Message

From: InsideEPA.com [insideepa-alerts@iwpnews.com]
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Subject: The Morning Headlines from InsideEPA.com -- September 20, 2019

September 20, 2019

The Weekly Focus

DOJ Weighs 'Broader' SEP Limits As New Policy Forces Renegotiations

A top Justice Department (DOJ) official is considering additional "broader" limits on the use of popular supplemental environmental projects (SEPs) as a way to mitigate penalties in enforcement settlements after DOJ last month curbed their use in municipal settlements, forcing renegotiation of some pending deals and likely curbing future settlements that would implement EPA's upcoming lead and copper drinking water rule.

Latest News

Agencies Defend Legal Basis For Scrapping California Auto GHG Waiver

EPA and the Transportation Department (DOT) are defending the legal basis for their just-issued rule revoking California's power to set its own vehicle greenhouse gas limits, asserting the state is preempted by fuel economy law and lacks "compelling and extraordinary" conditions needed to receive such authority under the Clean Air Act.

Science Rule Schedule Slips As EPA Readies Supplemental, Wheeler Says

EPA Administrator Andrew Wheeler told the House science committee Sept. 19 that the agency's schedule for issuing its controversial rule barring regulators from relying on scientific research that is not published has slipped as the agency is preparing to issue a supplemental proposal in early 2020.

Governors Press Congress To Back PFAS Measures In Defense Bill

A bipartisan group of 15 governors is pressing leaders of the House and Senate Armed Services committees to back measures in pending defense authorization legislation that would require EPA and the Defense Department

(DOD) to set policies to regulate the chemicals, curb releases and clean up contamination from per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS).

CARB Pledges To Enforce Current Auto GHG Rules Despite EPA Preemption

California Air Resources Board (CARB) officials say they will continue to enforce the state's strict vehicle greenhouse gas standards during litigation over the Trump administration's just-issued revocation of the state's Clean Air Act preemption waiver allowing it to set its own requirements.

EPA, NHTSA Release Final Rule Revoking California Auto GHG Authority

EPA and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) have released the text of their final regulation revoking California's authority to enforce auto greenhouse gas and zero-emission vehicle (ZEV) standards, with administration officials arguing the step is necessary to preserve a single set of national requirements.

Daily Feed

Trump says EPA to cite San Francisco over homeless pollution

The president's remarks come as the White House is engaged in a heated confrontation with California over vehicle greenhouse gas standards.

EPA Gold King mine spill suits might see three-part trial starting in 2021

Litigation over the 2015 Gold King spill is not expected to go to trial until the summer of 2021 under a new plan that would split its 'complex' proceedings into three parts.

OMB completes review of proposed DOE mercury storage fees rule

The Energy Department's proposed elemental mercury storage fees rule is part of a program to designate a facility for long-term storage of the substance under a 2008 law banning the export of mercury.

EPA, DOJ announce $47 million pact with Hyundai over illegal engines

The government says that the vehicle manufacturer illegally "stockpiled" thousands of engines with outdated emission controls and later sold them in heavy construction equipment.

Ewire: EPA, DOT detail rule to scrap California auto GHG power

In today's Ewire: The agencies' rule will "help ensure there will be one, and only one, set of national fuel economy and greenhouse gas emission standards for vehicles," they argue.

Environmentalists sue EPA over New Mexico stormwater

"We are disappointed that for years EPA has failed to take action to protect New Mexicans' public health and environment and require that these toxic discharges be controlled and monitored."

Environment Next

Interview

EDF Said Environmental 'Crisis' Requires Policies, Voluntary Programs

As the head of Environmental Defense Fund's (EDF) business partnerships program, Tom Murray has seen industry's trend toward sustainability grow significantly, including companies pursuing voluntary emissions cuts, use of safer chemicals, and a growing focus on addressing climate change.

States See Climate Programs Building 'Infrastructure' For Future Federal Plan

BOSTON -- State officials pushing aggressive green energy mandates and opposing EPA's rule rollbacks see their programs as "infrastructure" for complying with future federal rules, echoing a belief from some Democrats and environmentalists that states will be unable to meet their climate goals without Democrats retaking the White House.

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