Message

From: R7@Work [R7-Web@epa.gov]
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To: Muehlberger, Christopher [muehlberger.christopher@epa.gov]
Subject: Daily Region 7 News Clips

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2/23/21 - Special Clippings - Small Refinery Exemptions and Environmental News Clips

Special Clippings - Small Refinery Exemptions

Associated Press - EPA changes its stand, sides with ethanol industry in court case – 2/22/21 - The federal government announced Monday that it will support the ethanol industry in a lawsuit over biofuel waivers granted to oil refineries under President Donald Trump's administration. http://bit.ly/3pSvnN6 Also Omaha World-Herald, Biomass Magazine, Hannibal (MO) Courier-Post, KOB-TV, Beatrice (NE) Daily Sun, Mason City (IA) Globe Gazette, Park Hills (MO) Daily Journal, York (NE) News-Times, Muscatine (IA) Journal, Fremont (NE) Tribune, Quad-City Times, St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Waterloo-Cedar Falls (IA) Courier, Wahoo (NE) Newspaper, WHO Ch. 13 Des Moines, KCRG Ch. 9 Cedar Rapids IA, Grand Island (NE) Independent, Hickory (NC) Daily Record, Joplin (MO) Globe, North Platte (NE) Telegraph, Scottsbluff (NE) Star-Herald, Lincoln (NE) Journal-Star, Clinton (IA) Herald, St. Joseph (MO) News-Press, Sioux City (IA) Journal, Columbus (NE) Telegram, KWWL Waterloo IA, Dubuque Telegraph Herald, Council Bluffs (IA) Daily Nonpareil, Agri-Pulse, WOI Ch. 5 Des Moines, Green Car Congress

Farm Progress - EPA signals new position on ethanol waivers – 2/22/21 - Despite the Trump administration's previous view of the 10th Circuit's interpretation of small refinery exemption (SRE) eligibility under the Renewable Fuel Standard, the current U.S. Environmental Protection Agency did not file a brief supporting that position by the Supreme Court's deadline in HollyFrontier. http://bit.ly/3usG10v Also Ag Daily, Oklahoma City Oklahoman, Farm Industry News, Southeast Farm Press, Delta Farm Press, Corn & Soybean Digest, Feedstuffs, Growing Iowa (and 12 other states)

Farm Progress - Reactions: New EPA, new decision on RFS – 2/22/21 - EPA announces its support for the Tenth Circuit's interpretation of small refinery exemptions. EPA agrees that the exemption was intended to operate as a temporary measure. SCOTUS will ultimately decide the issue later this year. http://bit.ly/2ZiYivM

American Ag Network - Farm, Biofuel Leaders Embrace EPA's New Position on Tenth Circuit's Small Refinery Waiver Decision – 2/22/21 - Today, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency announced that it is supporting the Tenth Circuit Court's January 2020 decision in Renewable Fuels Association et al. v. EPA. http://bit.ly/3aNABW5 Also Michigan Ag Today, WKKG Radio (IN), Growing Iowa/Missouri/Kansas, WCSI Radio (IN)

River Cities Reader (Davenport IA) - Gov Kim Reynolds Releases Statement Praising EPA Decision Regarding 10th Circuit Court - 2/22/21 - Today's announcement by the EPA in defense of the Tenth Circuit Court's decision to rein in these waivers is a victory for Iowa farmers, our renewable fuels industry, and our rural economy. http://bit.ly/3sieRYa

Brownfield Ag News - EPA reverses course, agrees with 10th Circuit Court's SRE decision – 2/22/21 - The EPA Monday reversed course and came out in favor of the 10th Circuit Court's ruling on ethanol small refinery waivers. Brian Jennings with the American Coalition for Ethanol says that's the outcome they wanted when the industry sued the EPA a year ago. http://bit.ly/3slC6AB

Nebraska Ag Connection - Fischer Applauds EPA Decision to Protect Biofuels - 2/23/21 - U.S. Senator Deb Fischer (R-Neb.), a member of the Senate Agriculture Committee, released the following statement: "The Biden administration's EPA listened to our warnings and reversed course in their interpretation of the Small Refinery Exemption process. This is a critical win for Nebraska's economy. I will continue to push the EPA to ensure it is upholding the intent of the Renewable Fuel Standard." http://bit.ly/3keyVrw

Biomass Magazine - EPA changes position, supports Tenth Circuit Court's SRE ruling – 2/23/21 - The U.S. EPA on Feb. 22 announced it now supports the Tenth Circuit Court of Appeal's January 2020 ruling on small refinery exemptions (SREs). Representatives of the U.S. biofuels industry are applauding the agency's new position. http://bit.ly/2OWlcxC

Energy AgWired - EPA Supports 10th Circuit Decision – 2/22/21 - A joint statement from the coalition that brought the case (Renewable Fuels Association, National Corn Growers Association, American Coalition for Ethanol and National Farmers Union) calls the EPA decision "fantastic news for America's biofuel producers, farmers, and consumers." https://bit.ly/2P4MsGN

The Hill - Biden administrations supports court's restrictions for biofuel exemptions – 2/22/21 - The Biden administration announced on Monday that it supports limits set by a court last year on when small oil refineries can get exemptions from a requirement to blend a certain amount of biofuels such as ethanol into their product. http://bit.ly/3pKVTaX

AgriMarketing - Iowa Ag Dept: The EPA's Ruling on the RFS Is A Win For Iowans – 2/23/21 - Iowa Secretary of Agriculture Mike Naig released the following statement: "The decision to uphold the RFS is great news for all Iowans - our farmers, our rural communities,

and our drivers who get more affordable, more environmentally-friendly choices at the gas pump," said Secretary Naig. https://bit.ly/3kfW2C8

AgriMarketing – Growth Energy Applauds EPA's Decision to Stand With 10th Circuit's Rulon On SRES – 2/22/21 - Growth Energy welcomed news that, despite the Trump administration's previous view of the 10th Circuit's interpretation of small refinery exemption (SRE) eligibility under the RFS, the current EPA did not file a brief supporting that position by the Supreme Court's deadline in HollyFrontier today. https://bit.ly/3qMEno7

DTN Progressive Farmer - EPA Changes Course on RFS Exemptions | EPA Changes Policy, Now Sides With Biofuels Industry on SREs – 1/22/21 - The EPA is changing course on small-refinery exemptions to the Renewable Fuel Standard, announcing Monday it agrees with a court of appeals decision last year that the agency had mismanaged the program under the Trump administration. http://bit.ly/3qOH8Fl

Sen. Chuck Grassley (release) - After Grassley-led Push, EPA Sides with Biofuels in Critical RFS Case – 2/22/21 - EPA's shift on small refinery exemptions follows longstanding calls from Grassley, colleagues to follow the letter of the Renewable Fuels Standard. http://bit.ly/3dEsigR

Red River Farm Network - Ag Groups Thank EPA for Supporting Court Decision on Small Refinery Exemptions – 2/22/21 - The Environmental Protection Agency will support the Tenth Circuit Court of Appeal's 2020 decision that small refinery waivers are only temporary. http://bit.ly/3aJ4XJd

Reuters - U.S. EPA says it agrees with court's decision casting doubt on biofuel exemptions – 2/22/21 - The Fueling American Jobs Coalition, which represents independent U.S. refiners, said it was not surprised by the announcement. "At the end of the day, the EPA will have to abide by the Supreme Court's decision on the case," the coalition said. "The real story here is that the Supreme Court agreed to hear the case in the first instance." Meanwhile, the biofuel industry cheered the notice. http://bit.ly/2ZG1ULB

Bloomberg Law – Biden EPA Backs Limiting Biofuel Quota Waivers for Refineries – 2/22/21 – Environmental Protection Agency will support 10th Circuit ruling narrowing exemptions. It's Biden's first move in heated fights over renewable fuel. The Biden administration is taking steps that could limit the ability of oil refineries to get exemptions from a federal biofuel-blending mandate. https://bit.ly/3bvuN2p

Inside EPA - Backing 10th Circuit, EPA Eyes Major Limit On Issuing Future RFS Waivers – 2/22/21 - EPA is announcing that it now supports a federal appeals court ruling that largely bars the agency from granting small refiners' requests for renewable fuel standard (RFS) compliance waivers, signaling that the Biden administration is likely to place a major limit on the

exemptions compared to the Trump EPA that issued dozens of RFS waivers. http://bit.ly/37Izwq2

Inside EPA - D.C. Circuit Halts RFS Waivers Suit, Shifting Focus To 10th Circuit Case – 2/22/21 - The U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit has granted a request from EPA and biofuels groups to halt litigation filed by renewable fuel producers over three Trump-era renewable fuel standard (RFS) compliance waivers issued to refineries, shifting focus to a related 10th Circuit legal battle over RFS exemptions. http://bit.ly/3usrQbN

EARNED NEWS

KWQC Ch. 6 Davenport IA - EPA takes steps to monitor PFAS in drinking water – 2/22/21 - The EPA issued two actions to protect public health by addressing per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in drinking water. The agency is attempting to address these long-lasting chemicals that can enter drinking water supplies and impact communities across the United States. http://bit.ly/3kfQ6ck

Bloomberg Law - EPA Moves Ahead 'Forever Chemicals' Regulation, Monitoring – 2/22/21 - The EPA said Monday it's moving forward with an unregulated contaminant monitoring rule for drinking water and final regulatory determinations for two types of "forever chemicals." https://bit.ly/2MiQuJU

Inside EPA – After Review, Biden EPA Backs Trump-Era PFAS Drinking Water Decisions – 2/22/21 - The Biden EPA is moving forward with decisions to develop drinking water standards for two of the most well-studied per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) and to propose monitoring for dozens of PFAS in drinking water to determine if other rules are needed, backing decisions the agency made at the end of the Trump administration. http://bit.ly/3bxMRJh

R7 IN THE NEWS

Inside EPA - EPA updates COVID-19 workplace safety plan – 2/22/21 - EPA has issued an updated COVID-19 workplace safety plan that it will use to guide its pandemic response and eventual reopening of offices, even as the Biden administration has indefinitely paused reopening -- a reversal from the Trump administration that had been seeking to force employees back to in-person work. http://bit.ly/3dEzGsB

KHGI Ch. 13 Kearney NE - Mead residents look for answers after burst pipe causes spill – 2/22/21 - But Thorson isn't as sure who will actually be cleaning the spill up. "Someone is gonna have to clean it up, doesn't seem like Alt En has the money from what I hear, so I guess it will be taxpayer dollars," said Thorson. https://bit.ly/3ul25bo

Bloomberg Law - Asphalt Maker, EPA Limit Future Development at Former Lead Mine – 2/22/21 - The EPA and an asphalt company agreed to lock down a Missouri lead-contaminated soil dump to prevent future development in a proposed consent decree in federal district court. Delta Asphalt Inc. owns a contaminated property that is part of the Madison County Mines Superfund site. The company and the Environmental Protection Agency proposed land use restrictions in a consent decree in U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Missouri. https://bit.ly/3kdegEt

REGIONAL

KSMU Ozarks Public Radio - Missouri Department Of Agriculture Looks To Update Pesticide Training – 2/22/21 - The Missouri Department of Agriculture is updating the way it teaches farmers to safely use pesticides, with the goals of making it easier for them and keeping the process under state control. http://bit.ly/3dB3J4B

KCRG Ch. 9 Cedar Rapids IA - Initial findings show goose, duck illness, deaths in Coralville due to extreme winter weather – 2/22/21 - State wildlife officials said on Monday that the recent extremely cold weather in eastern Iowa may be to blame for the death of dozens of geese along the Iowa River in Coralville. http://bit.ly/37I4xAR

Omaha World-Herald - Midlands Voices: Renewables provide a sound energy path for Nebraska – 2/23/21 - Gov. Ricketts' statement blaming wind energy for electric outages was misleading and his proposed solution of reliance on coal profoundly misguided. It would ultimately worsen the problem. http://bit.ly/2ZG37Cn

Brownfield Ag News – Supporting River Infrastructure (audio-4:99) – 2/23/21 - In this edition, Missouri Corn Growers Association President and farmer Jay Fischer highlights the importance of river infrastructure to Missouri corn farmers, recovery from 2019 flooding and how MCGA is helping improve river infrastructure. http://bit.ly/3aL8Z3K

Muscatine (IA) Journal - Citizens object to proposed hog confinement near Letts – 2/22/21 - After spending close to an hour hearing concerns about a proposed hog confinement in Muscatine County, the Muscatine County Board of Supervisors had a split vote to approve a letter to the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) regarding the permit application. http://bit.ly/2NwGCNY

KCRG Ch. 13 Cedar Rapids IA - Missouri River ice jam causes concern for drinking water and wastewater systems – 2/22/21 - An ice jam in the Missouri River between Jefferson City and Glasgow on Monday caused some concerns for operators of area drinking water and wastewater systems. The ice created low water levels that could prevent intake structures in the river from working properly. http://bit.ly/3dG2Nf5

AgNewsWire - Daugherty Water for Food Podcast – Episode 6 – 2/22/21 - This episode of the Daugherty Water for Food podcast features a discussion on nitrates in Nebraska groundwater. http://bit.ly/3pFXq24

TRANSITION 2021

Associated Press - Interior nominee Deb Haaland vows 'balance' on energy, climate – 2/22/21 - Deb Haaland, a New Mexico congresswoman named to lead the Interior Department, said she is committed to "strike the right balance" as the agency manages energy development and seeks to restore and protect the nation's sprawling federal lands. http://bit.ly/3dE4JF3

Cedar Rapids (IA) Gazette – Letter: Bipartisan climate action is good for the economy – 2/22/21 - I was pleased to see Joni Ernst expressing her concerns about our climate in her Jan. 20 Facebook post, particularly her call to focus "on reducing our emissions and meeting our energy needs through market-driven, innovative solutions." http://bit.ly/3qQShWq

Bloomberg Green - Biden's Climate Czar on the Texas Electricity Mess, Green Energy – 2/23/21 - Gina McCarthy wants market-based signals to power America's push to achieve its climate goals. http://bloom.bg/3qMrJFN

Climatewire - Judge refuses to put NEPA litigation on ice – 2/22/21 - A federal judge has rejected the Biden administration's request to pause litigation over former President Trump's changes to National Environmental Policy Act rules. http://bit.ly/3qNMv7T

Bloomberg Law – Interior Pick Haaland Draws GOP Ire With Fracking Opposition – 2/22/21 - Interior Secretary-designate Deb Haaland's opposition to fracking, early endorsement of the Green New Deal and participation in protests against an oil pipeline in South Dakota have made her one of President Joe Biden's most controversial cabinet nominees. https://bit.ly/3qOX2zw

Bloomberg Law - Judges Keep Clean Power Plan on Ice While Biden Crafts New Rules – 2/22/21 - The Clean Power Plan remains sidelined as judges agreed Monday to hold off on scrapping repeal of the Obama-era carbon rule while the Biden administration reviews climate and environmental standards. https://bit.ly/3dE3F40

FUELS

Farm Forum - Processor comes out in support of Iowa Biofuels Standard – 2/23/21 - Ag Processing Inc has announced its support for the Iowa Biofuels Standard, a state legislative initiative that would support biofuel production and use in the state of Iowa. http://bit.ly/3aL5472

Energy AgWired - LCFS and RFS – Conflict or Complement? – 2/22/21 - Do Low Carbon Fuel Standard (LCFS) policies conflict or complement the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS)?

That was the question Dr. Jarrett Whistance with the Food and Agricultural Policy Research Institute at the University of Missouri was called on to answer at last week's National Ethanol Conference. https://bit.ly/3sm52Za

CORONAVIRUS

Wichita (KS) Eagle - Kansas COVID case report is best since September; KU doctor says keep wearing masks – 2/22/21 - Monday's coronavirus pandemic update for Kansas was the best in more than five months for new cases of COVID-19. http://bit.ly/3upkK7E

USA Today Network - COVID-19 cases surge 548.4% in Iowa – 2/22/21 - New coronavirus cases leaped in Iowa in the week ending Sunday, rising 548.4% as 30,267 cases were reported. Iowa changed how it reports cases, moving from individual people to positive test results. http://bit.ly/2Mqtyvp

Associated Press - Wastewater Testing Finds UK Variant 'Widespread' In Missouri – 2/22/21 - The number of new Missouri coronavirus cases continued to decline on Monday, but state officials cite one cause for concern: Wastewater samples indicate the fast-spreading U.K. variant is "widespread" across the state. http://bit.ly/2ZGMzlY

NPR - 'A Loss To The Whole Society': U.S. COVID-19 Death Toll Reaches 500,000 – 2/22/21 - This week President Biden is asking Americans to mark the 500,000 deaths with a moment of silence at sunset Monday. He's also ordered flags on all federal buildings lowered to half-staff for five days. http://n.pr/2ZG2xor

NATIONAL

Brownfield Ag News - Climate a major focus as MOSES Organic Farming Conference gets underway – 2/22/21 - How climate and agriculture intersect dominated day one of the Midwest Organic and Sustainable Education Service (MOSES) virtual conference. http://bit.ly/2RadN8e

Chemical & Engineering News - Climate change will force boost in electrical grid capacity, mostly from renewables – 2/22/21 - New study shows that accounting for climate change could help avoid costly investment mistakes while planning for future power-generation needs. http://bit.ly/3aNU0Gp

EcoWatch - Use of Disinfectants Has Soared, Sparking New Examination of Ingredients – 2/22/21 - Disinfectant use has exploded during the coronavirus pandemic as people try to keep their hands and surfaces clean. But one family of cleaning chemicals is receiving scrutiny for potential health concerns. http://bit.ly/2NQCFnd

Washington Post - The battle over climate change is boiling over on the home front – 2/23/21 - Municipalities want new buildings to go all electric, spurning gas-fired stoves and heating systems. The gas industry disagrees. http://wapo.st/37B7u6j

Greenwire - Court axes Trump-era power plant rule – 2/22/21 - The U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit took final action to undo the Affordable Clean Energy rule today, as it agreed to delay axing the Trump administration's repeal of the Clean Power Plan. http://bit.ly/3bBeuRE

Bloomberg Law - A Reckoning Hits Electric Grids Built for Last Century's Climate – 2/23/21 - It's not the new technology of renewable power that's destabilizing the electric grid. It's the new weather. https://bit.ly/2NAbJlv

Bloomberg Law - 5G's Society-Changing Promise Carries 'Forever Chemicals' Price – 2/23/21 - Components allowing 5G data-transfer speed rely on PFAS. Yet the substances' unique properties make them tough to replace. https://bit.ly/3bB4szU

Bloomberg Law – EPA Chemicals Memo Sparks Concern of More 'Regulatory Rabies' – 2/22/21 - Auto, airplane, and other manufacturers could lose the right to use certain flame retardants, lubricants, and other chemicals they deem essential, now that the Biden EPA is reviewing exemptions to five toxic substances rules granted during the Trump era. https://bit.ly/3upIfT0

Inside EPA – Trump EPA Waste Chief Urges Review Of RCRA, CERCLA To Manage PFAS – 2/22/21 - Trump EPA waste office chief Peter Wright says the agency should review the potential for a "holistic" approach to managing per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) with a possible Resource Conservation & Recovery Act (RCRA) hazardous waste designation or Superfund hazardous substance listing for two of the chemicals. http://bit.ly/3khV1cP

Inside EPA – FERC To Study Climate, Extreme Weather Threats To Grid Reliability – 2/22/21 - On the heels of a bitter cold snap that caused widespread blackouts in Texas, federal energy regulators say they will launch a new proceeding to study the power reliability threats caused by climate change and various extreme weather events, the regulators' second effort to assess climate-related issues since a recent change in leadership. http://bit.ly/2ZKMdCF

Inside EPA – House Democrats push EPA to tighten Trump-era coal ash proposal – 2/22/21 - A group of 38 House Democrats is urging EPA to strengthen and finalize a still-pending Trump-era proposal on regulating coal ash disposal that they say could provide a vehicle for new limits on the use of coal ash as a structural fill material at sites like former mines. http://bit.ly/3sq7lFn

Inside EPA – EPA Faces High Bar For TSCA Bans Despite Discretion, Attorney Says – 2/22/21 - TSCA may give the Biden administration broad latitude for strict risk management

rules based on its 10 Trump-era chemical evaluations, but the agency may still struggle to justify the outright bans environmentalists have sought unless it first reopens those risk reviews, says an industry consultant and former EPA scientist. http://bit.ly/3sowF3l

Inside EPA – Environmentalists Seek New Toxics Mapping To Aid TSCA Equity Efforts – 2/22/21 - Environmental justice (EJ) advocates are urging EPA to develop a more robust nationwide mapping system to identify communities impacted by toxic chemicals as part of its TSCA work, in an early marker for how they will seek to integrate the Biden administration's sweeping EJ agenda into the chemicals program. http://bit.ly/3qOQ1Pd

Inside EPA – Circular economy proponents tout pollution reduction, economic benefits – 2/23/21 - Proponents of a circular economy, which aims to eliminate waste and pollution, are touting the approach as a way to reduce global greenhouse gas emissions as well as provide economic benefits, pointing to several advantages that will come from shifting to a circular economy as outlined in a new action plan. http://bit.ly/3kgmXh6

E&E News - Groups ask Congress for climate, energy spending – 2/23/21 - A large coalition of environmental groups is pushing Congress to spend big on climate, as lawmakers prepare to write infrastructure legislation. http://bit.ly/3kcXrte

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