

I am a retired marine scientist and grassroots environmental activist living on Cape Cod, Ma. I feel that the Environmental Protection Agency would benefit from independent scientific advice on particulate matter and its effects on air pollution. I have not personally worked on air pollution issues here on Cape Cod, but have been concerned in the past by methyl mercury contamination of fish in Ashumet Pond (from airborne coal plants in the Midwest) and high Summer ozone levels in the air on the outer Cape which are often higher than those in downtown Boston (from regional nitrous oxide pollution from off-Cape automobiles).

I did testify at the EPA/US Army Corps of Engineers online hearing in the Fall of 2017 on the Waters of the US(WOTUS) proposal to change the jurisdictional boundaries for the CWA; SDWA; CECLA; TSCA, etc. In the introduction, the EPA and COE spokespersons didn't mention either science or environmental protection, but instead concentrated on President Trump's Executive Order to remove environmental constraints to business development; their new policy on federalism and former Supreme Court Judge Scalia's narrow interpretation of WOTUS. It appears that a similar shift in rule making by EPA is for the Clean Air Act is underway which ignores science and environmental protection. As a candidate President Trump promised to reduce the adverse public health effects of air and water pollution. **How can EPA continue to roll back the CWA and CAA regulations designed to protect public health ?**

Before retiring in 2008 while working at NOAA and NASA, I worked with scientists at EPA on research proposals on eutrophication or the Waquoit Bay Watershed Ecological Risk Assessment project. I feel that the Agency's scientific staff and contractors need more support (people and \$) to help the regulators, policy makers and managers develop more effective in ways to protect public health and the environment. Current EPA policy pronouncements have just the opposite effect and are bad for the environmental and socioeconomic systems here on Cape Cod.

Nitrogen enrichment of our coastal embayments from the regional airshed is a major problem for both water quality and loss of seagrass Essential Fish Habitat for fish species like bay scallops. Ocean acidity and periodic hypoxia have severe consequences for various shellfish species which are employed in aquaculture and harvested by commercial/recreational fishermen/women. High mercury levels in fish in Ashumet Pond have lead to fish consumption alerts for women of child bearing age and children. Ashumet Pond and the Fire Training Area at Joint Base Cape Cod are source areas for PFAS contamination of private and public water sources in Mashpee and Falmouth. Phosphorus enrichment from the former wastewater treatment plant at JBCC has lead to Summer hypoxia in the bottom waters of Ashumet Pond and periodic cyanobacterial blooms in the surface waters.

Thus the policies of EPA Region 1 have negatively effected both our natural environment and "Blue Economy" which is a **double whammy**.

Thanks for your consideration of these comments.

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