Message

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

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2/12/21 - Environmental News Clips

R7 IN THE NEWS

WBEZ Chicago Public Radio - A Tale Of Two Brownfield Sites In The Midwest – 2/11/21 - Herculaneum, Missouri, is a former industrial town. Since the lead smelter closed in 2013, the town has been cleaning up century-old contamination under guidance of the EPA. While the transition away from its past has been stark, residents there say they feel confident in local leadership. Residents of Carbondale, Illinois, say they are struggling to feel heard in their calls for officials to clean up the town's contaminated soil. http://bit.ly/3iGm2X8

KIWA Radio Sheldon IA – Rep. Axne 'grateful' for Ag Committee reappointment – 2/11/21 - Iowa Third District Congresswoman Cindy Axne says she's grateful to once again serve as a voice for Iowa's farmers on the House Agriculture Committee. http://bit.ly/3jJSnMB

Farm Progress - Ag industry contributes 10% of overall GHG emissions – 2/11/21 - A new analysis of EPA data highlights agricultural emissions reductions and the importance of developing new research and technologies to capture more carbon in cropland and pastureland. http://bit.ly/3b5wX90

Fort Dodge (IA) Messenger – Editorial: Ernst, Grassley press EPA on biofuels | Bill they co-sponsored will benefit all Americans – 2/12/21 - Here in the Midwest, we are well aware of the environmental benefits of clean burning ethanol and biodiesel. But not everyone realizes just how good those fuels are for the air we breathe. Unfortunately, some of the people who are not up-to-date on the benefits are at the U.S. EPA, setting rules for the use of biofuels. http://bit.ly/3aXiVGh

KIOW Radio Forest City, Iowa - Sheldon IA Ernst Urges Biden Administration to Recognize Environmental Benefits of Biofuel – 2/11/21 - After a new report found that greenhouse gas emissions from corn ethanol are 46% lower than gasoline, U.S. Senator Joni Ernst (R-Iowa) – a member of the Senate Environment and Public Works (EPW) Committee – is

pushing the Biden Administration to acknowledge the environmental benefits of biofuel and to use the data as part of their policymaking. http://bit.ly/378G2fU

DTN Progressive Farmer - Enviro Violations Drive Plant Closure | Pollution From Fungicide-, Pesticide-Containing WDG Led to Violations at Ethanol Plant – 2/12/21 - Once considered to be a crown jewel of environmental stewardship, a glimpse of the promise of a renewable energy future and an economic development tool for the village of Mead, Nebraska, a 25-million-gallon ethanol plant south of town now is driving people away. http://bit.ly/3qjTGEG

WOWT Ch. 6 Omaha NE - Mead ethanol plant temporarily forced to shut down | 'It smells like something dead, rotten, or acidic' - 2/11/21 - An ethanol plant in Mead was ordered las t Thursday to immediately stop the discharge of wastewater from the plant, amid environmental concerns. Less than a week later, the plant shut down completely, per state orders. http://bit.ly/3pf8WRG

REGIONAL

Missouri Times - Opinion: Missouri needs climate action. Preemption stands in the way – 2/10/21 - Missouri is joining the ranks of many states across the country currently attempting to ban movements towards electrification at the local level. https://bit.ly/3rJZHuE

Lincoln (NE) Journal Star - Climate action plan would provide 'real roadmap for state policymakers,' senator says – 2/11/21 - The newest proposal to address the impact of climate change in Nebraska began its uphill journey in the Legislature on Thursday with Sen. John Cavanaugh of Omaha urging senators to "look at options and look at opportunities" through a comprehensive study without being tied to any action mandates. http://bit.ly/378ruwl

KMTV Ch. 3 Omaha - Bill would fund Nebraska climate change study – 2/11/21 - Eight years ago, the University of Nebraska-Lincoln created a climate change study at the behest of the Nebraska Legislature. Once the report was out, a plan was never developed. http://bit.ly/3dbbwFZ

NET Grans Island NE - Water Augmentation Projects, Climate Response Among Legislative Topics – 2/11/21 - The state's role in water augmentation projects, and how to respond to climate change, are among subjects being considered by the Legislature. NET News' William Padmore talked to legislative reporter Fred Knapp about these and other topics. http://bit.ly/2Z9fFSu

McCook (NE) Gazette - County receives $351K household hazardous waste grant – 2/11/21 - Red Willow County shares a portion of $6.68 million in Waste and Litter Reduction, Recycling and Scrap Tire Grants, according to the Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy. http://bit.ly/3s04Z5p

Food & Water Watch - Iowa House Agriculture Committee Sides with Factory Farm Industry, Champions False Climate Solutions – 2/10/21 - This week, two critical pieces of legislation were assigned to the Iowa House Agriculture Committee, each with clear implications for Iowa's agriculture sector and climate change. http://bit.ly/3qajbbj

AP - Missouri House OKs bill to limit regulators on farms – 2/11/21 - Missouri's Republican-led House on Thursday passed a bill to further limit regulators and law enforcement from going on farms. http://bit.ly/2Z7PDz8

KTTN Regional Radio Trenton MO - Cooper County Court in Missouri rules mostly in favor of CAFOs – 2/11/21 - The Cooper County Circuit Court ruled in favor of five out of six of Senate Bill 391's regulations Tuesday, limiting local ordinances from being stricter than state law. http://bit.ly/3qgbEb2

Fort Dodge (IA) Messenger - Solar power facility coming to Webster County

County will be energy exporter – 2/12/21 - A large array of solar panels to be set up in northeastern Webster County this year is expected to generate enough electricity to power 30,000 homes, according to local and state officials. http://bit.ly/3pfrWQ6

2021 TRANSITION

E&E News - More Climate Executive Orders Could Be Coming, McCarthy Says – 2/11/21 - President Biden is likely to issue more executive orders on global warming, said White House climate adviser Gina McCarthy in an interview with E&E News. The former EPA Administrator says the Biden Administration will also work with Congress to advance climate policies. http://bit.ly/2LJEZvo Also Scientific American

Lincoln (NE) Journal-Star - Prohibitive or protective? Lancaster County's wind turbine rules spur debate – 2/11/21 - Several dozen predominantly southern Lancaster County residents called on county commissioners Thursday to leave the rules governing wind turbines alone as the board weighs loosening regulations amid a renewable energy push. http://bit.ly/3rSuMfH

Brownfield Ag News – Trump EPA Left "A Mess" For Biden EPA - 2/11/21 - What specific actions the Biden administration will take on renewable fuels remains to be seen and a senior research associate with the University of Missouri says it could be several months. http://bit.ly/3qasesN

Bloomberg Law - EPA's Trump-Era Civil Rights Problems Will Be Fixed, Agency Says – 2/11/21 - The EPA says it's going to get busy fixing internal civil rights problems that the agency's internal watchdog brought to its attention. https://bit.ly/3jHAApg

Bloomberg Law - U.S. Energy Regulator to Create Senior Environmental Justice Job – 2/11/21 - The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission is creating a senior-level position focused on environmental justice and equity issues, Chair Richard Glick announced Thursday. https://bit.ly/37899QA

Bloomberg Law - Expect Turbocharged Enforcement Under a Biden DOJ – 2/12/21 - The Biden administration has made no secret of its intention to overhaul how the Justice Department enforces the nation's laws affecting civil rights and the environment. https://bit.ly/37aEoKH

Inside EPA - TSCA Findings Pose Hurdles For Biden EPA On Asbestos, Attorneys Say – 2/11/21 - The Biden EPA's aggressive TSCA agenda faces several early hurdles, industry attorneys say, due both to vague statutory text and the Trump administration's limited findings of "unreasonable risk" in its evaluations, making it impossible for the agency to craft the strict bans for asbestos and other substances that environmentalists favor. http://bit.ly/3pqVkFJ

CORONAVIRUS

AP - CDC says masks must fit tightly – and two are better than one – 2/11/21 - On Feb. 10, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention released new mask guidelines based on a study of how mask fit affects the wearer's exposure to airborne particles. http://bit.ly/3pdqWmo

Lincoln (NE) Journal-Star - 'Surge of appointments' takes down Walmart's COVID-19 vaccine scheduling system – 2/11/21 - So many people tried to sign up for COVID-19 vaccine appointments at Walmart that the online scheduling site malfunctioned. People trying to access the vaccination page on the company's website got a "Page Not Found" error Thursday morning. http://bit.ly/37algTv

FUELS

Farm Progress - Governors' Biofuels Coalition seeks action from Biden – 2/11/21 - Minnesota Governor Tim Walz, as chair of the Governors' Biofuels Coalition, sent a letter to President Joe Biden asking him to take two administrative steps to ensure the future of the states' biofuels community by banning the use of aromatics in gasoline and adopting new renewable fuel standards. http://bit.ly/2MQpVwJ

Brownfield Ag News – It Will Take Time For Ethanol Demand To "claw Back" – 2/11/21 - A leading ag economist says it might take the ethanol industry a while to 'claw back' after demand losses suffered from the pandemic. Renewable Fuels Chief Economist Scott Richman says the current market situation for ethanol is similar to the gasoline following the great recession. http://bit.ly/2Z8aqmi

NATIONAL

Center for American Progress -How the Biden Administration Can Modernize Environmental Review – 2/11/21 - If the Biden administration is to successfully "Build Back Better," however, it will have to address one of the largest environmental rollbacks in U.S. history—the Trump administration's gutting of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). http://ampr.gs/3pgmQDh

National Law Review - President Biden Issues Sweeping Executive Order Addressing Climate Change at Home and Abroad – 2/11/21 - President Joe Biden on January 27, 2021, issued the "Executive Order on Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad." The executive order (EO) is sweeping and calls for a whole-of-government approach to climate change for both domestic and foreign affairs. http://bit.ly/3tOEC3U

POWER - Is Nuclear Power Poised for a Resurgence? (podcast) – 2/11/21 - Since 1990, nuclear power has consistently supplied about 19% to 20% of the electricity used in the U.S. However, very few nuclear plants have been added to the U.S. fleet over that time. http://bit.ly/3qfXp64

E&E News - Pruitt: Trump asked, 'Should we shut down the agency?' – 2/11/21 - "As I've looked at the mission of the agency, I recall very distinctly when I went to Trump Tower," Former EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt said. "When I met with the president-elect at the time, he asked me a question. He said, 'Scott, should we shut down the agency?'" http://bit.ly/3aeUJ2R

Courthouse News Service - EPA Under Fire for Putting Ozone Fight on Back Burner – 2/11/21 - The agency declined to institute new limits on ozone pollution last year even with research linking smog exposure to worse Covid-19 outcomes. http://bit.ly/2NqcT9a

The Hill - EPA sued by environmental groups over Trump-era smog rule – 2/11/21 - A coalition of 14 environmental groups on Thursday sued the EPA to challenge the Trump administration's decision to not pursue tougher smog standards. http://bit.ly/3aZAidt

Bloomberg Law - 'Do Nothing' Air Standards for Ozone Pollution Taken to Court – 2/11/21 - More than a dozen health and environmental groups took the EPA to court on Thursday over status quo air quality standards for ozone pollution released by the Trump administration. https://bit.ly/3tTNc19

WaterWorld - The New Rules for PFAS – 2/11/21 - Ally Cunningham, a partner at law firm Lathrop GPM discusses what municipal wastewater treatment facilities should know about these new rules. http://bit.ly/3qgndlq

Biofuels Digest - Democratic representatives reintroduce Growing Renewable Energy and Efficiency Now Act – 2/11/21 - In Washington, Chairman of the House Ways and Means

Subcommittee on Select Revenue Measures Mike Thompson (CA-05) and the entire Democratic membership of the Committee announced the introduction of the Growing Renewable Energy and Efficiency Now (GREEN) Act. http://bit.ly/2MYHRFn

Farm Progress - Cutting cattle methane emissions through feed studied – 2/12/21 - When discussing greenhouse gases, a critical measure is methane. The gas has greater impact than carbon dioxide on climate science, and often livestock are considered the key culprit. A Dutch company may have found the answer for cattle contributions with a feed additive that cuts methane emissions from livestock by as much as 80%. http://bit.ly/3pdKErh

Study: Climate change a stressor for insect populations – 2/10/21 - Climate change is an important contributor to insect declines around the world, according to a new study published in the scientific journal PNAS that examined continuous long-term monitoring of butterfly and other insect populations. http://bit.ly/3d6x2eZ

PORK - Climate-Smart Ag Will Reduce GHG Emissions, Report Says – 2/9/21 - Widespread adoption of climate-smart agriculture practices could reduce U.S. agriculture's GHG emissions from 9.9% to 3.8% by 2025. That's the conclusion of a new report that analyzes the state of soil health technology and identifies opportunities to find new sources of capital to scale-up the adoption of climate-smart agriculture on farms and ranches across the U.S. https://bit.ly/3rLM9OZ

AP - Autoworkers face uncertain future in an era of electric cars – 2/11/21 - When General Motors boldly announced its goal last month to make only battery-powered vehicles by 2035, it didn't just break from more than a century of internal combustion engines. It also clouded the future for 50,000 GM workers whose jobs could become obsolete far sooner than they knew. http://bit.ly/3dbq1JV

Inside EPA - EPA continues FIFRA enforcement push with new Amazon order – 2/11/21 - EPA has added 70 new items to a 2020 Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) order requiring Amazon.com to withdraw products the agency says are unregistered pesticides, maintaining an aggressive campaign against unregistered disinfectants that was a core element of its Trump-era response to COVID-19. http://bit.ly/3tVmdSU

Inside EPA – EPA Toxicologist Urges NAS Review Committee To Address IRIS Delays – 2/11/21 - As the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) begins its review of the IRIS program's long-awaited handbook for developing its influential risk assessments, an EPA toxicologist is asking committee members to balance advice for long-term program improvements with what he said is an urgent need to accelerate its work after years of delays. http://bit.ly/2NgogAh

Inside EPA – TSCA Findings Pose Hurdles For Biden EPA On Asbestos, Attorneys Say

February 11, 2021

The Biden EPA's aggressive TSCA agenda faces several early hurdles, industry attorneys say, due both to vague statutory text and the Trump administration's limited findings of "unreasonable risk" in its evaluations, making it impossible for the agency to craft the strict bans for asbestos and other substances that environmentalists favor.

Inside EPA – Report calls for reinstating Superfund tax to speed cleanups – 2/11/21 -

A new report from environmental and public interest groups says cleanup work at Superfund sites is lagging due to shortfalls in funding and calls for Congress to reinstate the corporate tax to fund the program and for EPA to take climate change into account in cleanup remedies. http://bit.ly/3qfm8Y1

Inside EPA – Court stays perchlorate suit as Biden EPA reviews Trump decision – 2/11/21 - A federal appeals court has stayed environmentalists' challenge of the Trump EPA's decision to forgo setting an enforceable drinking water standard for the rocket fuel ingredient perchlorate, granting the Biden EPA's request for a pause to give new agency leaders time to review the case in accordance with a new environmental executive order. http://bit.ly/2ZedTif

Inside EPA – CWA Changes Could Bolster EPA Runoff Control But Legislation Unlikely – 2/11/21 - Amending the Clean Water Act (CWA) to give EPA more control over nonpoint source pollution could help close gaps in pollution control that would help to better protect drinking water supplies, but getting such legislation through Congress is almost impossible, according to two law professors with long-time ties to EPA. http://bit.ly/3b1zD7u

Inside EPA – EPA Faces Pressure To Enforce Civil Rights Law As Part Of Equity Focus – 2/11/21 - EPA is facing internal and external pressure to enforce the Civil Rights Act as part of the Biden administration's vow to elevate and incorporate environmental justice (EJ) in its decisionmaking to help reach its overarching goal of ending racial injustice in federal government actions. http://bit.ly/3afZTvD

Inside EPA - White House Officials Sought To Bolster Legal Basis For EPA's PBT Rules – 2/11/21 - White House officials appear to have sought to bolster the legal basis for EPA's five TSCA rules governing persistent, bioaccumulative and toxic (PBT) chemicals from possible industry challenges, adding language during interagency review that sought to justify developing the rules without conducting risk assessments. http://bit.ly/3rOxbI9

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