Message

From: R7@Work [R7-Web@epa.gov]
Sent: 2/5/2021 10:19:30 PM
To: Howard, Katherine [howard.katherine@epa.gov]
Subject: Daily Region 7 News Clips

Display problems? View this newsletter in your browser.

2/5/21 - Environmental News Clips

R7 IN THE NEWS

Sandhills Express (Broken Bow NE) - EPA: Lead Can Be In Wide Variety Of Products, Learn How You Can Keep Your Family Safe – 2/5/21 - According to Loup Basin Public Health Department and the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), lead and lead compounds have been used in a wide variety of products found in and around our homes, including paint, ceramics, pipes and plumbing materials, solders, gasoline, batteries, ammunition, and cosmetics. https://bit.ly/3rhOEIO

Grand Island (NE) Independent – Substitute for tissue no longer an issue: Grand Island wastewater treatment plant staff advise residents to watch what they flush - 2/4/21 - The wastewater treatment plant has multiple physical and biological processes that treat the water "to remove a lot of the bacteria and hazardous items, and then we treat it. It has to meet certain standards set by the EPA and the state, and then we are allowed to discharge it back to the river," Rogers said. http://bit.ly/3pT9qy8

REGIONAL

Columbia (MO) Daily Tribune - Commentary: Missouri's Department of Natural Resources sells out to foreign factory farms – 2/4/21 - Missouri DNR is considering changing the groundwater definition to exclude perched water — get this — FOR CAFOs ONLY. Shouldn't all groundwater sources be safeguarded and handled with care, no matter the industry? http://bit.ly/3aGaD5D

Des Moines Business Record – Column: The Elbert Files: D.M.'s role in climate history – 2/5/21 - The Des Moines City Council on Jan. 11 took a significant step. After years of consideration and months of discussion, the council unanimously approved a resolution setting "a community-wide goal of achieving 100 percent 24x7 electricity from carbon free sources by 2035." http://bit.ly/3rm1gP9

Biofuels Digest - AltEn under fire for using pesticide-treated seed corn as feedstock – 2/4/21 - In Nebraska, the Omaha World Herald newspaper reports that the AltEn ethanol plant in Mead is the target of a new bill being introduced into the state legislature that would ban it from using pesticide-treated seed corn as feedstock. http://bit.ly/3tFs5zQ

Brownfield Ag News – Iowa Ag Secretary Calls This An "Interesting Time in Agriculture" – 2/4/21 - Iowa's Ag Secretary Mike Naig tells Brownfield he sees plenty of optimism right now. He says there's also some caution as farmers think about tax and climate policy under President Biden. http://bit.ly/3jjmTgh

Brownfield Ag News – Equipment Dealers Ask Biden to Consider Rural Impacts of Policies – 2/4/21 - Infrastructure along with regulatory and tax reform are among the top issues the Equipment Dealers Association is asking the Biden administration to prioritize. http://bit.ly/2MGnXi9

KMA Radio Shenendoah IA - Iowa Senate passes bill dissolving Missouri River Preservation and Land Use Authority – 2/4/21 - A commission established in the early 1990s by the Iowa Legislature to deal with preservation along the Missouri River could soon be dissolved. http://bit.ly/39TmSw8

2021 TRANSITION

Government Executive - Labor and Environmental Groups Optimistic Biden's EPA Pick Can Rebuild Trust – 2/4/21 - Environmental groups and the largest union representing Environmental Protection Agency employees expressed optimism following a confirmation hearing Wednesday that President Biden's pick to lead the EPA will bring back scientific integrity and trust at the agency. http://bit.ly/3rtmGcW

MRT - How long can EPA nominee's romance with GOP last? – 2/4/21 - A hunter and fisherman from the south, and a regulator who has upset environmentalists by giving industry a place at the table in rule making, Michael Regan might have seemed an unusual choice to head the Environmental Protection Agency in a Biden administration stacked with progressives. http://bit.ly/3aC33c3

E&E News - Five takeaways from the Michael Regan hearing – 2/4/21 - In just under three hours, the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee questioned President Biden's EPA administrator nominee about air, climate and water regulations; his plans to rebuild the agency; and how he will handle complex issues around biofuels and pesticides that have vexed past administrators. http://bit.ly/3oLcDOU

Chemistry & Engineering News - US EPA nominee stresses environmental justice and PFAS control | Michael Regan wants to limit PFAS releases to air and water – 2/4/21 - Ensuring environmental justice and controlling releases of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances

(PFAS) are priorities for Michael S. Regan, President Joe Biden's pick to run the EPA. http://bit.ly/39TchBm

Utility DIVE - Biden EPA pick promises senators 'clean slate' in examining greenhouse gas regulations – 2/4/21 - Michael Regan promised to work cooperatively with states and local communities, and said under his watch protecting the environment would not come "solely from regulation." http://bit.ly/2MumD25

Biofuels Digest - EPA administrator nominee wants to consult general counsel before deciding on SREs – 2/4/21 - In Washington, Reuters reports that President Biden's pick for EPA administrator told the Senate committee interviewing him for the role he needs to discuss the situation of small refinery exemptions with general counsel to understand the current legal intricacies of the case. http://bit.ly/2YKHBMy

Farm Progress - EPA nominee Regan talks future of WOTUS, RFS – 2/4/21 - While sitting before the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee Wednesday afternoon, EPA Administrator nominee Michael Regan again confirmed he would work together with stakeholders to try to strike the right regulatory balance for those in agriculture. http://bit.ly/3aCedNZ

Brownfield Ag News - MO Farm Bureau concerned over Biden revisiting WOTUS – 2/4/21 - The President of Missouri Farm Bureau says he is concerned about President Biden revisiting the Waters of the United States Rule. http://bit.ly/3rp9Lc7

The Detroit News - Kildee leads Michigan reps in pushing Flint native for key EPA job – 2/5/21 - Democratic U.S. Rep. Dan Kildee is lobbying the Biden administration to appoint Flint native Micah Ragland to lead the Midwest regional office of the U.S. EPA. http://bit.ly/3clq2om

Beyond Pesticides - Biden Executive Orders Set the Stage for Systemic Change, If Words Turn to Action – 2/5/21 - The American public has witnessed, in the barely launched tenure of President Joe Biden, a surge of Executive Orders (EOs). Based on the first flurry of orders, much of the Biden "reset" appears gauged to beat back Trump policies that worsened an already inadequate regulatory system, and to reconfigure federal operations and regulations so as to address and solve the biggest threats (beyond COVID) the country faces. https://bit.ly/3q4Onsq

AP - Biden delays Trump rule that weakened wild bird protections – 2/5/21 - The Biden administration said Thursday it was delaying a rule finalized in former President Donald Trump's last days in office that would have drastically weakened the government's power to enforce a century-old law protecting most wild birds. http://bit.ly/3rplVAz

KGLO Radio Mason City IA - Ernst Questions EPA Nominee – 2/4/21 - Iowa Senator Joni Ernst questioned the man nominated to lead the Environmental Protection Agency in a Senate

hearing. Ernst asked nominee Michael Regan about issues surrounding renewable fuels — including the Renewable Fuel Standard. http://bit.ly/3cWZUqf

Missouri Independent - Biden EPA nominee fields GOP discontent on president's climate change orders – 2/4/21 - Michael Regan would "follow the science and follow the law" if confirmed as EPA administrator, he told the U.S. Senate Environment and Public Works Committee during a three-hour confirmation hearing Wednesday. http://bit.ly/36KZKxU

Inside EPA – Environmentalists tout state PFAS policies despite Biden agenda – 2/4/21 - Even as EPA is widely expected to tighten its implementation of TSCA under the Biden administration, environmental groups expect states to "take the lead" in regulating a host of toxic chemicals in 2021, including a host of planned restrictions on per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). http://bit.ly/3aGAv0Y

Inside EPA – Regan Skirts Calls To Re-Do Asbestos Evaluation But Agrees To Review – 2/4/21 - EPA Administrator nominee Michael Regan says he will revisit the Trump-era TSCA assessment of chrysotile asbestos and identify "data and science gaps," but stopped short of backing calls from some Democrats and environmentalists for the agency to redo that and other chemical evaluations entirely. http://bit.ly/39P7C3E

Bloomberg Law - Trump's Last-Minute Flubs Open Window for Biden to Rewrite Rules – 2/4/21 - Skeptical courts are giving President Joe Biden a window to reopen last-minute rules that the Trump administration tried to rush out to beat a regulatory freeze. https://bit.ly/2LncbZr

Inside EPA – Reversing Trump Policy, Biden Supports Citizen Clean Air Act Enforcement – 2/4/21 - Reversing a Trump-era policy, the Biden EPA and Department of Justice (DOJ) are supporting citizen groups' ability to pursue Clean Air Act enforcement by deciding not to appeal a recent federal district court order approving an air suit settlement between Sierra Club and utility DTE that the Trump administration had opposed. http://bit.ly/3aGyhP8

Inside EPA - 'Mostly Dead' Clean Power Plan Could See Limited Revival By Biden EPA – 2/4/21 - A new legal analysis of the Biden EPA's options for reviving the Obama-era Clean Power Plan (CPP) greenhouse gas rule for power plants says an appeals court ruling vacating the Trump EPA's narrower Affordable Clean Energy (ACE) replacement rule means the CPP is "only mostly dead" and could eventually return in a more-limited form. http://bit.ly/2OdQY5v

E&E News - Tribes expect a voice on land and waters under Haaland – 2/4/21 - With Democratic New Mexico Rep. Deb Haaland poised to become the first Native American Interior secretary, tribal governments historically marginalized by the agency expect not only a greater respect for their autonomy, but also a more significant role in the nation's land and water management decisions. http://bit.ly/3clxhgf

CORONAVIRUS

Des Moines Register - 5,000 Iowans have died of COVID-19. Nearly 60% of them passed in the last three months – 2/4/21 - Iowa reached this grim milestone — 5,000 deaths attributable to COVID-19 — on Thursday, Feb. 4, 317 days since March 24, 2020, when the state Department of Public Health confirmed the first COVID-19 death in Iowa. http://bit.ly/3pSMlM0

Missouri Independent - Missouri data shows expanding 'vaccine deserts' in St. Louis and Kansas City metros – 2/4/21 - An expanding portion of St. Louis and Kansas City are considered "vaccine deserts," or areas with limited-to-no access to the COVID-19 vaccine, according to analysis by a consulting firm hired by the state. http://bit.ly/3pXf3eE

FUELS

Biomass Magazine - Senators urge EPA to review the 3 SREs approved in January – 2/4/21 - A bipartisan group of 15 senators sent a letter to Acting EPA Administrator Jane Nishida on Feb. 3 urging the agency to review the three small refinery exemptions (SREs) approved by the Trump administration on Jan. 19. http://bit.ly/3pVYfEP

Reuters - API asks court to review U.S. EPA rule on consolidated fuel standards – 2/4/21 - The American Petroleum Institute, a leading energy trade group, filed a petition this week asking the U.S. Court of Appeals to review a rule from the EPA that consolidated fuel quality regulations. http://bit.ly/39Rerl5

Brownfield Ag News – Biofuels Can Help Meet Net-Zero Emissions – 2/4/21 - The Biden administration is moving forward on climate priorities and Growth Energy CEO Emily Skor says biofuels have an important role to play in reducing the transportation sector's impact on climate. http://bit.ly/3aDOVlA

AgriMarketing - Growth Energy Supports Bipartisan Senate Letter Asking EPA to Review Refinery Exemptions – 2/5/21 - Senators Amy Klobuchar (D-Minn.) and Chuck Grassley (R-Iowa) led a bipartisan group of senators in sending a letter to the EPA asking for a review of the three exemptions issued by former Trump EPA Administrator Andrew Wheeler, which, according to the letter, betrayed earlier assertions by the Trump Administration that EPA would not grant additional waivers pending the resolution of ongoing litigation. https://bit.ly/3toCole

AgriMarketing - Growth Energy Submits Comments On United Refining Proposed Consent Decree – 2/5/21 - Growth Energy filed comments on the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) proposed Consent Decree for the United Refining Co. v. Wheeler case, in which United Refining challenged EPA's failure to act in a timely manner on its petition for a

small refinery exemption from its 2019 Renewable Fuel Standard obligation. https://bit.ly/2MZ6UrD

DTN Progressive Farmer - Midwest Senators Press EPA to Review Three Trump Small-Refinery Exemptions – 2/4/21 - After a federal court granted a stay on three small-refinery exemptions granted by the Trump administration on the way out the door, a group of Midwest senators asked the EPA on Wednesday to review the three exemptions. http://bit.ly/3motAs

Farm Futures – Commentary: Senators look to fix RFS woes – 2/4/21 - The last four years have been anything but smooth for the biofuels industry. Those on Capitol Hill hope for a better road ahead. Legislation looks to improve GHG data on ethanol and improve pathway for advanced biofuels. http://bit.ly/3fxR3Rk

Biodiesel Magazine - Legislation compels EPA to act on RFS pathways, registrations – 2/4/21 - Sens. John Thune, R-S.D., and Jeanne Shaheen, D-N.H., on Feb. 4 reintroduced legislation that aims to approve certain advanced biofuel registrations under the Renewable Fuel Standard that the U.S. EPA has failed to take action on and set a deadline for the agency to act on future RFS pathway and registration petitions. The two senators previously introduced the bill in June 2020.

Inside EPA – Oil industry opposes delay for suit over EPA approval of E15 fuel – 2/4/21 - Oil industry groups are opposing a motion by the Biden EPA to freeze litigation over the Trump administration's approval of 15 percent ethanol fuel (E15) for year-round use, saying a delay of scheduled Feb. 19 oral argument in the case would make it impossible for the groups to overturn the approval before the summer ozone season. http://bit.ly/3cJUSx9

Inside EPA – EPA defends push for abeyance in E15 litigation – 2/4/21 - EPA is defending its push to freeze litigation over the Trump administration's 2019 approval of 15 percent ethanol (E15) fuel for year-round use, rejecting various oil-sector arguments in opposition as insufficient grounds for a federal appeals court to deny abeyance while the Biden administration considers its position on the issue. http://bit.ly/2MVMQX8

NATIONAL

Resources (magazine) - The Potential of Hydrogen for Decarbonization: Reducing Emissions in Oil Refining and Ammonia Production – 2/4/21 - Jay Bartlett and Alan Krupnick evaluate the production, storage, and transportation costs of "blue" and "green" hydrogen to identify near- and long-term methods for reducing industrial feedstock emissions. http://bit.ly/3jjOJsC

Vox - This popular and proven climate policy should be at the top of Congress's to-do list – 2/4/21 - Last year, presidential candidate Joe Biden campaigned on a bold climate plan

that included cleaning up America's electricity system by 2035 with a federal Clean Electricity Standard (CES). http://bit.ly/2YMZUR5

AP - Sanders, Ocasio-Cortez seek climate emergency declaration – 2/4/21 - With Democrats in charge of Congress and the White House, progressive lawmakers including Sen. Bernie Sanders and Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez are pushing the Biden administration to act ever more aggressively on climate change. http://bit.ly/2MC0jl0

AP - Pledge drive urges funding racially diverse climate efforts – 2/4/21 - The Donors of Color, a philanthropic group dedicated to pushing for racial equity in funding environmental projects nationwide, has launched a pledge drive challenging the nation's top climate funders to shift 30% of their donations toward environmental efforts led by Black, Indigenous and other people of color. http://bit.ly/39RClrb

CNN - Leading baby food manufacturers knowingly sold products with high levels of toxic metals, a congressional investigation found – 2/4/21 - Four leading baby food manufacturers knowingly sold baby food that contained high levels of toxic heavy metals, according to internal company documents included in a congressional investigation released Thursday. http://bit.ly/2NZiP99

Bloomberg Law – Science Panel Probes Medical Tests' Role for PFAS-Exposed People – 2/4/21 - The nation's premier scientific advisory group launched a project Thursday to advise federal health agencies on what doctors could tell patients exposed to "forever chemicals" to help them understand whether the chemicals may be affecting their health. https://bit.ly/3clu8Nt

Bloomberg Law – Keystone XL Collapse Leaves Canada Oil Heartland Seeking Payback – 2/4/21 - The oil-rich Canadian province that was hit hard by Joe Biden's move to kill the Keystone XL pipeline is considering seeking compensation from the U.S. through an old free-trade rule that's still in place. https://bit.ly/2OdOLqJ

Bloomberg Law – Interior Seeks New Public Input on Migratory Bird Rule – 2/4/21 - The White House took the first steps to review and possibly reverse a rule that lifted century-old protections for migratory birds—one of the first Trump-era Interior environmental rollbacks to inch toward possible reversal. https://bit.ly/3ttRUmc

Bloomberg Law – Justice Department Tosses Trump-Era Environmental Directives – 2/4/21 - The Justice Department has withdrawn a series of Trump-era policies that constrain the agency's environmental enforcement tools. https://bit.ly/3pZ1awl

Inside EPA – DOJ Scraps Nine Trump Environmental Policies, Including SEP Prohibition – 2/4/21 - The Biden Department of Justice (DOJ) is immediately scrapping nine controversial Trump environmental policy memos including a prohibition on the use of popular supplemental

environmental projects (SEPs) in settlement agreements, arguing the memos conflict with President Joe Biden's executive order (EO) on protecting the environment. http://bit.ly/2MVNpjl

Bloomberg Law – 'Big Tent' Environmental Justice Plan Looks Past Racial Divides – 2/5/21 - Environmental justice advocates are looking to link communities of color with experience fighting industrial polluters and landfills with polluted communities in Appalachia—a "big tent," strength-in-numbers approach they say is ripe for results. https://bit.ly/2ObzQNF

Inside EPA – EPA Continues Defense In Suit Testing FIFRA Disinfectant Enforcement – 2/4/21 - EPA is raising procedural and substantive defenses in a novel suit challenging its threatened enforcement actions against a manufacturer that allegedly unlawfully marketed skin wipes as a surface disinfectant, suggesting the Biden administration may continue strict enforcement against such products during the coronavirus pandemic. http://bit.ly/36KreE5

Inside EPA – EPA Asks To Halt Suits Over State SSM Plans Pending Possible Reversal – 2/4/21 - EPA is asking a federal appeals court to freeze three related lawsuits challenging its Trump-era policy approving the use of waivers from Clean Air Act emissions limits for air pollution spikes during periods of facility startup, shutdown or malfunction (SSM) in states' air law compliance plans, as the agency weighs whether to reverse the policy. http://bit.ly/3rmmRqH

Unsubscribe - Edit your subscription