Message

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

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2/17/21 - Environmental News Clips

R7 IN THE NEWS

Brownfield Ag News - Grassley disturbed by comments made by White House climate czar McCarthy (audio-16:47) – 2/16/21 - U.S. Senator Chuck Grassley is disturbed by comments made by new Biden climate czar Gina McCarthy. During his weekly call with ag reporters Tuesday, the Iowa Republican said the former EPA administrator under Barack Obama seemed to call out the Midwest last week. http://bit.ly/3jXsHMA

Biodiesel Magazine - Grassley urges McCarthy to visit Iowa, see renewables in action – 2/16/21 - Sen. Chuck Grassley, R-Iowa, sent a letter to White House National Climate Advisor Gina McCarthy on Feb. 16 inviting her to visit Iowa and learn about the state's leadership in renewable fuel production and sustainable energy. http://bit.ly/2NuvfWp

Iowa Agribusiness Radio Network - Grassley touts Iowa's energy industry in letter to Biden, McCarthy - 2/16/21 - In his weekly press conference call with farm reporters Tuesday morning, Senator Grassley said he was surprised when he read a quote recently attributed to McCarthy about Middle America. http://bit.ly/37ltOAC

KTTN Regional Radio Trenton MO - Missouri Department of Resources awards $1.36 million to Meadville and $4.18 million to Carrollton – 2/16/21 - The Missouri Department of Resources has awarded $1.36 million in financial assistance to the City of Meadville for upgrades to its wastewater collection and treatment system. Missouri DNR has also awarded $4.18 million to the City of Carrollton for upgrades to its drinking water distribution. Both projects will be funded through the state revolving fund loan program. http://bit.ly/3avaL9b

Ashland (NE) Gazette - County officials to meet with Mead about AltEn – 2/16/21 - The Saunders County Board of Supervisors has scheduled a special meeting on March 1 with the Village of Mead Board of Trustees and other officials to discuss the AltEn situation. http://bit.ly/3s7q98p

REGIONAL

KRVN Regional Radio Lexington NE - Canaday Steam Plant South of Lexington Fires Up Monday Morning – 2/15/21 - Nebraska Public Power District (NPPD) fired up the Canaday Steam Plant south of Lexington, Nebraska Monday morning, February 15, 2021. According to Mark Becker, Supervisor for NPPD, the steam plant hasn't ran since 2012. The Southwest Power Pool, which manages the electric grid and wholesale power market for the central United States, called for the Canaday plant to operate to provide more energy as power demands rise with the negative temps. http://bit.ly/3qsHXDM

Springfield (MO) News-Leader - City Utilities' propane backup plays key role in dealing with current natural gas shortage – 2/15/21 - The backup — dubbed the "Natural Gas Peak Shaving system" or the "Lake Springfield Natural Gas Peaking Station" was installed adjacent to the now largely-mothballed James River Power Station — the News-Leader reported in 2007. City Utilities activated it on Friday to address peak natural gas demand, officials said. http://bit.ly/3ptC5sy

KRVN Regional Radio Lexington NE - Husker Team Leading $6M Project to Study Waterways' Changing Ecology – 2/16/21 - University of Nebraska–Lincoln aquatic ecologist Jessica Corman will use a four-year, $6 million grant from the National Science Foundation's Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research program to lead a four-institution team in building a first-of-its-kind database that includes information from streams, lakes and other inland water systems across the nation. http://bit.ly/37kLlmZ

Radio Iowa - State's major utilities say they have enough electricity, natural gas to meet demand – 2/16/21 - State officials say they're monitoring natural gas supplies and the power grid in Iowa as severe weather strains utilities from the Great Plains to the Gulf of Mexico. Governor Kim Reynolds met with the Iowa Utilities Board this morning and again late this afternoon. http://bit.ly/3bbUqVX

St. Joseph (MO) News-Press - Solar company rep says 'phones have not stopped ringing' – 2/17/21 - Word of rolling blackouts across Northwest Missouri peaked the interest of some in St. Joseph and made people inquire about solar installation. http://bit.ly/3qyNWXC

Midwest Energy News - Des Moines looks for leverage to push MidAmerican on carbon-free power – 2/17/21 - The city is exploring several strategies to cut emissions, but will depend on its investor-owned utility to achieve much of its ambitious new clean energy goal. http://bit.ly/3k4MJVG

Brownfield Ag News – Missouri Farmers Have An Impact On Climate Change – 2/16/21 - Missouri farmers have a big impact on conservation and on climate change. Missouri Soybean

Association President Ronnie Russell says a new University of Missouri report shows an increase in sequestered carbon on Missouri farms. http://bit.ly/3uhMn2G

St. Louis Post-Dispatch - Environmental group criticizes plan by Missouri lawmakers to hold hearing on controversial legislation despite hazardous weather – 2/16/21 - An environmental group says a decision by leaders in the Missouri House to schedule a committee hearing during bad weather makes it difficult for the public to participate in lawmaking. http://bit.ly/3s1UP3X

St. Louis Construction Forum - Mayor Krewson Signs Transformative Electric Vehicle Ordinances into Law – 2/16/17 - Continuing her nationally recognized commitment to bold climate action at the local level, Mayor Lyda Krewson today signed into law the most comprehensive electric vehicle (EV) legislation in the Midwest. http://bit.ly/3s2VRN4

Chariton (IA) Leader - Agreement approved for landfill cap repairs at Lucas-Monroe County landfill – 2/16/21 - The Chariton City Council held discussion on and later approved an engineering agreement with HLW Engineering Group of Story City, Iowa, for necessary repairs to be done on the Landfill cap at the closed Lucas-Monroe County landfill. http://bit.ly/3u6tVKe

TRANSITION 2021

Inside EPA - Echoing Hearing, Regan Vows To Bolster EPA's Science, Equity Focus – 2/16/21 - Michael Regan, President Joe Biden's nominee for EPA administrator, is vowing in written responses to Senate environment committee Chairman Tom Carper (D-DE) to protect agency scientists from political interference and to make environmental justice (EJ) a cornerstone of EPA actions, echoing commitments from his confirmation hearing. http://bit.ly/3s39MmA

Reuters - Boeing backs Trump EPA airplane emissions standards amid Biden review - Boeing Co on Tuesday backed the EPA decision to finalize the first-ever standards regulating greenhouse gas emissions from airplanes issued under President Donald Trump in the final days of his administration. http://reut.rs/3dil5TH

Yahoo! Finance - White House National Climate Advisor Gina McCarthy on clean energy (video-5:52) – 2/16/21 - The newly appointed White House National Climate Advisor Gina McCarthy speaks with Yahoo Finance's Rick Newman to discuss President Biden's progress with clean energy and climate policy. http://bit.ly/37pUjF0

Reversing Trump: How Biden's Priority On Climate Change Can Create Jobs – 2/16/21 - President Joe Biden's agenda to combat climate change gained momentum with his signing of several executive actions in just his second week in office. The economic aspect of the new

administration's climate-change plan focuses on generating millions of well-paying jobs in renewable energy fields. http://bit.ly/2OHZlhP

Kansas Farmer – Commentary: Vilsack worked with farmers in past, will again – 2/17/21 - It is imperative that agriculture is engaged in tangible and meaningful ways, with the current administration. I begin with the above statement as it contains the prime directive, if we in agriculture are to accomplish all that needs to be done within a four-year time frame. Without a focused engagement, this opportunity may never present itself again. http://bit.ly/3iYzh5A

FUELS

AgWired - RFA State of the Ethanol Industry Address – 2/16/21 - Renewable Fuels Association President and CEO Geoff Cooper focused forward in his annual state of the industry address at the 26th annual National Ethanol Conference on ethanol as the essential energy that it is. https://bit.ly/3b7dNze

Brownfield Ag News - Building the Ethanol Export Market for Missouri Corn Farmers (Podcast) – 2/16/21 - In this edition, renewable fuels expert Kristy Moore with KMoore Consulting highlights top ethanol export markets, how and where they are looking to expand, and the role ethanol plays for Missouri corn farmers. http://bit.ly/37psnRL

Brownfield Ag News - Reynolds' proposed biofuels mandate causing division in Iowa – 2/16/21 - Iowa Governor Kim Reynolds' proposed biofuels mandate has quickly become divisive. http://bit.ly/3auRMeA

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/2NilBpY

NATIONAL

The Hill - Trump EPA ripped over approach to chemical risk evaluations in new report – 2/16/21 – The EPA said it is changing the way it evaluates risk from introducing chemicals, following a new report that criticized the agency's approach under the Trump administration. http://bit.ly/3arwPRS

The Hill - 15 states sue over Trump plan to limit automaker fines on emissions standards – 2/16/21 - A group of 15 attorneys general is petitioning the courts to block the Biden administration from fulfilling automakers' last minute request to the Trump administration to limit penalties for those who do not meet emissions standards. http://bit.ly/2ODIcO8

New York Times - A Glimpse of America's Future: Climate Change Means Trouble for Power Grids – 2/17/21 - Systems are designed to handle spikes in demand, but the wild and unpredictable weather linked to global warming will very likely push grids beyond their limits. http://nyti.ms/3k0zK7s

Phys.org - Wastewater treatment at one-third the size and cost – 2/16/21 - Wastewater treatment systems that combine conventional set-ups with a relatively new technology could reap a host of benefits: smaller plant sizes, lower energy costs and more nitrogen pollution removed. http://bit.ly/3pC9LEB

AP - The worst climate disasters in US History – 2/17/21 - One impact of climate change is that the number and severity of climate-related disasters is on the rise. http://bit.ly/2ZpmWhf

Lexology - Potential Impact PFOA and PFOS Designation as "Hazardous Substance" on Ongoing EPA-lead Investigations and Remediations – 2/16/12 - Here, in this post, we discuss what a designation of PFOA and PFOS might mean for ongoing investigations and remediations lead by EPA. http://bit.ly/3dgvvmO

Bloomberg Law - Obama, Trump Offer Biden Paths on Federal Land Renewable Plans – 2/17/21 - The Biden administration will look to the Obama administration as a blueprint to accelerate wind and solar power development on public lands—but it also may have to borrow some Trump administration policies on environmental impact reviews, trade groups and former Interior officials say. https://bit.ly/3apfWqZ

Bloomberg Law - EPA Dumps Trump-Era Chemical Analysis Approach After Rebuke – 2/16/21 - Sharp criticism from the federal government's top science advisory institute on Tuesday prompted the EPA to drop a method developed during the Trump administration to analyze chemicals. https://bit.ly/3pwZqJM

Bloomberg Law – New EPA Data Show Decline in Toxic Air Emissions From Plants – 2/16/21 - Levels of certain toxic air pollutants have been on the decline since 2019, according to EPA data released Tuesday. https://bit.ly/3qvSKwP

Inside EPA - EPA To Replace TSCA Systematic Review Approach After Harsh NAS Critique – 2/16/21 - EPA is abandoning the Trump-era approach to systematic data review that guided the first TSCA evaluations of existing chemicals and will craft a new model based in part on a National Academy of Sciences (NAS) report that said the current approach lacked objectivity "at each step" and "compromised" the program's transparency. http://bit.ly/3qoP8F3

Inside EPA - Environmentalists challenge rule loosening coal ash 'liner' mandate – 2/16/21 - Environmentalists are suing EPA over a Trump-era rule loosening restrictions on coal ash disposal sites that lack clay-polymer "hybrid" liners, adding to pressure on the Biden

administration to quickly rework its predecessor's policies that critics say unduly weakened protections against groundwater leaks. http://bit.ly/3dlut6Z

Inside EPA - Rejecting Industry Fears, States Back Model Packaging Bill Banning PFAS – 2/16/21 - A group of nine states has approved model legislation that adds per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) and phthalates to its existing plan that bars lead, mercury, cadmium and hexavalent chromium in packaging, brushing aside chemical industry concerns that an earlier proposal would result in "perverse economic consequences." http://bit.ly/2NAUKVU

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