Message

From: Durant, Jennah [Durant.Jennah@epa.gov]
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To: R6Press [R6Press@epa.gov]
Subject: Daily News Digest, Wednesday, September 6
Attachments: Daily News Digest 090617.pdf

Please note: All articles are available in the attached PDF.
To receive the Daily News Digest in your inbox, email R6Press@epa.gov.

Hurricane coverage:

1 — Air monitors detect cancer-causing compound as environmental concerns grow in east Harris County, Houston Chronicle, 9/5/2017
http://www.chron.com/news/houston-texas/article/Air-monitors-detect-cancer-causing-compound-as-12175440.php
Independent air monitors have detected a plume of cancer-causing benzene near homes and businesses outside a Valero Energy oil refinery in east Houston, raising concerns among environmentalists and city officials who say the compound is nearly twice the state limits for short-term exposure.

2 — Gov. Abbott: Superfund sites don't pose danger at this time, Houston Business Journal, 9/5/2017
https://www.bizjournals.com/houston/news/2017/09/05/gov-abbott-superfund-sites-don-t-pose-danger-at.html
EPA Superfund sites in Texas currently don't pose a danger to the public, despite flooding from Harvey, Gov. Greg Abbott said at a press conference Sept. 5.

3 — State, federal officials still checking toxic sites flooded by Harvey, San Antonio Express-News, 9/5/2017
http://www.expressnews.com/news/local/article/State-federal-officials-still-checking-toxic-12174416.php
Gov. Abbott said he has assurances from federal officials that none of the 11 affected Superfund sites still to be checked by the Environmental Protection Agency "pose any damage or danger to the public that is known at this time."

4 — Authorities warn of possible spill at Cinco Ranch wastewater treatment facility, Houston Chronicle, 9/6/2017
http://www.chron.com/neighborhood/katy/news/article/Authories-warn-of-possible-spill-at-Cinco-Ranch-12176317.php
Authorities warned residents near Cinco South Wastewater Treatment Plant who have private wells that their drinking water might be contaminated after a possible spill at the plant.

5 — County officials help residents with water well samples, tetanus vaccines, Brazoria Facts, 9/5/2017
http://thefacts.com/news/article_af180156-bda6-583c-aebb-a2ff0b2c2caf.html
As efforts to rebuild have slowly begun in areas hit hard by Hurricane Harvey, officials continue to warn of lingering environmental hazards, including the health risks posed by receding floodwater.

6 — Lack of water service adds to woes of residents of flood-swollen Beaumont, Houston Chronicle, 9/5/2017
http://www.chron.com/news/houston-texas/texas/article/Lack-of-water-service-adds-to-woes-of-residents-12175393.php

Harvey's floodwaters had receded from many homes and streets here in Beaumont, but the going remained tough for residents.

7— EDITORIAL: In Crosby, the lessons of West go unheeded, Dallas Morning News, 9/5/17
https://www.dallasnews.com/opinion/editorials/2017/09/05/crosby-lessons-west-go-unheeded
Texas' approach to chemical storage amounts to what you don't know can't hurt you. Unfortunately, this also amounts to trusting without verification, and that's never a good policy.

8 — OPINION: Don't Be Surprised by the Explosion Near Houston. We've Cut Corners on Chemical Safety for Years., Fortune, 9/5/17
http://fortune.com/2017/09/05/houston-chemical-plant-fire-explosion-arkema-crosby/
While we can't prevent natural disasters like Harvey from occurring, we can mitigate their consequences. Inherently unsafe facilities and operations can be redesigned, retrofitted, and ultimately replaced by manufacturing and storage facility changes that are safer.

9 — This Unique EPA Plane Is Monitoring Toxic Waste Dumps Around Houston, The Drive, 9/5/17
http://www.thedrive.com/the-war-zone/14088/this-unique-epa-plane-is-monitoring-toxic-waste-dumps-around-houston
As part of its response, the EPA has deployed the unique Airborne Spectral Photometric Environmental Collection Technology surveillance aircraft, which can spot chemical and radiological material from the air, to help assess the situation.

10— Hurricane Irma slams Caribbean islands as it heads toward Puerto Rico, CNN, 9/6/17
http://www.cnn.com/2017/09/06/us/hurricane-irma-puerto-rico-florida/index.html
Four of the strongest buildings on the Caribbean island of St. Martin have been destroyed by Hurricane Irma, French Interior Minister Gérard Collomb said at a news conference Wednesday.

Other news:

11— Carrizozo hauls in bottled water when sulfate level spikes, Ruisdoso (NM) News, 9/6/17
http://www.ruidosonews.com/story/news/local/community/2017/09/05/carrizozo-hauls-bottled-water-when-sulfate-level-spikes/633756001/
Residents of Carrizozo were alerted last Friday that a high level of calcium sulfate was detected in the town's water system.

12— EDITORIAL: Why Dallas must use Hurricane Harvey as a catalyst for responsible growth, Dallas Morning News, 9/6/17
https://www.dallasnews.com/opinion/editorials/2017/09/05/dallas-must-use-hurricane-harvey-catalyst-responsible-growth
Dallas officials are confident the Trinity River levees won't break and cause the kind of massive flooding Houston suffered. But this city has seen much flash flooding.

13— Seed-firm suers told to file in Missouri, Arkansas Democrat-Gazette, 9/6/17
http://www.arkansasonline.com/news/2017/sep/06/seed-firm-suers-told-to-file-in-missour/?f=latest
Arkansas farmers who planted Monsanto's dicamba-tolerant crops, then sued the company this summer, will have to take their case to Monsanto's home turf in Missouri.

14— Tropical Storm Katia strengthens in Gulf; Jose expected to become hurricane by Wednesday night, Baton Rouge Advocate, 9/6/17

http://www.theadvocate.com/baton_rouge/news/weather_traffic/article_548bf792-92fb-11e7-a238-478833767cf9.html
On Wednesday morning, a new tropical storm formed in the Gulf of Mexico off Mexico's coast, the National Hurricane Center said. At 10 a.m. Wednesday, Tropical Storm Katia had maximum sustained winds of 45 mph and was expected to strengthen. Another tropical storm farther east in the Atlantic was expected to become a hurricane by Wednesday night. Tropical Storm Jose's maximum sustained winds had increased to 70 mph.

15— Edmond issues water statement after odor, taste inquiries, The Oklahoman, 9/6/17
http://newsok.com/edmond-issues-water-statement-after-odor-taste-inquiries/article/5562899
After numerous residents inquired about the odor and taste of Edmond's water, the city issued a statement Tuesday stating the water is safe for consumption.