

National Boating Federation

Earl Waesche

February 2017

NMMA NEWS

The National Marine Manufacturers Association has been paying special attention to the confirmation of Scott Pruitt, the nominee for EPA Administrator, with particular eye towards his leanings on the Renewable Fuel Standard.

During his Senate confirmation hearing, Pruitt, told Senate Environment and Public Works members that the EPA's waiver authority under the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) "must be used judiciously." Pruitt's comment on the waiver authority refers to the EPA's ability to reduce the amount of ethanol it requires to be mixed in the gasoline pool. NMMA has argued that EPA has the authority to set lower than mandated levels to more accurately reflect the market place and consumer choice, which it did between 2014 and 2016.

Previous comments by nominee Pruitt seemed to hint at some flexibility on the RFS. Midwestern Senators pushed hard during the confirmation hearing to ensure Pruitt would follow the hard-fast mandates of the RFS.

NMMA looks forward to working with the next Administrator to ensure boaters are aware of the serious damage E15 can cause and better educating consumers on proper fueling. The widespread availability of E10 and ethanol-free fuels is of the utmost importance to boaters Nationwide and will remain a top priority for NMMA.

REUTERS Report on Army Corps of Engineers

Reuters reports the US Army Corps of Engineers "has granted the final easement needed to finish the controversial Dakota Access Pipeline, according to a court filing Tuesday." The AP reports the Army told Congress recently "that it will allow the \$3.8 billion Dakota Access oil pipeline to cross under a Missouri River reservoir in North Dakota, completing the disputed four-state project." The Army intends to allow the Lake Oahe crossing "as early as possible, according to court documents the Justice Department filed that include letters to members of Congress from Deputy Assistant Army Secretary Paul Cramer."

Washington D.C.

President Trump sharply changed the federal government's approach to the environment on Tuesday as he cleared the way for two major oil pipelines that had been blocked, and set in motion a plan to curb regulations that slow other building projects.

The Keystone XL pipeline was resurrected recently, that had stirred years of debate, and expedited another pipeline in the Dakotas that had become a major flash point for Native Americans. President Trump also signed a directive ordering an end to protracted environmental reviews.

"I am, to a large extent, an environmentalist, I believe in it," Mr. Trump said during a meeting with auto industry executives. "But it's out of control, and we're going to make it a very short process. And we're going to either give you your permits, or we're not going to give you your permits. But you're going to know very quickly."

Environmental activists quickly denounced Mr. Trump's decisions. "Donald Trump has been in office for four days, and he's already proving to be the dangerous threat to our climate we feared he would be," said Michael Brune, the executive director of the Sierra Club.

Myron Ebell, a climate change denier who headed Mr. Trump's Environmental Protection Agency transition team, has drafted a 50-page blueprint for how he could eliminate the current climate change policies.

NMMA believes that the Keystone XL Pipeline and Dakota Access Pipeline are beneficial to the entire Boating Community, including users and manufacturers, and both have been issued permits by the US Army Corps of Engineers. The pipelines will provide more efficient and faster distribution of oil to refineries and thus keep gas prices down.