[Environmental Headlines taken from news articles]

Summary of Environment/Enforcement/Compliance Trends* with Region 8 States

(Mining, Superfund, Oil and Gas, Rocky Flats, Asbestos Clean-up, Ethanol, Renewable Energy, Air Quality, Wind Energy, Drinking Water, Budget)

For the Period September 25th- October 6th, 2017

States	Summary Trends	Issues Briefly Explained
National	Administration; Renewable Energy; Superfund; Budget; OCSPP nominee	Administrator Pruitt meets with CEO of Pebble Limited Partnership – days before a plan was withdrawn to protect the Bristol Bay; Administrator Pruitt meets with other executives before making key decisions; WH is proposing lowering amounts of renewables that can be blended; During a hurricane, lots of positives to having access to renewable energy; EPA may not fund DOJ environmental work; Superfund contamination in Houston waters; OCSPP nominee has chemical industry connections; Administrator Pruitt makes a point that he will work closely with industries that we heavily regulate; 48 environmental rules are on the way out under the Trump Administration
Colorado	Oil and Gas; Renewable Energy; Brownfields Grants; Rocky Flats, Mining Waste	CO landfills have been illegally burying low-level radioactive waste from the oil and gas industry; High cost of moving towards renewable energy will impact poorer CO families; City of Montrose receives brownfield grant ($300k); Rocky Flats payments are reaching claimants later this month; EPA approves Superfund study that will clean-up Pueblo County; EPA removes mine waste from road near Silverton.
Montana	Mining; Asbestos Clean-up; Superfund and Libby; Coal; Public meeting; Water treatment facility	MT plans to begin excavating the Parrot tailings; Asbestos clean-up in a NW MT community enters a new phase of clean-up; After many years as a Superfund site, EPA still doesn't know who is being impacted; MT Rail Link company has completed clean-up of coal that was spilled by a train along Clark Fork River; Superfund funding support in MT with 17 know sites; Libby residents will have two more opportunities to have EPA inspect their properties; EPA hosted a Superfund public meeting to provide updates on the Superfund program at the Columbia Falls Aluminum Company site; MT is taking initial public comments as it prepares an EIS from the Black Butte Copper Project; Water treatment facility vandalized
North Dakota	Ethanol; Coal	Trump Administration made promises to the ethanol industry during the campaign – but Admin. Pruitt and Secretary Perry are pushing oil and gas development; coal power boost – a

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		federal proposal would adopt a rule that would pay baseload power plants more $$.
South Dakota	Nothing to Report	No stories for this period.
Utah	Oil and Gas; Water Conservation; Air Quality; Improved drought conditions	BLM plans to move forward on oil and gas leases in sensitive parts of SE Utah; two local firms are partnering to study how the state collects water-use data and how can the system be improved; VW settlement will help UT air quality; BLM's auction of oil and gas leases will worsen UT winter-time ozone levels; improved drought conditions are in store for UT thanks to an above average precipitation in 2017.
Wyoming	Oil and Gas; Coal; Wind Energy	Conservationists are seeking new oil and gas leasing reform; Coal mining continues despite the trends for more renewable and oil and gas development; Wind energy continues to make progress – but isn't without impacts on wildlife.

Region 8 State Trends* on Environmental Enforcement Issues

More National Stories that impact our States:

- ✓ September 25th: Administrator Pruitt: Pruitt met with CEO of Pebble Limited Partnership and a decision was made immediately to withdraw a plan to protect the Bristol Bay, AK watershed.
- ✓ September 25th: Administrator Pruitt: Pruitt met with many company executives of industry before making decisions on environmental protection, largely in favor of industry.
- ✓ September 27th: Renewable Energy: WH proposes lowering the amount of renewables that can be blended into the nation's fuel supply. Elected officials in corn states and the biofuel industry are not pleased.
- ✓ September 28th: Renewable Energy: Severe power failures in Puerto Rico and across the Caribbean spur new push for renewable energy – wind, solar and someday, large batteries.
- ✓ September 28th: EPA: Administrator Pruitt and EPA threaten to stop funding Justice Departments environmental work.
- ✓ October 2nd: Superfund Contamination: EPA says an unknown amount of a dangerous chemical linked to birth defects and cancer may have washed downriver from a Houston-area Superfund site during the flooding from Hurricane Harvey.
- ✓ October 4th: Political Nominee: The Senate will weigh whether to confirm Michael Dourson, as the chemical industry's top regulator a scientist who over the past two decades has helped companies argue against stricter government regulation of potentially harmful compounds in everyday products.
- ✓ October 4th: EPA Administration: Admin. Pruitt states that EPA will work closely with the industries it regulates – reviving something that done under the Bush-era.
- ✓ October 5th: Trump Administration: 48 Rules are on the way out under the Trump Administration (e.g., Clean Power Plan, Fracking Regulations on public lands)

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Colorado:

- ✓ September 25th: Oil and Gas: Colorado landfills have been illegally burying low-level radioactive waste from the oil and gas industry that they are not approved to handle, state health officials revealed this week.
- ✓ September 25th: Renewable Energy: High cost of moving toward renewable energy is very costly, impacting poor CO families.
- ✓ September 27th: Brownfields Grant: City of Montrose received a competitive brownfields grant totaling $300k.
- ✓ September 28th: Oil and Gas: A group of protesters crash a public meeting wearing chemical suits and gas masks.
- ✓ October 3rd: Rocky Flats: The first payouts in a $375 M settlement involving the former Rocky Flats nuclear weapons plant and its negative effect on downwind property values could hit claimants' mailboxes by the end of the month.
- ✓ October 4th: Superfund: EPA gives the OK for a Superfund study that will clean-up contaminated yards in Pueblo County.
- ✓ October 4th: Mine Waste: EPA removed mine waste from road near Silverton. EPA didn't seek proper approval when applying mine waste to the road.

Montana:

- ✓ September 25th: Mining: The State plans to begin excavating the Parrot tailings behind the Butte Civic Center.
- ✓ September 25th: Asbestos Clean-up: The clean-up of a NW MT community where health officials says hundreds of people of been killed by asbestos exposure has entered a new phase as officials turn their focus to keeping residents safe over the long term.
- ✓ September 26th: Superfund: After 34 years of Superfund, EPA still does not know if residents who live on the Flat and west of Uptown are being exposed to heavy metal contamination.
- ✓ September 27th: Coal: A MT Rail Link coal train derailed along the Clark Fork River dumping coal into the river. To date, MT Rail Link has NOT cleaned up the river.
- ✓ September 28th: EPA budget and Climate Change: A group of Missoulians hiked up Waterworks Hill on Wednesday to try to raise awareness of how beautiful places in Montana and around the nation are being adversely affected by climate change.
- ✓ October 2nd: Superfund budget: Montana is home to 17 known Superfund sites. All of Montana must band together to urge our delegates in the U.S. House and Senate to push for greater transparency and accountability from the EPA. That means first making sure the agency has the budget it needs to do its job effectively – and then following up to make sure it is doing it.
- ✓ October 3rd: Libby Superfund site: Residents who have refused to allow EPA to inspect their properties for asbestos contamination or to clean up after its discovery will have two final chances to change their minds.

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- ✓ October 3rd: Superfund Public Meeting: Officials from the EPA are hosting a public information meeting in Columbia Falls this week to provide updates on the Superfund program at the Columbia Falls Aluminum Company site.
- ✓ October 4th: Coal Plant Closure: Not everyone is sold on a $10 million golden parachute pledged to Colstrip to help the community adapt to the eventual closure of the West's second-largest coal-fired power plant.
- ✓ October 4th: Mining: The Montana Department of Environmental Quality is taking initial public comment as it prepares an Environmental Impact Statement under the Montana Environmental Policy Act for the Black Butte Copper Project proposed by Tintina Montana.
- ✓ October 5th: Treatment facility: Crow Agency residents told to not drink water after facility was vandalized – causing an estimated $1 M in damage.

North Dakota:

- ✓ October 2nd: Ethanol: WH and President Trump promised to help farmers with ethanol production efforts but Administrator Pruitt and Secretary Perry have other ideas. Both have been pushing oil and gas development.
- ✓ October 5th: Coal Power: A federal proposal would adopt a rule that pays baseload power plants for having 90 days' worth of fuel on-site – which in turn makes coal more reliable and necessary to power production when renewables aren't available.

South Dakota:

- ✓ Nothing to Report for the period Sept 25 – October 6th.

Utah:

- ✓ September 26th: Oil and Gas: BLM plans to move forward on nearly 52,000 acres of proposed oil and gas leases in archaeologically sensitive parts of southeastern Utah.
- ✓ September 27th: Water Conservation: Two local engineering firms are partnering in a $300k effort to analyze how the state collects water-use data and how that system can be improved.
- ✓ September 28th: Oil and Gas: In what amounts to a three-way crackdown, regulators overseeing Utah wildlife, school trust lands and the state's extraction industries are jointly targeting the operator (Gordon Creek Energy) of a gas field west of Price.
- ✓ October 3rd: Air Quality: VW settlement will help improve UT air quality.
- ✓ October 4th: Air Quality: BLM's next auction of oil and gas leases in Utah is under fire from a multitude of environmental, public health and wilderness groups. Topping the list of concerns is the likelihood that the Dec. 11 lease sale would worsen Uinta Basin's persistent winter-time ozone levels.
- ✓ October 5th: Improved drought conditions: Local forecasters assert that UT might get a break from perennial drought conditions in 2018 because of high precipitation totals in 2017.

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Wyoming:

- ✓ September 25th: Oil and Gas: Conservationists are seeking new oil and gas leasing reform.
- ✓ October 2nd: Coal: Coal mining continues at the Powder River Basin, despite the trends for more renewable energy and other energy choices such as natural gas.
- ✓ October 4th: Wind Energy: Environmentalists in Wyoming are known for pushing back on industry's impacts to the health of Wyoming's wild ecosystems. But many of these folks are also, in many cases, friendly to wind development, an industry that has been criticized for its effect on eagles, raptors and other avian species that are killed by the blades of wind turbines.

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