

Federal Policies on Waters of the United States

**William James
US Army Corps of Engineers**

On February 14, 2019, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Department of the Army (Army) announced the publication in the Federal Register of the proposed new definition of "waters of the United States" (WOTUS) that clarifies federal authority under the Clean Water Act. The agencies' proposal is the second step in a two-step process to review and revise the definition of WOTUS consistent with the February 2017 Presidential Executive Order #13778 entitled "Restoring the Rule of Law, Federalism, and Economic Growth by Reviewing the 'Waters of the United States' Rule." The notice began a 60-day public comment period that will close on April 15, 2019. EPA and the Army are currently hosting meetings across the U.S. to receive additional public input. This session today will discuss the background of the WOTUS rule, current regulatory status, and an overview of what is proposed in the Rule.