workshop 2019

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- Planning for FY19 Workshop beginning August 2018
- Soliciting topics and speakers from the State and Local agencies
- Randy Terry is R4 Point of Contact
- Tentative date will be Spring 2019
- Location will be Sam Nunn Atlanta Federal Building



## Region 4 Air Permitting Staff

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- Yolanda Adams – Title V Sublead Coordinator/Permit Expert
- Kelly Fortin – OCS and general Policy Expert
- Natasha Hazziez – Florida State/Local Contact and EJ assistance
- Art Hofmeister – Kentucky State/Local Contact and Title V Petition Expert
- Terry Johnson – North Carolina State/Local Contact
- Eva Land – Tennessee State Contact
- Ana Oquendo – Tribal Team
- Andrew Porter – Georgia State Contact
- James Purvis – South Carolina State Contact and PAL/CAM Contact
- Lori Shepherd – NSR Expert
- Randy Terry – Alabama State/Local Contact and EJ Expert
- Mario Zuniga – Tennessee Backup and Tribal Team
- Gloria Diaz-Galarza – Mississippi State Contact
- Melba Table – Tribal Team

# Questions



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