

# Third Triennial Biofuels Report to Congress (RtC3)

10/14/2021



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# Overview

- Required every three years under Section 204 of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (EISA).
- Assesses the “impacts to date” and “likely future effects” of the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) Program on:

Air quality	Water quality	Soil quality
Water Availability	Terrestrial ecosystems	Aquatic ecosystems
Wetlands	Invasive species	International effects
- GHGs are not included in the Section 204 report (that’s Section 202)
- Involves >70 researchers from many different Federal Agencies (e.g., EPA, USDA, DOE, NOAA).
- Approach: Combination of literature review + targeted analyses to fill key knowledge gaps.
  - Key knowledge gap identified in the RtC2: Attribution
  - Two of those studies you’ll hear about next.

- Third report (RtC3) is identified as a Highly Influential Scientific Assessment (HISA)
- Helps inform several stakeholders:
  - Congress on the effects from the RFS Program as opposed to other factors.
  - EPA Office of Transportation and Air Quality (OTAQ) on the non-GHG effects of the RFS Program and of biofuels more generally.
  - Other stakeholders: Regulated industry, environmental and trade NGOs, the public.
- A clearer perspective on the RFS Program and biofuels will help support a more informed debate on energy policy in the U.S.

- RtC3
  - Oct: Finalizing last two Chapters.
  - Nov: Inter- and Intra-Agency review.
  - Dec-Feb: Public comment
  - Summer 2022: Finalize RtC3
  
- RtC4
  - Planning for research needs has begun.



## Associated References

- U.S. EPA. Biofuels and the Environment: Second Triennial Report to Congress (Final Report, 2018). U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Washington, DC, EPA/600/R-18/195, 2018.  
[https://cfpub.epa.gov/si/si\\_public\\_record\\_report.cfm?Lab=IO&dirEntryId=341491](https://cfpub.epa.gov/si/si_public_record_report.cfm?Lab=IO&dirEntryId=341491)
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