To: R7 Senior Staff[R7_Senior_Staff@epa.gov]; R7 Deputies[R7_Deputies@epa.gov]; R7 RGAD-OPA[R7_RGADOPA@epa.gov]
Cc: Bustos, Patrick[Bustos.Patrick@epa.gov]; Frizzell, Damon[Frizzell.Damon@epa.gov]
From: Washburn, Ben
Sent: Wed 11/23/2016 7:57:01 PM
Subject: OPA Daily Digest for 11.23.16

OPA Daily Digest – 11/23/2016

Upcoming EPA Region 7 Events by Division

*New additions noted with an asterisk

RA:

11/29/16 - HUD/EPA Coordination Meeting, Regional Office, Contact: Wendy Lubbe

12/01/16 2/16 - Four State Directors Meeting,_Location: Regional Office, contact: Dick Sumpter

12/13 - 16/16 - Senior Leadership Meeting, Washington, DC, Contact: Julia Cacho

-

DRA:

11/29/16 – HUD/EPA Coordination Meeting. Regional Office. Contact: Wendy Lubbe, 7551

12/1 – 2/16 - Four State Directors Meeting, Regional Office, Contact: Dick Sumpter

12/7 – 8/16 - White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders Meeting

Location: Washington, DC, Contact: Dana Peters

RA/Immediate Office

None

Other Events

AWMD

11/28/16 – Prairie Band Potawatomi Tour, Mayetta, Kan. Contact: Liz Blackburn, 7899

CNSL

None

ECO

None

ENST

None

PLMG

None

RA/OPA

None

SUPR

11/28/16 – 11/29/2016 – Advanced Level A/B exercises. EPA/state OSCs and possible other response partners. Training and Logistics Center, KCMO. Contact: John Frey, 7994.

11/29-12/1 – SUPR Directors Meeting, Washington DC. Contact: Mary Peterson, x7882

WWPD

11/29-12/1/16 – EPA Water Division Directors Meeting, Chicago, Ill. Contacts: Karen Flournoy, 7782, Jeff Robichaud, 7146

12/5-9/16 – National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Pretreatment Training, Washington, DC. Contacts: Jodi Bruno, 7810, Seth Draper, 7080

12/5-7/16 – Mississippi River/Gulf of Mexico Watershed Hypoxia Task Force Meeting, New Orleans, La. Contact: Mike Tate, 7773

12/6-8/16 – EPA Office of Water Urban Waters Focus Group, Washington, DC. Contact: Roberta Vogel-Leutung, 7072

Congressional Inquiries:

Sen. Claire McCaskill (Mo.) – 10/26/16 – Email: Constituent complaint about the city of Morley's wastewater treatment system. Due: 10/31/16. Contact: LaTonya Sanders, 7555 (closed)

Sen. Roy Blunt (Mo.) – 10/25/16 – Letter: Constituent complaint about EPA regulations of ammonia storage tanks. Due: 11/9/16. Contact: LaTonya Sanders, 7555 (open)

State Government Inquiries:

None

Press Inquiries:

KCPT Channel 19 Public Television, Kansas City – Michael Price – 11/10/16: Questions about EPA's consent decree with the City of Kansas City, Mo. Contact: Chris Whitley, 7394 (closed)

KOKI Ch. 23 Tulsa, Okla. – Ashley Lincoln – 11/22/16: Questions regarding possible Clean Air Act violations at Aersole, Inc. plant in Neodesha, Kan. Contact: David Bryan, 7433 (closed)

Dubuque Telegraph-Herald – Tom Barton – 11/23/16: Questions regarding EPA's consent decree with the City of Dubuque, Iowa. Contact: Ben Washburn, 7364 (closed)

Press Releases:

Link to all R7 press releases: https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/search/field_press_office/region-07

None

Fact Sheets:

None

Environmental Stories:

West Lake Announcement Stories

EPA to test home near landfill for radioactive contamination

ST. LOUIS (AP) — The Environmental Protection Agency will test for radioactive contamination at a home near a St. Louis County landfill, a Superfund site where illegally buried nuclear waste sits near an underground fire.

Meanwhile, Region 7 Administrator Mark Hague said Tuesday that the agency is not yet ready to announce remediation plans for the West Lake Landfill site in Bridgeton. Those plans were expected by December. No new timetable was given.

Cold War-era nuclear waste was buried at West Lake in the 1970s. Making matters worse, an underground fire has burned in recent years just a few hundred feet away at the adjacent Bridgeton Landfill.

Last week, a group of Bridgeton residents filed suit, claiming that sampling conducted at the home of Michael and Robbin Dailey found high levels of radioactive material.

http://www.stltoday.com/news/state-and-regional/epa-to-test-home-near-landfill-for-radioactive-contamination/article_a00ad64f-fdbc-5933-93c8-8c0f65d7786e.html

EPA to test home near West Lake Landfill for radioactive contamination

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http://fox2now.com/2016/11/22/epa-to-test-home-near-west-lake-landfill-for-radioactive-contamination/

EPA says West Lake cleanup decision will miss deadline

The Environmental Protection Agency announced Tuesday that it would miss a year-end deadline to select a cleanup plan for radioactive contamination at the West Lake Landfill Superfund site. "We need to extend the deadline for proposing a final remedy," said EPA Region 7 Administrator Mark Hague. "This is a very complex site," Hague continued. "We need to get this right and we will get it right but we need to extend the deadline."

There is not yet an adjusted timeline for when a cleanup plan will be finalized. The agency is also developing a separate plan to test residential areas surrounding West Lake Landfill "to address potential environmental health concerns in the area," according to a released statement.

That announcement comes one week after a Bridgeton couple living about a half-mile away from the Superfund site filed a lawsuit alleging radioactive contamination of their home. Sampling will begin at that couple's home in the Spanish Village neighborhood and could possibly be expanded, based on the agency's findings. The timeline for those testing efforts also has yet to be determined, the EPA said.

This story will be updated.

http://www.stltoday.com/news/local/metro/epa-to-release-testing-plan-for-area-surrounding-west-lake/article_ab54deb2-3761-59b0-a3b0-9081b5af85fa.html

KSDK-TV Ch. 5 - EPA to test Bridgeton home for radioactive contamination - 11/22/16 - The Environmental Protection Agency(EPA) announced Tuesday it will test a Bridgeton home for radioactive contamination.

http://www.ksdk.com/news/health/epa-to-test-bridgeton-home-for-radioactive-contamination/355111025

KBIA - EPA won't meet end of the year deadline to propose remedy for West Lake Landfill - 11/22/16 - The Environmental Protection Agency has extended its deadline to propose a plan to clean up the West Lake Landfill Superfund site.

http://kbia.org/post/epa-wont-meet-end-year-deadline-propose-remedy-west-lake-landfill

Reuters - EPA delays cleanup proposal for radioactive waste in Missouri - 11/22/16 - The U.S. government said on Tuesday it was delaying indefinitely its proposal for how to clean up or seal off radioactive soil buried in a St. Louis-area landfill adjacent to another waste site where an underground fire has been smoldering for several years.

http://www.reuters.com/article/us-missouri-landfills-idUSKBN13I050

WasteDive - EPA delays decision on cleanup plan for radioactive West Lake Landfill - 11/23/16 - The Environmental Protection Agency announced that it will not be selecting a cleanup plan for radioactive contamination at the West Lake Landfill Superfund site before an

end-of-year deadline, as reported by the St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

http://www.wastedive.com/news/epa-delays-decision-on-cleanup-plan-for-radioactive-west-lake-landfill/431019/

Nedodesha, Kansas Incident

Fox 23 News - Explosions continue more than 15 hours after Neodesha blast - 11/22/16 - Parts of the town was evacuated, according emergency management: " Evacuate areas west and North of Osage to Ninth and North to Cobalt industries. Shelter at United Methodist, First Christian and Nazarene Churches."

http://www.fox23.com/news/plant-explosion-in-neodesha-kansas/469533277

KJRH-TV Ch. 2 - Evacuations end after explosion at Aerosol plant in Neodesha, Kansas, 3 people injured - 11/22/16 - Residents in Neodesha were able to return to their homes after an explosion at an Aerosol plant prompted Wilson County Kansas Emergency Management to evacuate part of the town Tuesday.

http://www.kjrh.com/news/local-news/evacuations-after-reports-of-explosion-at-aerosol-plant-in-neodesha-kansas-north-of-independence

Four States Homepage - Reports of explosion at Airosol Company in Neodesha - 11/22/16 - Despite the explosion happening around 6:30 Tuesday morning, the fire wasn't officially put out until roughly 4 p.m.

http://www.fourstateshomepage.com/news/breaking-news-reports-of-explosion-at-aerosol-plant-in-neodesha

Reuters - Authorities say at least one person was hurt in an explosion at a chemical plant that packages aerosol in Neodesha, Kansas. Rough Cut video (no reporter narration) - 11/22/16 - http://www.reuters.com/video/2016/11/22/explosion-at-chemical-plant-in-kansas?videoId=370530675

Bartlesville Radio - Update: Neodesha Plant Blast Water Advisory - 11/22/16 - A Do Not Use Water Order remains in effect for residents of Neodesha. The order was issued by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment following this morning's explosion at the Airosol Plant.

http://www.bartlesvilleradio.com/pages/news/131752016/-updateneodesha-plant-blast-water-advisory

Associated Press - 1 worker hurt in explosion at Kansas chemical plant - 11/22/16 - Federal safety inspectors are investigating an explosion and fire at a southeast Kansas chemical plant that injured one employee.

http://www.tri-cityherald.com/news/business/national-business/article116404598.html

Other News

Biofuels International - EPA finalises increase in renewable fuel volumes - 11/23/16 - The US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has finalised increases in renewable fuel volume requirements across all categories of biofuels under the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) programme.

http://biofuels-news.com/display_news/11413/epa_finalises_increase_in_renewable_fuel_volumes/

Green Car Reports - Bill to cap ethanol in U.S. fuel supply gains momentum - 11/23/16 - Efforts by the U.S. Congress to cap the amount of ethanol blended with the U.S. fuel supply appear to be gaining momentum.

http://www.greencarreports.com/news/1107433_bill-to-cap-ethanol-in-u-s-fuel-supply-gains-momentum

The Hill - Feds boost biofuels mandate for 2017 - 11/23/16 - Federal regulators have increased the amount of renewable fuels they will require oil refiners to blend into the gasoline and diesel supply next year.

http://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/307348-feds-boost-biofuels-mandate-for-2017

Reuters - U.S. ups 2017 biofuels requirements in victory for Big Corn - 11/23/16 - The U.S. government on Wednesday announced finalized targets for biofuel use for next year, requiring that energy companies blend 19.28 billion gallons of renewables into the nation's fuel supply.

https://www.yahoo.com/news/u-government-2017-biofuels-target-proposed-levels-sources-144334217--finance.html

Associated Press - EPA chief: Progress under Obama won't be undone by Trump - 11/23/16 - President-elect Donald Trump will not derail progress made in fighting climate change and creating clean-energy jobs, the head of the Environmental Protection Agency insisted on Monday in arguing "the inevitability of our clean energy future is bigger than any one person or nation."

http://www.kentucky.com/latest-news/article116251793.html

Associated Press - EPA Wants To Keep Treatment Plant Running After Mine Spill - 11/22/16 - The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency wants to keep operating a temporary wastewater treatment plant near the Gold King Mine in southwestern Colorado while it looks for longer-term solutions after a massive spill at the mine last year.

http://denver.cbslocal.com/2016/11/22/epa-wants-to-keep-treatment-plant-running-after-mine-spill/

National Review - The EPA Shows Again That It's an Affront to Common Sense - 11/23/16 - For decades, in administrations Democratic and Republican alike, the Environmental Protection Agency has been a paragon of waste, fraud, and abuse, a corrupt taxpayer-funded Evil Empire.

http://www.nationalreview.com/article/442420/environmental-protection-agency-regulations-methane-emissions-overreach

Afro - EPA Reaches Out to Communities of Color - 11/23/16 - On Oct. 28, 2016, the EPA released their 5-year environmental justice plan covering the years 2016-2020.

http://www.afro.com/epa-reaches-out-to-communities-of-color/