Message

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

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2/2/21 - Environmental News Clips

R7 IN THE NEWS

Omaha World-Herald - Editorial: State must draw key lessons in wake of Mead ethanol plant's environmental concerns – 2/2/21 - The environmental concerns about the AltEn ethanol plant in Mead underscore the importance of appropriate regulation and provide important lessons for Nebraska. http://bit.ly/3ct3vvQ

REGIONAL

The Daily Iowan (University of Iowa, Iowa City - Iowa City environmentalist say U.S. re-entry into the Paris Climate Agreement a first step – 2/1/21 - President Joe Biden announced a plan to re-enter the Paris Climate Accord, which former President Trump formally left on Nov. 4. http://bit.ly/39C5A6O

Aberdeen (IA) News - Poll indicates Iowa farmers' beliefs on climate change are shifting – 1/29/21 - Climate change is impacting Iowa agriculture and negative impacts are expected to increasingly threaten agricultural productivity in the state. There are many ways, however, that farmers and landowners can increase the resiliency of production systems, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and even capture carbon. http://bit.ly/2MsLkvt

Des Moines Register - Madison County puts effective ban on new wind energy development as storm over turbines continues – 2/2/21 - The battle over wind turbines continues to rage in Iowa's Madison County, where supervisors have approved restrictions on wind and solar development that opponents say strip landowners of their rights and jeopardize new and existing renewable energy projects. http://bit.ly/3cxQf9a

Hiawatha (KS) World - Kansas Senate bill would limit local government's ability to retire fossil fuels – 2/1/21 - Cities would not be able to ban natural gas as an energy source under a bill being considered in the Kansas Senate. Environmental organizations say the bill could slow

a transition to renewable energy, while supporters say measure would help keep Kansas electric rates low. http://bit.ly/2MPzbAx

KCUR Kansas City Public Radio - Attempts To Reverse Trump's USDA Agency Changes Would Be Difficult – 2/1/21 - President Biden has been signing executive orders to reverse Trump administration policies, but some parts of Trump's legacy won't be easy to reverse. For example, research into food and farming took a major hit during the Trump years. Here's Frank Morris of member station KCUR. http://bit.ly/3cv5RKF

TRANSITION 2021

Politico - Biden's $30B agriculture arsenal – 2/1/21 - The Biden administration is poring over its options for using USDA's Commodity Credit Corporation to quickly launch its ambitious food and farm agenda without relying on appropriations from a closely divided Congress. http://poilti.co/2L9GkLE

Mother Jones - Three Big Questions the Senate Agriculture Committee Needs to Ask Tom Vilsack – 2/2/21 - Why agrichemical corporations love Biden's ag secretary pick—and sustainable farming and racial-justice advocates don't. http://bit.ly/3oAZCY4

AP - Biden's climate steps could have big impact on energy firms – 2/2/21 - President Joe Biden has put his team to work reviewing dozens of actions taken by former President Donald Trump, aiming to reverse orders that he says harm the environment or endanger public health. http://bit.ly/39C3Jim

Washington Post - With hunger surging and farms in crisis, Biden's controversial USDA nominee lays out his plans – 2/2/21 - If confirmed, Tom Vilsack will reprise his role at Agriculture — this time amid pressure to address racial injustice, climate change and the pandemic. http://wapo.st/39FquBQ

Biofuels Digest - Carbon Capture Coalition submits memo to Biden's climate team for first 100 days – 2/1/21 - In Washington, the Carbon Capture Coalition has submitted a memo to President Biden's climate team, providing a targeted list of climate, energy, infrastructure, and related federal policy recommendations for the first 100 days of the new administration and 117th Congress. http://bit.ly/2MKcMVA

Brownfield Ag News - What's on the horizon for EPA – 2/1/21 - A DC-based consulting firm principal says the EPA will be challenged to help meet the administration's ambitious climate goals in addition to its other regulatory obligations. http://bit.ly/39CcdWF

Brownfield Ag News – Rebuild Rural says scope of needed investment is staggering – 2/1/21 - A coalition of more than 250 state and national ag and rural groups are urging

President Biden to make rural infrastructure a priority in his Build Back Better in Rural America plan. http://bit.ly/3rivP8b

Brownfield Ag News – Biden Issues EO Directing USDA To Gather Farmer Input For Climate Policies – 2/1/21 - President Biden recently issued an executive order instructing USDA to gather input from farmers and ranchers on climate-related federal policy. American Farm Bureau president Zippy Duvall says he appreciates that the new administration is seeking input from agriculture. http://bit.ly/2YzZo99

CORONAVIRUS

KSNW Ch. Wichita KS - Coronavirus in Kansas: 30 more deaths, 16,669 more vaccinations – 2/1/21 - The number of Kansas deaths linked to COVID-19 is up by 30 since Friday. The new death toll is 3,809. The Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) also says another 1,983 Kansans have tested positive for the coronavirus. http://bit.ly/3cAa2oC

FUELS

Biofuels International - Skor: New opportunities on the horizon for biofuels – 2/1/21 - On working with the Biden Administration, Growth Energy CEO Emily Skor said: "But President Biden will need to act swiftly and boldly to meet the current challenges facing rural communities. If he is successful, it will send an unmistakable signal that we have a sincere partner in the White House." http://bit.ly/3jlHcK5

Brownfield Ag News – Is Ethanol A Silver Bullet For Auto Makers – 2/1/21 - An alternative fuels expert says ethanol is the answer for auto makers looking to combat climate change. http://bit.ly/2Yz0XEa

Feed And Grain - Biden Climate Goals Will Boost Ethanol for Now – 2/1/21 - The Biden administration has signaled climate issues as one of its priorities. According to a report at The Wall Street Journal, new leadership at the EPA will be in charge of determining blending obligations for 2021, which the previous administration didn't set by the Nov. 30 deadline. http://bit.ly/3pTFxqU

Wall Street Journal -Biden's Climate Goals Will Boost Ethanol for Now | Oil refiners and ethanol producers' collective pain hasn't done much to align their interests –1/28/21 - In the tug of war for former President Donald Trump's favors, oil refiners won some surprising victories over ethanol producers. Their fortunes are about to flip under President Joe Biden's climate-driven administration. http://on.wsj.com/3czFG5G

NATIONAL

Washington Post - Judge throws out Trump rule limiting what science EPA can use – 2/1/21 - Biden officials had asked the Montana federal judge to send back the Environmental Protection Agency rule limiting studies behind public health safeguards. http://wapo.st/2YAPJPJ

The Hill – Opinion: Environmentalists should lead the charge against electric vehicles – 2/1/21 - If you want to protect the environment and really care about human rights and the poor, stop investing in plug-in electric vehicles (PEVs). http://bit.ly/3rg2ziA

Lexology - The EPA's Clean Power Plan is Only Mostly Dead – 2/1/21 - The Obama administration's Clean Power Plan — an unprecedented use of the Clean Air Act to regulate greenhouse gas emissions from power plants — is only "mostly dead" and could soon spring back to life. http://bit.ly/2YFy6Oo

The Hill – Opinion: Electronic waste in the US is changing – 2/1/21 - As products get replaced faster and repaired less, electronics are also finding their way into our trash, prompting some to call electronic waste (e-waste) the fastest growing waste stream in the world. http://bit.ly/3j8gu7x

The Hill – Opinion: The Biden administration needs an energy reality check – 2/2/21 - The Biden administration needs an energy reality check. Though renewables such as wind and solar are making inroads, oil and gas will remain America's — and the world's — primary energy sources for at least the next 30 years. http://bit.ly/3jbOKPl

The Hill – Opinion: Bridging the rural divide – 2/1/21 - The deep divide between rural and urban communities is a polarization that has been exemplified by coronavirus, climate change and economic despair. http://bit.ly/2MR1a2P

ENN - Failed Storage Tanks Pose Atmospheric Risks During Disasters – 2/1/21 - When aboveground storage tanks fail during a storm and their toxic contents spread, the threat to human health can and probably will flow downwind of the immediate area. http://bit.ly/3rdoxCB

ENN - Getting the Message Right on Nature-Based Solutions to Climate Change – 2/1/21 - Nature-based solutions can play a key role in helping to tackle the climate and nature crises, while delivering other benefits for people, according to a new paper today from the Nature-based Solutions Initiative (NbSI) at the University of Oxford. https://bit.ly/3oGeoq8

Smart Water Magazine - Flagship water recycling technology delivers cash savings – 2/1/21 - A next-generation water recycling system, unveiled by water infrastructure systems specialist SDS, is promising to boost business sector efforts to save water by offering significantly improved investment returns for commercial developers and operators. https://bit.ly/3rjxQ4f

AP - Officials say oil well spill caused by equipment failure – 2/1/21 - North Dakota energy officials said Monday that 2,100 gallons of oil and 12,600 gallons of produced water released at a well near Parshall has been recovered. http://bit.ly/3atUDmP

Bloomberg Law – PFAS Resolutions Overwhelmingly Approved by Firefighters' Union – 2/1/21 - Members of the International Association of Fire Fighters voted last week to cut financial ties with gear makers due to concerns that the garments contain high levels of PFAS, so-called "forever chemicals," that some fear have led to increasing cancer rates in the fire service. https://bit.ly/3tmmyxZ

Bloomberg Law – White House Environmental Council Hires Professor as Top Lawyer – 2/1/21 - A law professor and former government lawyer will serve as the top legal official for the White House Council on Environmental Quality. https://bit.ly/3oGOHfw

Bloomberg Law – Exxon Makes $3 Billion Carbon Capture Vow After Climate Pressure – 2/1/21 - Exxon Mobil Corp. pledged to spend $3 billion on low-emission technologies through 2025 after being criticized by activist investors for its environmental record. https://bit.ly/3atY90v

Bloomberg Law – Pipeline Ruling Bolsters Environmental Standard Trump Erased – 2/2/21 - A federal court ruling on the Dakota Access pipeline boosts an environmental review standard that could be wielded against all kinds of other projects—if Trump-era regulatory moves don't get in the way. https://bit.ly/3czNW5C

Bloomberg Law – Top Environment Appropriator Aims to Direct Biden Climate Agenda – 2/2/21 - The new head of the panel overseeing funds for the Interior Department and the Environmental Protection Agency is planning to use the annual spending process to advance Democrats' agenda on protecting the environment and addressing climate change. https://bit.ly/3oKLNX4

Bloomberg Law – SEC's Lee Names Agency's First Senior Adviser for Climate, ESG – 2/1/21 - SEC Acting Chair Allison Lee has named Satyam Khanna the agency's first-ever senior policy adviser for climate and environmental, social, and governance, underscoring the elevation of ESG issues at the Democrat-led agency. https://bit.ly/2MPIlrj

Inside EPA - UCS analysis says staff departures weakened EPA's 'scientific capacity' – 2/1/21 -The Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS) in a new analysis says EPA's staff losses during the Trump administration have diminished its "scientific capacity" needed to implement TSCA and other laws. http://bit.ly/2O1hChJ

Inside EPA – Little-Used TSCA Data-Gathering Power Could Boost EPA Asbestos Review – 2/1/21 - Warning that the "good days are over," an industry attorney is predicting that the Biden EPA will respond to last month's landmark court ruling ordering the agency to require

companies to report uses or imports of asbestos by invoking a little-used TSCA authority to gather data on asbestos and possibly a host of other high-priority chemicals. http://bit.ly/3aq6lit

Inside EPA – NAS Launches Discussions On Public Health Impacts From Agriculture – 1/29/21 - The National Academy of Sciences (NAS) has launched an interdisciplinary discussion about how to reduce the human health impacts from excess nitrogen that comes from agriculture, raising questions about how to adapt farming practices to reduce nitrate in drinking water. http://bit.ly/3telyf3

Inside EPA – NRDC sues EPA over missed SDWA rule deadline – 2/1/21 - The Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) is suing EPA to force the agency to revise a rule intended to make it easier for drinking water customers to understand annual reports on the levels of contaminants found in their water, after the Trump administration missed a statutory deadline for making the changes. http://bit.ly/3ol95wE

Inside EPA – Pingree vows EPA 'rebuilding' as House appropriations panel chair – 2/1/21 - Rep. Chellie Pingree (D-ME), who leads the House Appropriations Committee panel that oversees the budgets for EPA and the Interior Department (DOI), is vowing to pursue "rebuilding" both agencies that she fears lost vast numbers of staff "and functionality" during the Trump administration. http://bit.ly/3jlXJh7

Inside EPA – Biden cancels last-minute Trump rescissions to EPA's budget – 2/1/21 - President Joe Biden has cancelled 11th-hour rescissions former President Donald Trump made to EPA and other agencies' budgets. In a Jan. 31 letter to the leaders of the House and Senate, Biden said that in accordance with the 1974 Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act, he is "withdrawing 73 proposed rescissions previously transmitted to the Congress." The withdrawals are for EPA and a host of other departments and agencies. http://bit.ly/3cvhpO1

Inside EPA – IPI outlines steps for EPA to bolster climate-related equity analyses – 2/1/21 - The Institute for Policy Integrity (IPI) at New York University School of Law is out with a new report aimed at helping EPA and other federal agencies improve climate-related environmental justice (EJ) analyses, in line with a new executive order (EO) from President Joe Biden seeking to elevate both issues. http://bit.ly/2MjEIzP

Inside EPA – Biden Goal To Issue New Paris GHG Goal By April Seen As Tight, Doable – 2/1/21 - Experts are framing the Biden administration's goal of announcing a new national target to cut greenhouse gases by April as a tight but doable timeline needed to show U.S re-engagement in international climate talks, with significant outside analysis and EPA modeling tools likely to help inform the target. https://bit.ly/3apn6u8

Inside EPA – Municipal Water Utilities Launch Campaign For Federal Affordability Help – 2/2/21 - Municipally owned wastewater and drinking water utilities are urging the Biden administration and Congress to address a trio of interrelated concerns affecting water

affordability and sustainability, launching a new campaign to press for permanent low-income customer assistance, increased EPA water infrastructure funding, and COVID-19 relief. http://bit.ly/3jckLa8

Inside EPA – Judge Grants Biden EPA Request To Vacate Trump-Era Science Policy – 2/1/21 - A federal district judge has granted the Biden EPA's request to vacate a Trump-era policy on the agency's use of scientific studies, following an earlier court decision that both stayed the controversial policy until Feb. 5 and removed the legal basis for the rulemaking by declaring it substantive rather than procedural. http://bit.ly/39DBmjU

Inside EPA – Refiners, Biofuels Groups Battle Over EPA's 2020 RFS Production Goals – 2/1/21 -Refiners and biofuels groups are sparring in legal briefs over whether the Trump EPA's renewable fuel standard (RFS) production goals for 2020 were too low or too high, in a case that poses significant implications for the Biden administration's approach to setting RFS volumes for future compliance years. http://bit.ly/3cAfrvB

Inside EPA – Environmentalists' Lawsuits Target Trump EPA TSCA Evaluations – 2/1/21 - Federal appeals courts are weighing a growing series of lawsuits filed by environmentalists and public health groups over the Trump EPA's TSCA chemical evaluations, setting the stage for opponents of the last administration to push the agency to tighten those assessments both on its own initiative and through litigation. http://bit.ly/36zem3F

Inside EPA – DOJ Settlement Including SEP Signals Biden Could Reverse Trump Ban – 2/1/21 - One of the first legal settlements the Biden Justice Department (DOJ) has signed includes a supplemental environmental project (SEP), a popular tool that had long enjoyed bipartisan support until the Trump administration largely banned them last year, signaling a potential reversal of that ban. http://bit.ly/3oGnQA8

Inside EPA – Ross Says Long-Term Focus Shaped Water Policies During Trump EPA – 2/1/21 - Trump EPA water chief Dave Ross says many of the major policy initiatives he pursued while at the agency focused on the long-term impacts of taking a holistic approach to water management and seeking to ensure the water sector workforce is secure, while noting the work of career staff in promulgating a large number of rules. http://bit.ly/2LaBeyL

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