Message

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

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2/19/21 - Environmental News Clips

EARNED NEWS

Brownfield Ag News - Carbon Monoxide Risk With Combustion Heat Sources – 2/18/21 - A regional EPA official says livestock producers need to be extra cautious with alternative heat sources during extreme cold temperatures and, in some cases, blackouts. Cody Brown, physical scientist with EPA Region 7 Air and Radiation Division in Kansas City, says any combustion equipment is a risk for carbon monoxide poisoning which can occur at even low levels. http://bit.ly/3bodYGv

DTN Progressive Farmer - Nebraska Ethanol Plant Runs Into More Environmental Problems – 2/18/21 - On Wednesday, the NDEE issued a letter of non-compliance to AltEn, directing the company to construct additional barriers to prevent further migration of the spill, to conduct hourly inspections for leaks on the plant's second digester in case it springs a leak, and to build secondary containment. http://bit.ly/3k2Q1Zk

Lincoln (NE) Journal-Star - Burst tank likely released 4 million gallons of wastewater from troubled ethanol plant – 2/19/21 - Cleanup efforts are continuing after a frozen pipe burst at the troubled AltEn ethanol plant near Mead, releasing wastewater from a 4 million-gallon tank into Saunders County waterways last week. On Thursday, AltEn submitted a plan to recover the discharged waste with the Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy, which is overseeing the task with help from the Environmental Protection Agency. http://bit.ly/3qCZtjB

Lincoln (NE) Journal-Star - Public meeting on AltEn Ethanol scheduled in Mead – 2/18/21 - The Saunders County Board of Supervisors scheduled a public meeting concerning the AltEn Ethanol plant for 7 p.m. on March 1. http://bit.ly/2ZCOn7f

KHGI Ch. 13 Kearney NE - Discharge mitigation plans received by Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy – 2/18/21 - Mead area residents will see machinery and mitigation work starting today, Feb. 18, regarding a discharge at the AltEn ethanol facility.

NDEE Director Jim Macy said it has been a constructive week for the agency in investigating and responding to the discharge. http://bit.ly/3uqpiBa

R7 IN THE NEWS

KMA Radio Shenendoah IA – Grassley touts Iowa's energy industry in letter to Biden, McCarthy - 2/19/21 - Iowa Senator Chuck Grassley says he finds recent comments from White House Climate Czar Gina McCarthy to be "disturbing." http://bit.ly/3bpsFcm

Mason City (IA) Globe Gazette - Winnebago Industries employees give Senator Grassley grand tour – 2/18/21 - With multiple questions about the RFS, Grassley said he recently communicated with President Joe Biden's Environmental Protection Agency director about the RFS, and the implication was that it will remain a priority. http://bit.ly/3duPBdc

REGIONAL

Sioux City (IA) Journal - Northwest Iowa ethanol plant joins large-scale project to capture and store carbon – 2/18/21 - Little Sioux Corn Processors has forged a deal with an Iowa-based agri-business as part of a plan to develop the world's largest carbon dioxide capture and storage project. http://bit.ly/3k7ARIQ

Lincoln (NE) Journal-Star - Lancaster County eases restrictions on wind turbines – 2/18/21 - Lancaster County commissioners eased some of the strictest rules in the country on wind turbines Thursday to make it easier to develop a renewable energy source they said was key in the local effort to confront climate change. http://bit.ly/3bphdxF

TRANSITION 2021

Lexology - Sea Change? Water Policy Under the Biden Administration – 2/18/21 - With the new year comes a new president. Will the new year and administration bring new water policy, too? Bet on it. http://bit.ly/2NLD2iU

Climatewire - Biden hits first climate milestone. What about the rest? – 2/19/21 - President Biden today is fulfilling one of his central campaign promises on climate. The rest will be harder to implement. http://bit.ly/3saJKOq

Bloomberg Law - Biden's Hefty Clean Air To-Do List Follows Early Big Promises – 2/19/21 - Outdated emissions limits, regional underfunding, and the exclusion of long-suffering communities has left more than 150 million Americans still living under unhealthy levels of pollution, and groups are calling on President Joe Biden to fill the gaps by prioritizing air quality standards. https://bit.ly/3pCAm42

Bloomberg Law - EPA Mid-Atlantic Region Asks Staff to Detail Climate-Change Work – 2/18/21 - At least one regional EPA office is asking employees to describe their climate change-

related work so the agency can build an inventory of "what we have done or are currently doing" and pass the information to incoming leadership, according to an internal email. https://bit.ly/3aEVUsV

Inside EPA - Biden Faces Call For Broad SCC Reform To Bolster Value Of GHG Policies – 2/18/21 - Days before a Biden administration working group releases an "interim" value for the social cost of carbon (SCC) used to estimate the benefits of greenhouse gas reduction measures, a top legal scholar is urging a broad reform of the SCC and the associated "discount rate" of future impacts in order to bolster the value of new EPA GHG rules. http://bit.ly/3biy3vg

Inside EPA - CEQ Withdraws Trump NEPA GHG Guide, Revives Broader Obama Policy – 2/18/21 - The White House Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) is revoking draft Trump-era guidance for how federal agencies should incorporate greenhouse gas impacts in their National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) reviews, reviving a broader Obama administration NEPA GHG policy while also planning a review of that document. http://bit.ly/2ZwFmNc

FUELS

Des Moines Register – Letter: Promoting biofuels is shortsighted – 2/19/21 - All industries suffer from self-protection when things are changing around them that are out of their control. The biofuel industry is no exception. http://bit.ly/3s8STGT

DTN Progressive Farmer - RFS Transparency Bill Introduced in US House of Representatives – 2/19/21 - The Congressional Biofuels Caucus introduced the Renewable Fuel Standard Integrity Act on Thursday, which would require the EPA to be more transparent about small-refinery exemptions. http://bit.ly/3dtWICE

Energy AgWired - Biofuels Groups Oppose General RFS Waivers – 2/19/21 - Biofuels organizations filed comments this week opposing requests from refiners, several state governors, and an environmental organization that the Environmental Protection Agency waive 2019 and 2020 Renewable Fuel Standard volumes. https://bit.ly/2M9W55Y

Brownfield Ag News - Expert provides outlook for biofuels as energy transition takes place – 2/18/21 - A leading expert on energy and geopolitics says an energy transition now underway presents challenges and opportunities for biofuels. http://bit.ly/37sk33y

Bloomberg Law - Ethanol Maker Green Plains Invests in Carbon Capture Plan – 2/18/21 - U.S. ethanol producer Green Plains Inc. is investing in an ambitious new carbon capture and sequestration project, part of Chief Executive Todd Becker's goal of transforming the company into a climate-friendly maker of sustainable corn-based ingredients. https://bit.ly/2M8RQYk

CORONAVIRUS

AP - One month in, how Biden has changed disaster management and the US COVID-19 response – 2/18/21 - The Biden administration is now re-empowering key federal agencies to return to the role sand responsibilities they were designed for within a planned national disaster management structure. http://bit.ly/3bB1uMb

McClatchy News - White House says COVID-19 vaccine shipments delayed by storm still arriving this week – 2/18/21 - States that have seen delays in receiving COVID-19 vaccines due to fierce winter storms should still get their shipments this week, weather permitting, the White House said Wednesday. http://bit.ly/3dnPKiu

Bloomberg Law - Tougher EPA Coronavirus Plan Backed by White House Task Force – 2/18/21 - The White House's Safer Federal Workforce Task Force has concurred with the EPA's coronavirus plan for employees, which takes a tougher stance than the Trump administration's. Under the plan, the EPA wants to "maximize" the use of telework during widespread community transmission and allow occupancy in no more than 25% of workspaces. https://bit.ly/2OLaITu

Inside EPA – EPA pauses office reopening, revises workplace safety plan – 2/18/21 - EPA is pausing any plans to reopen offices indefinitely during the COVID-19 pandemic, with a Feb. 17 message to the entire agency workforce describing the Biden-Harris administration's "commitment to a safe and healthy workforce." http://bit.ly/3pETZZo

NATIONAL

Pew Trusts - Environmentalists Make Long-Shot Attempt to Ban New Factory Farms – 2/19/21 - Iowa has a poop problem. The Hawkeye State's pigs, cows and chickens produce about as much waste as 134 million people—nearly the population of Russia. Most of that manure is spread onto fields as fertilizer, where significant amounts of it wash into Iowa waterways. http://bit.ly/2NGviyq

Washington Post - Pork plants in a USDA test program had higher contamination rates than traditional plants – 2/18/21 - Hogs slaughtered at pork plants where a USDA food safety inspection program was tested had contamination rates nearly twice that of hogs processed in traditional plants over a recent four-year period, information that was not disclosed during the Trump administration's push to expand the system to plants around the nation, newly released records show. http://wapo.st/3axSWWL

Greenwire - Dolphins feel impacts of oil spill a decade later – 2/18/21 - Dolphins living in the area of the 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil spill were found to have impaired immune functions a decade later, alerting scientists to the long-term effects of heavy oiling on marine life. http://bit.ly/3ucSyVF

The Hill – Blog: The climate opportunity hiding in plain sight – 2/18/21 - There is no question that President Biden's climate agenda is ambitious and comprehensive. As he prepares for his first address to Congress next week — in which he is sure to further detail his climate initiatives and budget priorities — we believe there is an important but underappreciated opportunity for him that is hiding in plain sight. http://bit.ly/37r4h95

E&E News - Supreme Court loads up on environment cases – 2/18/21 - When the Supreme Court returns from its winter recess, the justices will have an unusually heavy load of environmental cases to sift through — and potentially more to come. http://bit.ly/2OUnidS

Climatewire - After criticism, Facebook addresses climate disinformation – 2/19/21 - Facebook is ramping up its effort to increase access to climate science, even as the social media giant allows climate denial to spread among the billions of users on its platform. The company yesterday rolled out a new feature — premiering just in the United Kingdom — that would debunk common climate myths. http://bit.ly/3boqQwj

Utility DIVE - FERC to reopen 1999 policy on gas project approvals, add environmental justice considerations – 2/19/21 - The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission on Thursday voted unanimously to reopen its review of a 1999 policy statement that guides how the commission approves gas infrastructure. http://bit.ly/3uphTfc

Bloomberg Law - Wind Farms Aren't All Ready for Icing Amid Changing Climate - 2/18/21 - Bitter cold and icy conditions in Texas showed that wind farms are built for yesterday's climate and often not winterized to withstand changing weather due to climate change. https://bit.ly/2ZwdEjx

Inside EPA - DOJ Asks 10th Circuit To Stay WOTUS Appeal Despite Industry Opposition – 2/18/21 - The Justice Department (DOJ) is asking a federal appeals court to stay for 60 days an appeal of a district court ruling that blocked implementation of the Trump-era definition of waters of the United States (WOTUS), arguing that opposition to a stay from a coalition of industry groups and an Idaho couple is without merit. http://bit.ly/3bk7EQp

Inside EPA - What is EPA's next move on power plant GHG limits? – 2/18/21 - After the Biden administration's decision opting against reinstating the Obama-era Clean Power Plan (CPP) greenhouse gas rule for existing power plants, and a federal appeals court vacated the Trump EPA's narrower replacement rule, what is EPA's next move on limiting power sector GHGs? http://bit.ly/3qBDPRH

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