



Advocacy Alert:

AFS Advocacy Helps Advance Clearer WOTUS Rule for Manufacturers

THE ISSUE

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has proposed a revised definition of the Waters of the United States (WOTUS) rule, addressing longstanding regulatory uncertainty for manufacturers about which water bodies fall under federal jurisdiction. For years, shifting interpretations under the original WOTUS rule created legal and permitting ambiguity for site planning, expansions, and new facilities, hindering investment and operational certainty for the manufacturing sector.

AFS ADVOCACY

AFS has proactively engaged in advocacy efforts alongside industry peers to call for a durable, practical WOTUS framework. We consistently emphasized the need for clearer permitting standards, predictable scope of federal oversight, and alignment with Supreme Court guidance. By submitting technical comments, meeting with federal regulators, and collaborating on industry-wide coalition recommendations, AFS helped communicate the on-the-ground impacts of regulatory uncertainty on foundries, castings operations and their supply chains.

THE POSITIVE OUTCOME

The EPA's proposed revised WOTUS rule reflects greater clarity and predictability, offering manufacturers, including AFS members, a firmer foundation for planning and investment. With clearer definitions of regulated waters and a more consistent permitting framework, the manufacturing community stands to benefit from reduced regulatory risk and enhanced confidence in site development. AFS welcomes this step forward and looks forward to continued engagement with the EPA to achieve a strong final rule that supports the U.S. manufacturing base and the communities it serves.