Message

From: Weekley, Erin [weekley.erin@epa.gov]
Sent: 1/22/2021 8:17:20 PM
To: Barton, Kasey [Barton.Kasey@epa.gov]
Subject: FW: R7 OPA Daily Clippings - 1/22/21

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From: Cozad, David <Cozad.David@epa.gov>
Sent: Friday, January 22, 2021 10:59 AM
To: Weekley, Erin <weekley.erin@epa.gov>; Bednar, Candace <Bednar.Candace@epa.gov>; Whisnant, Amber <Whisnant.Amber@epa.gov>
Cc: Lubbe, Wendy <Lubbe.Wendy@epa.gov>
Subject: Fwd: R7 OPA Daily Clippings - 1/22/21

AltEn article in Omaha World Herald

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

> **From:** "Bryan, David" <Bryan.David@epa.gov>
> **Date:** January 22, 2021 at 10:39:50 AM CST
> **To:** R7 Senior Staff <R7_Senior_Staff@epa.gov>
> **Subject: R7 OPA Daily Clippings - 1/22/21**

EARNED NEWS

Lake News Online (Osage Beach MO) - Public comment deadline for EPA lake water quality study extended – 1/21/21 - The Missouri Department of Natural Resources and stakeholders concerned about the EPA recommending Lake of the Ozarks and Truman Lake be added to the state's list of impaired waterways have been able to convince the federal agency more time is needed to assess the lake water quality. http://bit.ly/3qlF7tT

R7 IN THE NEWS

Iowa Public Radio - Grassley Blasts EPA For Last-Minute Refinery Waivers; Federal Appellate Court Temporarily Stops These Exemptions – 1/21/21 - Sen Chuck Grassley said there are issues with "a lack of transparency" with the EPA's small refinery exemptions under the Renewable Fuel Standard program that go back several years. http://bit.ly/2LYLbj8

Radio Iowa - Grassley says Trump EPA's ethanol waivers 'a disgrace' – 1/22/21 - Republican Senator Chuck Grassley is blasting the Trump Administration for granting more ethanol waivers to the oil industry, just before Joe Biden became president. "What we saw in the final hours of the Trump Administration was a disgrace to the biofuels community," Grassley told reporters. http://bit.ly/3caHZvs

REGIONAL NEWS

Omaha World-Herald - Mead residents say ethanol plant is spreading 'poison' and making them sick – 1/21/22 - As time went on, other people around the Saunders County village of 600 noticed problems: Bloody noses. Headaches. Trouble breathing. And at a nearby agricultural research station run by the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, hundreds of thousands of bees were dying. http://bit.ly/3o5FhtD

Des Moines Register - Iowa's ethanol production falls by 500 million gallon as Americans drive less due to COVID-19 – 1/22/21 - Iowa ethanol plants produced 500 million fewer gallons last year compared to 2019 as remote work and learning because of the coronavirus caused a steep drop in Americans' daily travel. http://bit.ly/3qG6EME

KMCH Radio Manchester IA - Iowa Soybean Association Calls on Biden Administration – 1/21/21 - Statement on behalf of Iowa Soybean Association President Jeff Jorgenson of Sidney, Iowa: "The Biden Administration takes the reins of federal farm and food policy today. There is considerable work to do, from advancing renewable fuels production here at home to strengthening trade relations with key customers abroad. http://bit.ly/3pcltFd

Carroll (IA) Times Herald – Yale city worker was not testing drinking water – 1/21/21 – A Yale city employee falsified reports and failed to test the city's drinking water for most of last year, according to the Iowa Department of Natural Resources. There's no evidence that the water was unsafe to drink in the Guthrie County town, but it's impossible to know for sure because of the falsified data. http://bit.ly/2LN7I2E

Lincoln (NE) Journal-Star - Lancaster County's rules governing turbines still floating in the wind – 1/21/21 - If the Lancaster County Board wants to loosen rules regulating wind farms hoping to build turbines here, members will do so without support of the Lincoln-Lancaster County Planning Commission. http://bit.ly/36477QM

Des Moines Register - After some blades broke off, MidAmerican Energy says turbines are getting upgrade to improve resiliency – 1/21/21 - MidAmerican Energy

says the manufacturer of roughly 325 of the utility's Iowa turbines is upgrading equipment to improve the "blades' resiliency in extreme weather situations." http://bit.ly/39PTNRe

TRANSITION

AP - Biden halts oil and gas leases, permits on US land and water – 1/21/21 - The Biden administration announced Thursday a 60-day suspension of new oil and gas leasing and drilling permits for U.S. lands and waters, as officials moved quickly to reverse Trump administration policies on energy and the environment. http://bit.ly/2Y4MHD6

Washington Post - Every Cabinet job is about climate change now | How Biden can direct every part of the government to attack the problem – 1/21/21 - The climate Cabinet is much larger than just the nominal climate team, because almost every Cabinet job is actually a climate job. Most departments — from Interior to Transportation — can help reduce U.S. greenhouse gas emissions and improve climate resilience. http://wapo.st/364z770

Federal News Network - Pres. Biden looks to puts a hold on any midnight regulations from the Trump administration – 1/21/21 - In a memo, White House Chief of Staff Ron Klain told agencies to hold off on publishing any new rules until after Biden's appointees have had a chance to review them. http://bit.ly/363RgBQ

New York Times - Restoring Environmental Rules Rolled Back by Trump Could Take Years – 1/21/21 - President Biden has promised to reinstate more than 100 rules and regulations aimed at environmental protection that his predecessor rolled back. It won't happen overnight. http://nyti.ms/3sHg2RU

Lexology - Biden Administration to Review Environmental Regulations, Policies; Revokes Some Trump Executive Orders on Energy Infrastructure – 1/21/21 - On January 20, 2021, President Joe Biden issued an executive order, "Protecting Public Health and the Environment and Restoring Science to Tackle the Climate Crisis." The order directs executive agency heads to review hundreds of agency actions implemented during the Trump administration, including more than 120 related to energy and the environment. http://bit.ly/395eYj8

Beyond Pesticides - Will Biden Reverse Last Minute Trump EPA Approval of the Deadly Insecticide Aldicarb, Previously Cancelled? – 1/22/21 - After the past four devastating years, hopes and expectations of the Biden/Harris administration abound among the environmental and public health communities. The ears and eyes of many advocates, as well as those in the agricultural community, are attuned (among myriad candidates) to the fate of the pesticide aldicarb. https://bit.ly/3c3puta

Smart Cities DIVE - Biden's Day One actions signal hope for climate, energy sectors – 1/21/21 - Biden's first day in office was marked by immediate action on climate and clean energy that will likely mark a very different executive branch than that of his predecessor. http://bit.ly/364AKSa

Common Dreams - Biden on Biodiversity: The Silence and the Promise – 1/21/21 - This silence is disheartening because the biodiversity crisis is just as significant, just as expansive, just as severe, and just as consequential as the climate crisis. https://bit.ly/2LN5PmA

Reuters - Opinion: Can Biden transform the U.S. energy system? – 1/22/21 - U.S. presidential transitions have all the elements of a great news story: people, drama, timeliness, conflict and consequences. But energy systems are mostly shaped by slower moving, impersonal, structural forces. http://bit.ly/39TCVZP

Engineering News-Record - Biden's Climate Plan Set to Accelerate Action on Resilience, Renewables – 1/21/21 - The United States' re-entry into the Paris climate accord, as well as other climate-related actions taken by the new Biden administration, won't change the way things are currently being done as much as accelerate what's already occurring with infrastructure, industry sources say. http://bit.ly/3sVEY8D

AP - Biden's climate steps could have big impact on energy firms – 1/21/21 - President Joe Biden has put his team to work reviewing dozens of actions taken by former President Donald Trump, aiming to reverse orders that he says harm the environment or endanger public health. For the energy and auto industries, the impact could be far-reaching. http://bit.ly/3o3Yplp

The New Yorker – Commentary: Joe Biden's Cancellation of the Keystone Pipeline Is a Landmark in the Climate Fight – 1/21/21 - In his first hours in office, Joe Biden has settled—almost certainly, once and for all—one of the greatest environmental battles this country has seen. The story behind that victory illustrates a lot about where we stand in the push for a fair and working planet. http://bit.ly/3qJBZhk

Fern's Ag Insider – Commentary: First 100 days: Grand ideals and pocketbook appeal in climate plan for agriculture – 1/21/21 - Now that he is in office, his administration will rely on the pocketbook rather than the rule book when it comes to agriculture's contribution to slowing global warming. http://bit.ly/399cYpY

AP - World leaders cheer US return to climate fight under Bide – 1/21/21 - World leaders breathed an audible sigh of relief that the United States under President Joe Biden is rejoining the global effort to curb climate change, a cause that his predecessor had shunned over the past four years. http://bit.ly/3qHdGAB

Associated Press - Group urges climate adaptation funding in pandemic recovery – 1/21/21 - An organization that promotes efforts to adapt the environment to cope with

the effects of climate change is calling on governments and financers around the globe to include funding for adaptation projects in their COVID-19 recovery spending. http://bit.ly/3izDhc6

Washington Post - Tracking Biden's environmental actions | The new president is unwinding Trump's climate change legacy while forging his own – 1/21/21 - President Biden placed climate change squarely at the center of his White House agenda on Wednesday, using his first hours in office to rejoin the Paris climate accord and begin overturning more than 100 environmental actions taken by the Trump administration. http://wapo.st/2NsoyUS

Bloomberg Law – Sharon Block, Union Ally, Named to White House Regulatory Post – 1/21/21 - President Joe Biden has installed Obama-era labor official Sharon Block as interim political leader of the White House regulatory review office—an agency she's recently said needs a worker-oriented overhaul—multiple sources briefed on the appointment told Bloomberg Law. https://bit.ly/3c5Zey6

Bloomberg Law – Career Lawyer to Temporarily Lead DOJ Environment Division – 1/21/21 - Veteran Justice Department lawyer Jean E. Williams will oversee the agency's environment division until President Joe Biden selects a political appointee for the role. https://bit.ly/395XWBe

Bloomberg Law – Biden Pick for Energy Regulator to Play Key Role in Green Shift – 1/21/21 - Rich Glick, one of two Democrats on the U.S. Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, has been tapped by President Joe Biden to lead the agency set to play a pivotal role in the president's goal to achieve a 100% clean grid by 2035. https://bit.ly/3sJ9sup

Bloomberg Law - Biden Move to Nix Keystone XL Puts Other Pipelines in Bull's-Eye – 1/22/21 - President Joe Biden's decision to ax the Keystone XL pipeline on his first day in office has tribes and environmentalists eyeing other projects for the chopping block. They're targeting oil and natural gas conduits that are already tangled in legal and permitting fights, including Enbridge Inc.'s Line 3 replacement in Minnesota. https://bit.ly/2NigNAD

Bloomberg Law - Biden to Name Obama Administration Veteran as EPA Chief of Staff – 1/21/21 - The Biden administration is poised to name Dan Utech, who worked on climate change and energy issues during the Obama years, as the Environmental Protection Agency's chief of staff, according to a person familiar with the matter. https://bit.ly/3c3S519

Bloomberg Law - Key to Biden Climate Agenda: The Social Cost of Carbon Explained – 1/21/21 - Among President Joe Biden's first acts in office was reassembling a cross-government team to figure out the "social cost of carbon," a wonky number that has broad impacts on federal agency rules. https://bit.ly/3sO1boP

Bloomberg Law – Trump's Last-Minute Climate Maneuvers Face a Slow Dead End – 1/21/21 - Eleventh-hour executive actions are a hallmark of presidential transitions, and experts see little in the way of lasting impact as President Joe Biden moves from his inauguration on Wednesday into an expected flurry of policy moves from the new White House. Late environmental rules that conflict with Biden's ambitious climate agenda can mostly be reversed, some just as hastily as they were implemented. https://bit.ly/3sRlH8i

Inside EPA - House energy committee Republicans name leadership – 1/21/21 - Rep. Cathy McMorris Rodgers (R-WA), the top Republican on the House Energy and Commerce Committee, has announced the panel's GOP subcommittee leaders for the 117th Congress, with new leadership chosen for the Environment and Climate Change Subcommittee and the Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee. http://bit.ly/2KBTyAy

Inside EPA - Biden names Nishida as acting EPA chief, scrapping Trump plan – 1/21/21 - The Biden administration has chosen Jane Nishida -- who has been serving as principal deputy assistant administrator in EPA's international affairs office -- to be acting EPA chief, upending an order of succession modified by the Trump administration that would have made Charlotte Bertrand the acting agency head. http://bit.ly/2MclieD

Inside EPA - Kerry Seeks Global Cooperation On Climate, Seeing Mixed Progress – 1/21/21 - As President Joe Biden wasted little time in having the United State re-join the Paris Agreement, chief White House climate envoy John Kerry is urging the private and public sectors in major economies to work together more closely on climate mitigation efforts, saying progress in reducing carbon emissions has been mixed. http://bit.ly/3qHnyuj

Inside EPA - Final EPA Water Affordability Guide In Limbo Under Biden Administration – 1/21/21 - In the final days of the Trump administration, EPA issued updated guidance on how to calculate the impact of low-income households on a wastewater utility's ability to pay for required infrastructure projects, but the guide is yet to appear in the *Federal Register*, raising questions about whether the Biden administration will pull it for further review. http://bit.ly/3pdOwta

Inside EPA - Biden Order Specifies Deadlines For Reviewing Key Trump EPA Policies – 1/21/21 - President Joe Biden's executive order (EO) directing review of Trump EPA policies specifies preliminary deadlines for the agency to formally propose changes to the regulations, including an April timeline for moving to reaffirm states' authority to set more stringent vehicle greenhouse gas rules than the federal government. http://bit.ly/3paTxmb

Inside EPA - Biden EPA Leadership Team Includes State Officials, Environmentalists – 1/21/21 - The Biden administration is announcing 16 members of its senior leadership team for EPA's air, water, policy and other divisions, a group that

features state environmental regulators, prominent officials with major environmental organizations, and staffers from the House and Senate. http://bit.ly/3sW1SN9

Inside EPA - EPA Grapples With Imminent Decisions On Scope Of Regulatory Agenda – 1/21/21 - Biden EPA officials in their first several weeks in office will have to make swift decisions on the scope and speed of the agency's regulatory agenda. http://bit.ly/2McWGDt

CORONAVIRUS

Kansas City Star - KC metro adds more than 700 COVID cases as Kansas and Missouri push vaccine rollout – 1/21/21 - The Kansas City metropolitan area added more than 700 new COVID-19 cases and 16 deaths on Thursday. The seven-day average for new cases dropped to 578. http://bit.ly/3iBwaQk

St. Louis Post-Dispatch - Missouri leaves out antigen test results, skewing the number of coronavirus cases reported – 1/21/21 - The state of Missouri does not include the results of antigen tests, also known as rapid tests, in its tally of COVID-19 cases even though thousands of Missourians now rely on the tests to find out if they are infected. http://bit.ly/3qVzysr

Salina Post - Governor updates COVID-19 vaccination plan in Kansas – 1/21/21 - Gov. Laura Kelly held a press conference Thursday to give an update regarding Kansas's current phase within her administration's COVID-19 vaccination framework, and other virus information for the state of Kansas. http://bit.ly/366gX4R

FUELS

Iowa Agribusiness Radio Network - Shaw hopeful for biofuels in Biden administration – 1/21/21 - Ag groups all congratulated Biden on his inauguration and asked him to make sure that Ag issues remained a priority during his tenure. One such industry that is certainly looking forward to the change is the biofuels industry. Ethanol and biodiesel are hoping to see recovery in President Biden's environmental policies. https://bit.ly/3iBhZuB

Biofuels Digest - Iowa ethanol production hit hard by pandemic, SREs and trade disputes – 1/21/21 - In Iowa, compared to 2019, Iowa ethanol production fell 500 million gallons, or 12 percent, in 2020 as a result of dramatic demand destruction resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, trade disputes around the globe, and illegal exemptions granted from the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS). http://bit.ly/2LWv6dN

Reuters - Trump's EPA granted Sinclair Oil last-minute biofuel waivers By Reuters – 1/21/21 – The EPA awarded Sinclair Oil Corporation waivers that exempt both its refineries in Wyoming from biofuel blending requirements for the 2019 compliance

year, two sources familiar with the matter said, making it the only company to have received exemptions for that year so far. http://bit.ly/360xuqH

NATIONAL

Scientific American - Forever Chemicals Are Widespread in U.S. Drinking Water – 1/22/21 - Experts hope that with the incoming Biden administration, the federal government will finally regulate a class of chemicals known as PFASs. http://bit.ly/3ocJnA5

Science Friday - After Flint's Crisis, An Algorithm Helps Citizens Find Lead Pipes – 1/22/21 - Many other cities around the country have had their own problems with lead. Researchers estimate that millions of Americans are living with pipes that need to be replaced. http://bit.ly/3962ZSg

Bloomberg Law - The Social Cost of Carbon Needs an Update: Green Insight – 1/22/21 - If prices for fossil fuels reflected their true cost to society—in deadly heat waves, water stress, disappearing crops—they'd be a lot higher than they are now. How much higher? Ask Michael Greenstone. https://bit.ly/3izGo3M

Inside EPA - Court Weighs Strict Limits On EPA's FIFRA Authority Over Disinfectants – 1/21/21 - A hand wipes manufacturer is urging a federal court to stop EPA from bringing a threatened enforcement action that would block its products from the market. http://bit.ly/2Y4Issa

Inside EPA - Despite transition, environmentalists push state clean energy bills – 1/21/21 -Environmentalists say they will push ahead with calls for state legislatures to adopt clean energy legislation this year even with the arrival of the Biden administration that is expected to promote similar measures at the federal level, including a leadership shift in Illinois that might bolster prospects for such a bill in that state. http://bit.ly/394w1Sh

Inside EPA - Environmentalists sue EPA over final dust-lead clearance rule – 1/21/21 - Environmental and public interest groups are suing EPA over its recently finalized dust-lead clearance levels, an expected move coming after they criticized identical draft levels for being too weak and narrow. http://bit.ly/3o4kerj

Inside EPA - GAO reiterates call for EPA to fix potential security gap at water facilities – 1/21/21 - The Government Accountability Office (GAO) in a new report is reiterating its call for EPA to work with the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to identify security gaps at water and wastewater facilities exempt from chemical facility anti-terrorism standards and propose legislation to fix them, despite EPA's rejection of the advice. http://bit.ly/2Y4r6KN

Inside EPA - Industry sets condition for direct EPA methane rules for oil & gas – 1/21/21 – Major industry groups say they support EPA directly regulating the potent greenhouse gas methane from new and existing oil and gas operations, though they say the agency must first make a threshold risk finding that the sector's emissions are "significant" enough to merit regulation. http://bit.ly/3bZ43JD

Inside EPA - D.C. Circuit Stays RFS Waivers, Biden EPA Plans Future Of Fuels Program – 1/21/21 - The U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit is staying three last-minute renewable fuel standard (RFS) compliance waivers that the Trump administration granted to small refiners, freezing the exemptions at the same time as the Biden EPA is weighing its policy on waivers and the broader future of the RFS program. http://bit.ly/3qJMP77

Inside EPA - With Two EOs, Biden Seeks To Elevate Science, Equity In EPA's Policies – 1/21/21 - Two new executive orders (EOs) signed by President Joe Biden on Jan. 20 aim to elevate the role of science and environmental justice (EJ) in EPA's regulatory decisions, with an expected emphasis on using the agency's existing regulatory authorities to tackle climate change and other major environmental problems with an EJ focus. http://bit.ly/3o7Rxdf