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I am pleased to present the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's *FY 2014 Financial and Program Performance Highlights* and to share with you some of our key accomplishments in protecting human health and the environment during the past year.

Our top achievements included the first-ever proposed standards to address carbon pollution from existing power plants, the single largest source of carbon pollution in the U.S. By 2030, the standards will cut carbon emissions from the power sector by 30 percent nationwide below 2005 levels. Additionally, the EPA expects the proposed standards will cut other related air pollutants by more than 25 percent, averting premature deaths, asthma attacks in children and lost productivity due to missed work or school days and providing up to \$93 billion in climate and public-health benefits.

In efforts to protect America's waters, the EPA and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers released a proposed rule to clarify protection under the Clean Water Act for streams and wetlands that form the foundation of the nation's water resources. About 60 percent of stream miles in the U.S. flow only periodically but have a considerable impact on downstream waters. Approximately 117 million people – one in three Americans – get drinking water from public systems that rely in part on these streams, which also provide environmental and economic benefits to communities. Our goal in revising the rule is straightforward: to respond to requests from stakeholders across the country to make the process of identifying waters protected under the CWA easier to understand, more predictable, and more consistent with the law and peer-reviewed science.

The EPA also continued working with state and local governments, business and industry leaders and other partners to clean up communities. To date, Brownfields Program grants and technical assistance have helped assess 22,337 brownfields properties, leverage 103,740 jobs and make more than 47,000 acres ready for anticipated reuse.

Achieving goals for safe drinking water, swimmable and fishable streams, cleaner air and healthier communities and neighborhoods requires not only new strategies and compliance but also vigorous enforcement. Under our national enforcement initiatives, the EPA addressed pollution problems that affect our communities. For example, Minnesota Power agreed to reduce harmful air pollution from three coal-fired power plants. The settlement requires the company to take actions to cut harmful emissions by more than 13,350 tons annually and mitigate negative local impacts on the Fond du Lac Band tribe and Voyageurs National Park.

Last April, the EPA released its *FY 2014-2018 Strategic Plan*, which provides a blueprint for advancing our mission to protect human health and the environment nationwide. The plan envisions a new era of partnerships with state and local governments, tribes, federal agencies, businesses and industry leaders to achieve environmental benefits in a pragmatic, collaborative

way. We want to ensure that everyone, regardless of age, race, economic status or ethnicity, has access to clean water, clean air and the opportunity to live, work and play in healthy communities.

EPA managers and staff are dedicated to our mission and to meeting Americans' expectations for a clean, healthy environment for all communities across the nation. We will continue to carry out our work with our partners to achieve results and to be held accountable for using the financial resources entrusted to us in the most effective and efficient ways possible.



Gina McCarthy