

## **ENFORCEMENT OUTLOOK AUGUST 2021**

# I. BIDEN NOMINEE DAVID UHLMANN - EPA OFFICE OF ENFORCEMENT & COMPLIANCE ASSURANCE

#### II. EPA ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE & CLIMATE

- A. Broader enforcement by incorporating EJ and climate into all existing regulatory programs

  For example: Clean Air Act §112(r) Risk Management Plan Rule
- Obama Rule >> Trump Rule
- Biden Rule
  - Obama Rule + EJ and climate impacts
  - "maximum possible protection"
  - OSHA Process Safety Management (PSM) standard
- B. Enforcement of EJ principles
- OECA Memo re Criminal Enforcement of EJ (June 21, 2021)
- Permit and Rule challenges >>> Title VI Civil Rights Act claims
  - EG: Port Arthur TX calcining plant, ENVs seek EPA civil rights investigation of TCEQ permit

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## III. CLEAN AIR ACT FEDERAL / STATE ENFORCEMENT

- A. EPA greater scrutiny/likely opposition to State Title V permit decisions
- pending Title V challenges to TX permits EPA settled case, setting deadlines
- "Hunter policy" now in place, deferring to States, may be rescinded
  - EG: IN Title V permit for Waelz kiln

## B. State authority to duplicate US penalties under State law?

- 9th Circuit & OH Supreme Court: States can prosecute VW for defeat devices
  - VW agreed to \$4.3 billion US penalty. (14.7 billion including buybacks).
  - OH Supreme Court okayed a \$1 trillion state penalty
  - 9<sup>th</sup> Cir okayed \$10 billion in claims by Counties in FL and UT
  - USSCT cert petitions pending

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## III. SEC ENFORCEMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SOCIAL GOVERNANCE (ESG) REQUIREMENTS

- Mandatory disclosure rule by end of 2021
- Scope of emissions: operations, use, indirect in value chain?
- Must climate disclosures filed or furnished?

#### IV. OSHA

#### V. "ATTRIBUTION SCIENCE"

- Attributing extreme weather event impacts to ghg emissions of individual sources, for climate liability
- 2016 NAS Report
- 2021 NAS judicial workshop

