Message

From: R7@Work [R7-Web@epa.gov]
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To: Green, Jamie [Green.Jamie@epa.gov]
Subject: Daily Region 7 News Clips

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2/8/21 - Environmental News Clips

EARNED MEDIA

Hays Post - Learn how changes to Clean Air Act affect agricultural facilities - 02/06/21 - The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 7 has posted online the Compliance Assistance Webinar held Aug. 25, 2020, hosted by its Enforcement and Compliance Assurance staff. The webinar includes a discussion about Risk Management Program rule changes that affect agricultural facilities and a session for questions and researched answers. https://bit.ly/3cQypOL

Lake Expo - EPA Could Declare Lake Of The Ozarks An 'Impaired Waterway'... Here's Why - 02/08/21 - The EPA is in the process of adding the Lake of the Ozarks to the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) 303d list of impaired waters after levels of chlorophyll-a were found in the water in 2017 that exceed the EPA's impairment threshold. The Lake's chlorophyll-a levels were below the EPA's impairment threshold in 2016 and 2018. But before an official decision is made, the EPA is seeking out public comment. https://bit.ly/2LCiZH2

REGIONAL

Kansas City Pitch - Sara Greenwood wants to build a greener Kansas City - 02/08/21 - "I'm hopeful particularly with our current presidency and our re-engagement with the Paris Climate (Agreement) and the new head of the EPA, Michael Regan," Greenwood says. "It truly is a city, state, regional, and national kind of opportunity to do better." https://bit.ly/36UiffM

Chillicothe News - Letter to the Editor: Missouri's Department of Natural Resources sells out to foreign factory farms - 02/06/21 - I'm an independent Missouri farmer and livestock producer, and JBS, the largest meatpacker in the world and a Brazilian corporation is attempting to put a 10,500 head hog operation next to my community and the Poosey Conservation Area in Livingston County, MO. https://bit.ly/3aJcHep

Lincoln Journal Star - 'Chemicals don't just disappear' — Persistence by researchers, residents uncovers pesticide contamination at Mead plant - 02/07/21 - Judy Wu-Smart has

witnessed bee colonies collapse, but never one after another after another in the same location… As Wu-Smart would discover over time, the dying bees were a proverbial canary in the coal mine, a signal of a larger, slow-moving environmental calamity unfolding in Saunders County that she and others would trace back to AltEn Ethanol, which began operating in 2015. https://bit.ly/3cR8WET

1011 NOW (KOLN) - Ethanol Plant in Mead ordered to stop wastewater discharge - 02/05/21 - An Ethanol Plant in Mead was ordered Thursday to immediately stop the discharge of wastewater from the plant, amid environmental concerns. The owner of the facility, AltEn, LLC "is likely to cause and may have already caused pollution to the air, waters, and land of the state", according to the order from the Department of Environment and Energy. https://bit.ly/36XaSlq

QuadCities.com - Crow Creek maintenance and improvement big focus for Iowa DNR - 02/05/21 - During the pandemic, hunting and fishing licenses in Iowa have seen big increases. That's why the Iowa Department of Natural Resources has brought down a team this week to provide care to the Crow Creek Wildlife Area. https://bit.ly/36TqVa5

Norfolk Daily News - Ethanol plant near Mead ordered to shut down - 02/05/21 - On Thursday, the Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy issued an emergency order to AltEn, the operator of the plant, to immediately cease discharges into its wastewater lagoons, saying that the company was "likely to cause and may have already caused" pollution of the air, land and water. https://bit.ly/3rM3JCP

2021 TRANSITION

Politico - 'A big promise': Biden's climate spending pledge faces early test - 02/07/21 - President Joe Biden has promised 40 percent of the benefits from the $2 trillion he's aiming to spend on climate change will go to disadvantaged communities that have suffered the most from pollution. But figuring out how to spend that potential mountain of cash may vex the places vying for it and the lawmakers tasked with doling it out. https://politi.co/3q5nFzV

Axios - Chuck Grassley's post-Trump priorities - 02/08/21 - With President Biden at the helm, Sen. Chuck Grassley is focusing on protecting the Renewable Fuel Standard — a law that had its ups and downs under the Trump administration. Grassley said he has urged Biden's EPA nominee, Michael Regan, to quickly issue a rule and commit to the current volume. https://bit.ly/3tEgUY4

KIOW Radio - Sunday Talk: Ernst on Water Regulations and Sarah's Law - 02/07/21 - There is a movement afoot to return WOTUS rules back to their original levels of the Obama Administration. This is raising concerns among farmers and area Congressional representatives who want to keep the current rules where they are. https://bit.ly/2YUENfV

CORONAVIRUS

Associated Press - Kansas to give COVID-19 shots to inmates despite GOP protest - 02/05/21 - Democratic Gov. Laura Kelly's administration plans to begin giving COVID-19 vaccinations to Kansas prison inmates next week, ignoring a call from the Republican-controlled Legislature to postpone their inoculations so that others can get them first. https://bit.ly/36TZkFz

The Topeka Capital-Journal - Kansas sees rise of 200-plus COVID-19 deaths, including a 6-year-old - 02/05/21 - Gov. Laura Kelly and KDHE Secretary Lee Norman told reporters Friday that they believed the state was prepared to cope with variants of the COVID-19 virus, which are believed to spread more easily. https://bit.ly/3ryYBBD

Fox 2 News - COVID cases, hospitalizations continue dropping in Missouri - 02/07/21 - The state's 7-day rolling average for daily COVID cases has dropped more than 62% from one month ago and hospitalizations are at a three-month low. https://bit.ly/3ryFQ1d

KETV Omaha - Fans celebrate Super Bowl amid differing COVID-19 restrictions in Nebraska, Iowa - 02/07/21 - With a proclamation that went into effect overnight Saturday, Gov. Kim Reynolds rolled back mask requirements in Iowa. It removes restrictions on indoor gatherings and in businesses. https://bit.ly/2MJLXAY

The Gazette - Coronavirus outbreaks stoke tensions in some state capitols, including Iowa's - 02/08/21 - After only their first few weeks of work, tensions already are high among lawmakers meeting in-person at some state capitols — not because of testy debates over taxes, guns or abortion, but because of a disregard for coronavirus precautions. https://bit.ly/3aPLCom

Kansas City Star - Can you visit loved ones after getting a COVID vaccine? It depends, experts say - 02/08/21 - Just because you've been vaccinated with one of the two authorized coronavirus vaccines doesn't mean you've earned a golden ticket to brunch or wine night with loved ones, experts say. https://bit.ly/39YOlN1

FUELS

Biofuels International - New legislation aiming to incentivize SAF production in the US - 02/08/21 - The Sustainable Aviation Fuel Act legislation to incentivize the production of sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) and help the aviation sector reduce carbon emissions has been introduced in the US… It would also require the EPA to establish an aviation-only Low Carbon Fuel Standard (LCFS) similar to California's successful transportation-wide LCFS. https://bit.ly/3tDjghq

CBS 2 Iowa - Sen. Grassley has heated words for Sen. Ted Cruz over amendment targeting biofuel - 02/05/21 - Sen. Ted Cruz of Texas filed an amendment to the budget bill pertaining to payments oil and gas companies make when they don't blend ethanol and biofuels into their products as required by the EPA… Cruz says the capping of those costs would allow companies to retain jobs and keep costs low. But Grassley called it a direct attack on a critical portion of Iowa's ag industry. https://bit.ly/3luDlKg

Mankato Free Press - Our View: Ethanol: Eliminate waivers to renewable rules - 02/07/21 - Klobuchar and a bipartisan group of senators including Charles Grassley, R-Iowa, have called on the acting EPA administrator Jane Nishida to reverse the "midnight waivers." They also called on the EPA to recommit to setting the RFS standard in the way Congress intended with gradual increases and few if any waivers. https://bit.ly/2YXF81u

Capital Journal - Thune, Klobuchar reintroduce bill to recognize environmental benefit of biofuels and efficient farming - 02/08/21 - Specifically, the bill would require EPA to adopt the Argonne National Lab's Greenhouse Gases, Regulated Emissions, and Energy Use in Transportation (GREET) model for both fuels. EPA would then be required to update its modeling every five years or report to Congress to affirm its modeling is current or otherwise explain why no updates were made. https://bit.ly/3cROYd8

NATIONAL

National Geographic - These widely used insecticides may be a threat to mammals too - 02/05/21 - The EPA is currently reviewing the registrations of five neonics, including imidacloprid. Environmental organizations and human-health experts claim the agency's ongoing analyses have consistently underestimated the costs of neonic use and overestimated the benefits. https://on.natgeo.com/3lx4lU8

The Washington Post - The Energy 202: Senate Democrats are getting ready to push climate proposals - 02/08/21 - Senate committee leaders are now coming up with ways to curb global warming in everything from the tax code to farming, after Senate Majority Leader Charles E. Schumer (D-N.Y.) told them climate would be a top priority amid a broader infrastructure push this spring. https://wapo.st/3oVD708

Chemistry World - Contentious Trump-era 'secret science' rule struck down - 02/08/21 - The most recent in a series of regulatory reversals since Joe Biden took the White House helm is a highly contentious rule, put forward by the Trump administration years ago, that hindered the US Environmental Protection Agency's use of non-public data in policymaking. https://bit.ly/3p30YLi

Bloomberg Law - States Clash With Pentagon on PFAS Water Limits, Polluted Sites - 02/08/21 - Six states with drinking water standards for so-called "forever chemicals" are now

wrestling with what those limits mean when water contamination from Department of Defense sites seep into their communities. https://bit.ly/3a2h6Zk

WNAX - Corn Growers President Wants New EPA Chief To Closely Follow RFS - 02/08/21 - Last week, EPA Administrator Nominee Michael Regan told a Senate committee that agriculture will have a place at the table on RFS discussions. He also said the EPA will need to review how it has handled the Renewable Fuel Standard and the next steps forward. South Dakota Corn Grower's Association President Scott Stahl says Regan needs to keep in mind, the RFS is a critical part of South Dakota's ag economy and beneficial for corn growers. https://bit.ly/3jH3XZ7

Alaska Public Media - Alaska's US senators want to thwart Biden's energy policies. Here's what they're trying. - 02/08/21 - With President Biden issuing executive orders pausing oil and gas leases and permits, Alaska's U.S. senators are seeing years of their accomplishments erased. They're fighting back, but with Democrats in control of Congress, their tools are limited. https://bit.ly/2OiRPSm

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