Message

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To: Dunlap, David [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=591eb15a268249dda0c05a7451f765c3-Dunlap, Dav]
Subject: The Morning Headlines from InsideEPA.com -- March 14, 2019

REDEFINING EPA: Overhauling an agency and its mission -- Complete coverage

March 14, 2019

Latest News

EPA Regional Reorganization Spurs Staff 'Chaos,' Enforcement Concerns

EPA is pushing ahead with a major reorganization of its regional offices that includes reassigning long-running enforcement directors and changing some staffers' duties, changes that an agency source fears will cause

"chaos" and further weaken already declining enforcement despite EPA's vow to minimize adverse impacts on staff.

EPA Seeks Industry Data To Determine If Regions Changed RCRA Waiver

EPA has asked the specialty chemical industry to gather data that will help officials determine whether it has changed its interpretation of a hazardous waste exemption long used by the sector, following enforcement actions in Regions 1 and 5 that industry argues failed to understand the specifics of manufacturing small-batch chemicals.

Judges See EPA Discretion Staving Off Suit On Dropped CERCLA Mine Rule

Appellate judges are signaling that environmentalists likely face a high bar challenging EPA's decision to abandon first-time Superfund financial assurance rules for the hardrock mining sector, citing the deference courts must give EPA generally in rulemaking decisions as well as under the cleanup law.

EPA Said To Split Controversial NSR Changes From Looming Final ACE Rule

EPA appears to have decided to split its controversial plan to essentially exempt most coal-fired power plants from new source review (NSR) permitting requirements from its broader, pending final Affordable Clean Energy (ACE) rule to limit coal plant greenhouse gas emissions, according to several sources.

IG Warns FY20 Budget Cut Will Force 'Difficult Decisions' On New Reviews

EPA's Office of Inspector General (OIG) is warning that President Donald Trump's proposal to cut its funding from roughly $41.5 million down to $38.9 million in fiscal year 2020 will require the OIG to make "difficult decisions" in accepting new requests for discretionary inquiries, such as those sought by lawmakers, and completing ongoing studies.

Defying Trump, Senators Eye Bipartisan Hike For EPA Diesel Retrofit Fund

A bipartisan group of senators is backing legislation that would reauthorize and boost EPA's popular diesel engine retrofit fund to $100 million, with several GOP supporters of the bill defying President Donald Trump's fiscal year 2020 proposal to slash the fund from its FY19 level of $75 million down to $10 million.

D.C. Circuit Grants EPA's Bid To Retain Ash Rule Revisions During Remand

A federal appeals court has granted EPA's request to remand without vacatur its 2018 revisions to the Obama-era coal ash disposal rule, ensuring that the compliance deadline extensions and other provisions that were part of the changes will stay in place at least until the agency finishes a new "expedited" process to amend the rule.

Daily Feed

Senate confirms Rao, Trump's deregulatory czar, to D.C. Circuit

Neomi Rao, the former director of the White House's regulatory office, will sit on the appellate court that hears most challenges to EPA and other agencies' highest-profile rules.

Quote-Unquote: What they're saying about . . .

California GHGs, the FY-20 budget and federal-state relationships.

Environmentalists seek rehearing of CWA 401 ruling

Environmentalists say the D.C. Circuit's ruling that states have a strict one-year limit to make decisions about water quality certifications creates a split among appeals courts that affects numerous energy projects.

Ewire: Shell urges EPA to preserve oil & gas methane limits

In today's Ewire: The world's second-largest oil and gas producer wants EPA to keep methane requirements for the oil and gas industry and to eventually issue regulations for existing sources in the sector.

PFAS plaintiffs urge 3rd Circuit to reject Navy rehearing bid
Pennsylvania residents seeking Navy funding of medical monitoring due to exposure to perfluorinated chemicals are urging a federal appeals court to let stand a ruling that allowed their claims to proceed.

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