Message

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

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2/16/21 - Environmental News Clips

R7 IN THE NEWS

Lincoln (NE) Journal-Star - 'A dump for seed corn companies' — Mead residents worry what comes next for troubled ethanol plant – 2/14/21 - Year after state regulators ordered AltEn Ethanol to stop selling its pesticide-contaminated soil conditioner to local farmers, the Mead ethanol plant remained the final destination for millions of pounds of treated seed in North America. http://bit.ly/3poWQFJ

KETV Ch. 7 Omaha NE - University of Nebraska working to contain spill from shutdown ethanol plant in Mead – 2/13/21 - Nebraska's Department of Environment and Energy says it is actively monitoring a discharge from the AltEn ethanol plant in Mead. Researchers with the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's Eastern Nebraska Research, Extension and Education Center discovered the spill Friday, which was reported to be about 3 miles from the plant. http://bit.ly/3u6iZMw

St. Joseph (MO) News-Press – Sen. Blunt: Biden's energy moves are job killers – 2/14/21 - Unfortunately, President Biden has started his administration off with a rush to reinstate some of the worst Obama-era energy policies. These are policies that will destroy jobs, raise costs and make us less competitive at a time when we're fighting for our economy. http://bit.ly/3aq2pPV

Omaha (NE) World-Herald - Frozen pipe burst causes wastewater leak at ethanol plant near Mead – 2/13/21 - State environmental officials on Friday were monitoring an early morning wastewater discharge from an ethanol plant near Mead that had been ordered to close a week ago because of concerns about pollution of air, water and land. http://bit.ly/3anZnvu

AP - Wastewater spills at ethanol plant blamed on pipe bursts – 2/13/21 - A frozen pipe has burst at a Nebraska ethanol plant that had been ordered to close a week ago, causing a wastewater spill, environmental officials say. http://bit.ly/37jokXh

Kansas City Star - Evergy asking customers to conserve electricity use as KC remains dangerously cold – 2/14/21 - Evergy, the provider of electricity for most of the Kansas City region, has asked customers to conserve electricity use "as much as possible" until Wednesday to avoid possible power outages. http://bit.ly/3jTS5mt

AP -Search for water in Kansas pits farmers against cities – 2/12/21 - In the late 1980s, drought left the wells that supply water to the city of Hays and Russell in western Kansas precariously low. The near-catastrophe sent city leaders on the hunt for more water. http://bit.ly/2NxMoi4

REGIONAL

High Plains Journal (Dodge City KS) - New technologies aid weed control in grain sorghum – 2/13/21 - Sarah Lancaster, Kansas State University Research and Extension weed specialist, told producers at the virtual Cover Your Acres Winter Conference that there's more to weed control in grain sorghum than just throwing herbicides out in the field and expecting a miracle. http://bit.ly/3u7fuW7

KSDK Ch. 5 St. Louis - Electric vehicle mandates for new construction, rehabs coming to St. Louis – 2/12/21 - The City will make using electric vehicles easier and more attractive, which helps cut down on gas vehicle emissions that are harmful to our residents' health. http://bit.ly/3rZPD0B

Associated Press - Batteries could be key to storing excess electricity – 2/13/21 - So many Decorah residents are putting up solar panels and installing small turbines that Alliant Energy, which serves the city of 7,700 in Winneshiek County, is nearing the limit of how much distributed energy it can host without degrading the quality of electricity in the community. http://bit.ly/37kYhPl

TRANSITION 2021

Axios - Biden's presidency could mean action on toxic "forever chemicals" – 2/15/21 - Industrial "forever chemicals" found in hundreds of consumer goods and linked to adverse health effects may face new regulations under the Biden administration. http://bit.ly/3pqm5aE

Des Moines Register – Opinion: Is Tom Vilsack the changed person he says he is to lead USDA again? – 2/15/21 - For decades, USDA has misappropriated resources in supporting a factory farming system that harms communities, threatens human health, perpetuates racial inequity, and destroys natural ecosystems. http://bit.ly/2NB93K7

Washington Post - EPA to jettison major Obama climate rule, as Biden eyes a bigger push – 2/12/21 - The Biden administration indicated Friday it will not try to resurrect the Clean Power Plan, a controversial Obama-era policy that set climate pollution targets for every state's

electricity sector and gave officials flexibility on how they would make those reductions by the end of the decade. http://wapo.st/3dnuY2n

FUELS

Mason City (IA) Globe-Gazette - Reynolds proposes state ethanol mandate – 2/15/21 - Gov. Kim Reynolds is proposing Iowa's very own ethanol mandate. The proposal has drawn unusual lines in the lobbying sand, with renewable fuels groups pitted against gas stations and at least one conservative, free market-minded advocacy organization. http://bit.ly/3dIPAJ2

Des Moines Register – Opinion: Biofuels plan sets up Iowa as a national leader during energy industry transformation – 2/16/21 - Increasing our own state's use of biofuels will position Iowa to continue to lead in promoting high-performance liquid renewable fuels with low carbon intensity. http://bit.ly/37ngvM2

Cedar Rapids (IA) Gazette - Kim Reynolds' proposal for ethanol mandate forms unusual political battle lines – 2/15/21 - Gov. Kim Reynolds is proposing to ratchet up the ethanol mandate in Iowa, drawing praise from the biofuels industry but concerns from others over extra cost and less consumer choice. http://bit.ly/3jWj9Bm

Iowa Capital Dispatch - Governor's ethanol mandate has some powerful groups fuming – 2/16/21 - What Gov. Kim Reynolds saw as a chance to expand Iowa's nation-leading biofuels industry has turned into a high-octane political fight among some of the most powerful interest groups in the state. http://bit.ly/2NuzWiX

Biofuels Digest - Iowa Soybean Association, Iowa Biodiesel Board applaud Governor's call for biofuels standard – 2/14/21 - In Iowa, the Iowa Soybean Association and Iowa Biodiesel Board strongly support the legislation (HSB 185) Governor Kim Reynolds introduced to set a minimum standard of biofuels in the Iowa fuel supply. http://bit.ly/3pqUlx9

DTN Progressive Farmer (blog) - Governors Pushing Higher Biofuel Blends in Iowa and Minnesota – 2/16/21 - The governors of Iowa and Minnesota are moving along parallel tracks to push for higher blend requirements in their respective states for ethanol and biodiesel blends. http://bit.ly/3dmIfZ0

Bloomberg Law - Once Wary Ethanol Market Hails Potential of Clean-Fuel Policy – 2/16/21 - Ethanol producers that once opposed California's Low Carbon Fuel Standard are now wondering how fast the emissions-cutting policy can expand across the U.S. https://bit.ly/3jS8vvJ

Mother Jones - Why Won't Joe Biden Let Ethanol Die Already? | The biofuel's clean promise has only led to dirtier air. – 2/16/21 - With the rise of cheap electric car batteries and the expansion of renewable electricity, ethanol looks like yesterday's fuel. In 2022, the current

renewable fuel standard will lapse, and Biden's EPA will have to decide whether to maintain federal support for this hangover of the oil-soaked Bush era. http://bit.ly/3anA8cU

Energy AgWired - Exports a Bright Spot in the Ethanol – 2/16/21 - The export market for ethanol and its livestock feed co-product distillers grains (DDGS) will be one of the topics addressed at the digital National Ethanol Conference, which starts today. https://bit.ly/3scljA7

Biofuels Digest - Research shows RFS slashed GHG emissions by nearly a billion metric tons to date – 2/14/21 - In Washington, D.C., the Renewable Fuels Association reports that a new analysis from a renowned carbon accounting firm finds that the greenhouse gas emission reductions achieved under the Renewable Fuel Standard far exceed the reductions originally projected by EPA. http://bit.ly/2ZlSm8f

Inside EPA - Trump TSCA Advisory Might Impede Development Of Renewable Fuels – 2/12/21 - A Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) compliance advisory that the Trump EPA issued in December might impede the development and marketing of some renewable fuels and fuel additives if those fuels have not already been registered on the TSCA inventory of chemicals, according to lawyers tracking the issue. http://bit.ly/3dwioKT

CORONAVIRUS

Associated Press - Missouri says more than 10 percent of state's residents get vaccine – 2/15/21 - Just more than 10 percent of Missouri's population has received at least one shot of the COVID-19 vaccine as of Monday, the state health department said. http://bit.ly/3u76bp4

Wichita (KS) Eagle - Weekly cases dip below 5,000 for first time in four months – 2/13/21 - Kansas added 4,540 COVID-19 cases over the last week, raising the total from the start of the pandemic to 286,102 cases, according to the Kansas Department of Health and Environment. http://bit.ly/3u20oZX

Environmental News Network - Proper Fit of Face Masks Is More Important Than Material, Study Suggests – 2/12/21 - A team of researchers studying the effectiveness of different types of face masks has found that in order to provide the best protection against COVID-19, the fit of a mask is as important, or more important, than the material it is made of. https://bit.ly/2NbpNYK

Missouri Independent - COVID spread slows in Missouri, new cases now half national rate – 2/15/21 - The spread of COVID-19 in Missouri has been slower than in the nation as a whole for more than 11 weeks, and this month so far the increase in cases has been half the national average. http://bit.ly/3iRXn1U

NATIONAL

The Hill - Opinion: EPA's plan to test for lead in schools will do more harm than good – 3/12/21 - In the new Lead and Copper Rule, the EPA is requiring that water providers start testing for lead in elementary schools and licensed child care facilities. http://bit.ly/3anFWmv

Food Tank News - Biogas Is Not the Answer to the Industrialized Pork Industry, Experts Say – 2/15/21 - In a recent webinar hosted by FoodPrint and the North Carolina Environmental Justice Network (NCEJN), environmental activists argued that biogas will exacerbate challenges caused by the industrialized pork industry in North Carolina. http://bit.ly/3b9ZwCa

Lexology - Tearing Down Trump's Environmental Wall: Justice Department Ditches Impediments to Effective Enforcement – 2/12/21 - Late last week, the Justice Department withdrew nine Trump-era policy and guidance documents that shaped how the Department's Environment and Natural Resources Division (ENRD) enforced environmental law during the past several years. http://bit.ly/3bfCuJW

Politico - Carbon tax meets new Washington politics – 2/16/21 - President Joe Biden has revived the idea of a carbon tax, but climate hawks on Capitol Hill hope he will give them time to work through the tricky politics of the issue. http://politi.co/2NftkFg

USA TODAY exclusive: Bill Gates discusses confronting climate change, says Joe Biden's energy and emissions goals are within reach – 2/15/21 - The Microsoft co-founder and global health philanthropist said the past four years have been a wasted opportunity to combat the threat of a warming planet and U.S. leadership on the issue waned under Donald Trump. http://bit.ly/3puWDkd

Politico - Bill Gates: Forget the climate policy tweaks and go for the big stuff – 2/15/21 - The Microsoft founder and philanthropist thinks the U.S. needs to get a lot smarter to help the world eliminate greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. http://politi.co/37lEvnw

BBC News - Bill Gates: Solving Covid easy compared with climate – 2/15/21 - Solving climate change would be "the most amazing thing humanity has ever done", says the billionaire founder of Microsoft. By comparison, ending the pandemic is "very, very easy", he claims. http://yhoo.it/3u7P5b0

Bloomberg - The Uncomfortable Politics of Climate Change – 2/16/21 - The deep chill gripping the U.S. is a reminder that climate change isn't simply a future prediction but a present-day reality with real-life implications everywhere — including the world's No. 1 economy. http://bloom.bg/3jRNYr8

Bloomberg Green - Top Economists Warn U.S. Against Underestimating Climate Damage – 2/14/21 - A new paper argues that returning to estimates for the cost of carbon dioxide used

in the Obama era would leave the U.S. far behind its Paris Agreement goals. http://bloom.bg/3pmhZk1

Washington Post – There's an invisible climate threat seeping from grocery store freezers. Biden wants to change that. – 2/15/21 - Some of the climate impacts of a grocery store trip are obvious, like the fuel it takes to get there and the electricity that keeps its lights glowing, conveyor belts moving and scanners beeping. But then there are the invisible gases seeping out into the atmosphere when you reach for your ice cream of choice. http://wapo.st/3bfIzWM

Hill Heat - Biden's National Climate Task Force Has First Official Meeting, Forms Climate Innovation Working Group – 2/13/21 - The White House National Climate Task Force, formed by a recent executive order, held its first meeting today. The first tweet from National Climate Advisor Gina McCarthy's official account displayed the participants. Additionally, the White House announced the formation of the Climate Innovation Working Group as part of the Climate Task Force. http://bit.ly/3qv7PPs

Brownfield Ag News – Oversight Report Says EPA Mismanaged State Pesticide Program – 2/12/21 - The *EPA's oversight branch* says the agency is at risk of not achieving special local needs program goals for pesticides. http://bit.ly/3rZ9soS

Center for Public Integrity - Q&A with the "Father" of Environmental Justice at a Turning Point Moment, Center for Public Integrity - 2/12/21 - The Center for Public Integrity talked to Robert Bullard of Texas Southern University — often called the "father of environmental justice" for his decades-long work in this area — about his hopes and concerns coming off four years of deregulation. http://bit.ly/3qrBM2M

New Orleans Times Picayune - Mississippi River pollution plunged after passage of Clean Water Act, LSU study says - 2/13/21 - A new LSU study shows that the lowest downriver reaches of the river have been getting cleaner since the 1970s, when Congress passed the Clean Water Act. http://bit.ly/3rVNfbd

Reader's Digest - 50 Statistics You Should Know for Earth Day – 2/12/21 - The earth is in peril—a fact that this day created 51 years ago brings awareness to. Here's what you need to know. http://bit.ly/3lSrqGL

Bloomberg Law – Biden EPA Asks D.C. Circuit to Freeze Mandate on Clean Power Plan – 2/12/21 - The EPA asked courts on Friday to partially freeze a mandate that was issued when judges scrapped the Affordable Clean Energy rule last month. https://bit.ly/2Zm3tht

Bloomberg Law – Biden Has Chance to Boost Leftward Tilt on D.C. Circuit - 2/12/21 - President Joe Biden has an opportunity to shape one of the most important federal courts for

environmental policy and other regulations after Judge David S. Tatel announced plans to take senior status. https://bit.ly/3dpGnip

Bloomberg Law – EPA's Coal Ash Disposal Rule Challenged by Environmental Groups – 2/12/21 - Environmental and consumer groups are challenging in a Washington federal appeals court the EPA's latest disposal requirements for electric utilities handling coal ash waste. https://bit.ly/3qtbRrk

Bloomberg Law – Advanced Nuclear Backers See Opening for Low-Carbon Power Source – 2/16/21 – The U.S. will need to accelerate deployment low-carbon advanced nuclear technologies to meet President Joe Biden's goal of putting the U.S. on a path of net-zero emissions by 2050, according to a report to be released Tuesday. https://bit.ly/3anGuZQ

Bloomberg Law – Ex-Treasury Official Raskin Eyed for Yellen Climate Position – 2/12/21- Sarah Bloom Raskin, who served as a top Treasury official in the Obama administration, is being eyed for a new post leading climate-change policy under Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen, according to two people familiar with the matter. https://bit.ly/37jF2pn

Bloomberg Law – Inside Bill Gates' Brain as He Tackles Climate Change: Interview – 2/14/21 - Bill Gates has never been one to tackle small problems. At the same time, there's never been a problem quite like climate change. https://bit.ly/2NuRCej

Bloomberg Law – How Biden Is Putting a Number on Carbon's True Cost: QuickTake – 2/13/21 - It's a number with a name its inventors concede is baffling. But it may also be, as many in the field have called it, the most important number you've never heard of – the social cost of carbon. https://bit.ly/37jw7V1

Bloomberg Law – Top Economists Warn U.S. Against Underestimating Climate Damage – 2/14/21 - Nobel laureate Joseph Stiglitz and Lord Nicholas Stern published a paper on Monday excoriating the U.S. government—and many of their own peers in economics—for methods used to estimate the cost of climate change. https://bit.ly/2OKNQOH

Bloomberg Law – Democrats to Push Clean-Energy Tax Breaks in Infrastructure Plan – 2/12/21 - A key House lawmaker unveiled plans to pursue tax breaks for renewable energy as a way to ease the shift away from fossil fuels in President Joe Biden's upcoming infrastructure bill. https://bit.ly/2LUEPBq

Inside EPA - EPA Asks D.C. Circuit To Delay Mandate In Decision Vacating CPP Repeal – 2/12/21 - EPA is asking a federal appeals court to delay issuing part of its mandate in its Jan. 19 ruling vacating the Trump-era Affordable Clean Energy (ACE) utility climate rule that also scrapped a regulation repealing the Obama EPA's earlier Clean Power Plan (CPP), saying the agency needs time to consider its power plant climate rules "afresh." http://bit.ly/3qxOaOU

Inside EPA - Biden EPA seeks stay of lead dust hazard rule litigation – 2/12/21 - The Biden administration is asking a federal appeals court to grant a 60-day stay of litigation brought by environmentalists seeking to strengthen Trump EPA 2019 lead dust hazard standards, despite the court already having heard oral argument last October. http://bit.ly/2NsvPiQ

Inside EPA - Study says Trump EPA, other policies caused thousands of deaths – 2/12/21 - A leading British medical journal in a new report is attributing hundreds of thousands of excess deaths to former President Donald Trump's environmental and workplace safety regulatory rollbacks. http://bit.ly/3rYerGf

Firms Back Elements Of TSCA Fee Overhaul But Seek Comment Extension – 2/12/21 - Early discussion on EPA's still-pending Trump-era proposal to overhaul how it assesses and collects TSCA user fees to support chemical evaluations shows support among industry for making the fees proportionate to the amount of a chemical that each firm uses, but several stakeholders say they need more time to study other elements of the plan. http://bit.ly/3pqBdos

Inside EPA - EPA weighs 1,4-dioxane options as court challenges grow – 1/12/21 - As EPA's regulatory team is considering its regulatory options under TSCA to mitigate the unreasonable risks it identified in the final evaluation of 1,4-dioxane, organized labor has filed a court petition challenging that review, adding to already-pending litigation from environmental groups. http://bit.ly/37nqqOe

Inside EPA - States Highlight Successes With Food Scrap Recycling, Landfill Bans – 2/16/21 - State regulators during a panel discussion on food scrap recycling and landfill bans highlighted the environmental gains and other successes they have had in implementing such measures, citing as key points the slow phase-in of such efforts, early communication with stakeholders, and that the same approach does not necessarily fit each state. http://bit.ly/3pszxL4

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