Message

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Subject: The Morning Headlines from InsideEPA/climate -- May 18, 2018

May 18, 2018

Latest News

Suppliers Seek 'Robust' Vehicle GHG Standards With Additional 'Flexibility'

Auto industry suppliers are detailing their call for the Trump administration to embrace “robust” vehicle greenhouse gas and fuel economy standards with more flexibility for automakers, urging agencies to formally seek comment on an “advanced technologies flexibility option” that would recognize California's “critical role” in limiting emissions and possibly prevent years of litigation over the program.

Top Advisers Pan Pruitt's Science Transparency Rule, Seek SAB Review

Top EPA science advisers, including Administrator Scott Pruitt's hand-picked chairman of the agency's Science Advisory Board (SAB), are strongly criticizing the administrator's controversial plan to require only publicly available research to justify its regulations, charging it will undermine rules' integrity and was developed without adequate review.

EPA Science Plan Skirted Usual Process, Raising Finalization, Legal Doubts

The Trump EPA's controversial plan requiring use of publicly available research to justify rules appears to have been developed by political appointees without following the agency's usual action development process (ADP) for crafting important rules, leaving career staff and program offices out of the loop but raising doubts about how it will be finalized without them.

Magistrate Suggests Court Unlikely To Halt Discovery In Youth Climate Suit

A federal magistrate judge is strongly suggesting that he is unlikely to grant the Trump administration's request to halt discovery in a novel suit brought by 21 youth plaintiffs who charge that the government is violating the Constitution and the public trust doctrine by failing to protect them from the worst harms of climate change.

Climate Beat

Regulation: Wehrum sidesteps queries on SAB review of science rule

The EPA air chief's responses to a Democratic lawmaker's questions suggest the agency may urge its science advisors to avoid a review of its controversial rule seeking to block the use of 'secret science.'

Vehicles: Northeast states float EV charging strategy

The strategy seeks to coordinate a range of efforts regarding electric vehicle charging deployment, and could complement other state efforts to encourage sales of such vehicles to improve air quality and address climate change.

Loose Change: Amid scandals, Pruitt lawyers up

In today's news roundup: The EPA chief has hired a white-collar defense attorney to advise him as he faces more than a dozen official investigations, and hired another attorney to set up a legal defense fund.

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