February 22, 2021 -- **Region 7 RA's Talking Points for the Monday EPA Administrator's Call**

Region 7 Certified Drinking Water Analysts Deploy with Mobile Lab to Texas

- The certified Region 7 Water Mobile lab deployed to Fort Worth Texas on February 21st.
- 2 certified analysts are traveling on Monday February 22nd.
- They will stand up the lab on Tuesday and begin analysis on Wednesday morning.
- They are stationed at the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) Region 4 Office in Fort Worth
- On Tuesday, Region 7 will issue a press release and use social media for external engagement.

Press Release – On Monday, EPA Region 7 will issue an Enforcement press release announcing the agency has reached a Settlement for Unauthorized Wetlands Destruction Along the Des Moines River

- EPA Region 7 is planning to issue a press release today to announce the court approval of a settlement agreement with an Ottumwa, Iowa, man and his two companies for alleged violations of the federal Clean Water Act (CWA), including the illegal construction of a recreational vehicle campground in Ottumwa on the Des Moines River.
- "The Clean Water Act seeks to protect the nation's water resources," said David Cozad, director of EPA Region 7's Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Division. "Placing unauthorized fill material into rivers and wetlands can degrade watershed health, create loss of wildlife habitat, and deprive downstream landowners and the public from the use and enjoyment of public waters."

AltEn Update: Region 7 continues providing technical and enforcement assistance to NDEE following the spill at the AltEn ethanol manufacturing facility in Mead, NE

- Region 7 is providing technical and enforcement assistance at the request of the Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy at an ethanol manufacturing facility called AltEn, which utilizes treated seed as its primary feedstock. in its process. The process generates 150 tons per day of wet cake waste, which contains high levels of pesticide residues from the treated seed.
- The specific concern is high levels of neonicotinoid residues in the wet cake. Neonicotinoids are a class of neuro-active insecticides that are long lasting and have special restrictions for their use due to their potential effects on plants and wildlife, especially bees.
- NDEE is the lead for enforcement in the matter. On February 4, NDEE issued an Emergency Order to AltEn regarding its wastewater lagoons; as a result, AltEn ceased operations. Ex. 7(A) Ex. 7(A) Ex. 7(A) Several of the deep-pocket seed supplier are reportedly helping the facility with cleanup and compliance issues.
- There is another treated seed ethanol facility in the region, in western Kansas. It is smaller, but little is known about environmental impacts of the facility. EPA is coordinating with KDHE to plan an evaluation of the facility.

Press Release – On Monday, EPA Region 7 will issue a press release announcing the First Trash Trap Project to Capture and Assess Aquatic Trash in St. Louis

- EPA Region 7 will issue a press release announcing the first trash trap project to capture and assess aquatic trash in St. Louis. Region 7 partnered with the Wichita State University's Environmental Finance Center and the Missouri Confluence Waterkeeper organization on the project. A stream trash trap is a mechanical system that includes a floating boom and net that funnel and gather floating debris near embankments, canals, or stormwater outfalls before it

can reach primary waterways like streams, rivers, lakes, and oceans. Three different types of trash traps are being installed at the following locations: “Trash Trout” at Deer Creek in Maplewood, Missouri; “B2B Beaver” at Mackenzie Creek in St. Louis; and, “Litter Gitter” at River des Peres in University City, Missouri.

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