Message

From: R7@Work [R7-Web@epa.gov]
Sent: 2/18/2021 8:36:06 PM
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Subject: Daily Region 7 News Clips

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2/18/21 - Environmental News Clips

EARNED NEWS

Lincoln (NE) Journal-Star - Spill from troubled Mead ethanol plant traveled 4 miles in waterways, state says – 2/17/21 - The Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy on Wednesday said it's continuing to monitor the release of waste material from AltEn Ethanol near Mead after a pipe burst on a 4 million-gallon digester tank late last week. Emergency responders from the EPA's Region 7 office in Lenexa, Kansas, have also collected samples and offered assistance in cleanup. http://bit.ly/2N9nyoZ Also Cherokee Ledger-News (Woodstock, GA), Hastings (NE) Tribune, Beatrice (NE) Daily Sun, North Platte (NE) Telegraph, Scottsbluff (NE) Star-Herald, Norfolk (NE) Daily News, York (NE) News-Times, Fremont (NE) Tribune, Columbus (NE) Telegram, Kearney (NE) Hub, Grand Island (NE) Independent

Wahoo (NE) Newspaper - EPA provides support to NDEE after pipe burst at ethanol plant – 2/17/21 - After a frozen pipe burst in the wee hours of the morning on Feb. 12 at AltEn, the Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy requested aid from the Environmental Protection Agency Region 7 in Lenexa, Kan., according to a press release from the NDEE. http://bit.ly/3pBomio

Omaha (NE) World Herald - Wastewater spill at Mead ethanol plant has traveled more than 4 miles downstream – 2/17/21 - Samples of the leaked material have been taken to determine if it contains pesticides, officials said. The EPA is also on site to assess the spill, collect additional samples and give advice on cleanup. http://bit.ly/2ZsB8pN

NDEE News Release - NDEE continues to assess, monitor discharge at ethanol facility – 2/17/21 - NDEE collected samples to determine if the material contains pesticides and requested support from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 7. The EPA was on site to assess the spill, collect additional samples, give advice on cleanup and help with mitigation efforts. Sampling results could take up to two weeks to return. http://bit.ly/3gwVeev

Fence Post - NDEE continues to assess, monitor discharge at ethanol facility – 2/17/21 - The Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy responded to a discharge at the AltEn ethanol facility near Mead on Friday, Feb. 12. http://bit.ly/3pswzWZ

KFXL Ch. 51 Lincoln NE - NDEE respond to spill at Mead AltEn ethanol facility – 2/17/21 - NDEE collected samples to determine if the material contains pesticides and requested support from the EPA Region 7. https://bit.ly/3auZ3ew

WOWT Ch. 6 Omaha - Nebraska environmental authority monitors Mead ethanol facility spill – 2/17/21 - The Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy is monitoring the discharge from an ethanol facility in Mead. http://bit.ly/37I8DZZ Also KOLN Ch. 10/11 Lincoln NE, WOWT Ch. 6 Omaha,

KETV Ch. 7 Omaha NE - State directs Mead ethanol plant to contain and clean up spill – 2/17/21 - The NDEE said that as of Tuesday, the spill stopped spreading and has not reached the Platte River. The Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy (NDEE) and University of Nebraska-Lincoln researchers continue to monitor the leak at the AltEn ethanol plant in Mead. http://bit.ly/3pwHDCD

Associated Press – Wastewater Spills at Troubled Ethanol Plant Blamed on Pipe Bursts – 2/18/21 - A frozen pipe has burst at a Nebraska ethanol plant that had been ordered to close a week ago, causing a wastewater spill, environmental officials say. The spill is the latest problem at the AltEn facility. http://bit.ly/3py0nBM Also Des Moines Daily Record

KLKN Ch. 8 Lincoln/Kearney NE - NDEE monitoring 4.5 mile waste spill from Mead ethanol plant – 2/17/21 - The state says the plant has less than a day to construct plans to recover, transport and prevent any similar situations. http://bit.ly/3bIwY8P

R7 IN THE NEWS

RFD-TV - Sen. Grassley wants to show the President's Climate Advisor how Midwest farmers value the environment – 2/17/21 - An invitation from a powerful Senator after some controversial comments. Sen. Chuck Grassley says that he would like to invite the President's Climate Advisor to Iowa to show her how Midwest farmers value the environment. http://bit.ly/2NAHm4g

E&E Daily - Grassley rebukes Gina McCarthy comment, invites her to Iowa – 2/18/21 - Iowa GOP Sen. Chuck Grassley took exception to a comment Gina McCarthy made this month about middle America, so now he's inviting the White House climate adviser to come for a visit. http://bit.ly/3biAGzV

KLKN Ch. 8 Lincoln/Kearney NE - RICKETTS: Blackouts are 'unacceptable,' calls out 'radical environmentalists' – 2/17/21 - Ricketts said that coal and nuclear power offer "great reliability" vs. other clean sources like wind power and natural gas. http://bit.ly/3k386GA

REGIONAL

KETV Ch. 7 Omaha - Governor calls out reliance on wind and natural gas energy – 2/17/21 - Meanwhile, Gov. Pete Ricketts once again raised a red flag against renewable energy which he blamed for the outages. "Clearly we have become too reliant on intermittent sources of energy," Ricketts said. http://bit.ly/2ZGjkI5

Midwest Energy Network - 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/3dx9XSO

WGEM Radio Quincy IL - Missouri's first electric school bus is at a local school – 2/17/21 - Knox County superintendent Andy Turgeon said after doing research the electric bus was the best investment for the district. The bus was funded from several sources. The DNR (Missouri Department of Natural Resources) Volkswagen Trust Fund, the USDA, and Associated Electric, the REC, and the Knox County R-1 School District. http://bit.ly/3puUa9K

Farm Progress - EPA's evaluation of atrazine threatens future use | Farmers urged to comment ahead of regulatory period which closes Feb. 19. – 2/17/21 - An ongoing biological evaluation of atrazine by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency could limit the product's 63-year run and bring a $2 billion negative impact to corn, sorghum and sugarcane growers. https://bit.ly/2NiFTjh

Des Moines Register - A fierce advocate for the land: Iowa and national conservationist Paul Johnson dies at 79 – 2/17/21 - Paul W. Johnson's vision for America's farms was down to earth — literally. Johnson served as director of Iowa's Department of Natural Resources from 1999 to 2000 and as the chief of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service from 1994 to 1997. http://bit.ly/3qCvCwM

Lincoln (NE) Journal Star - Opponents criticize mayor's climate action plan as 'radical,' threatening Lincoln's economic prosperity – 2/17/21 - Rolling blackouts in Lincoln this week became evidence on both sides of an argument Wednesday over the merits of Lincoln's climate action plan. http://bit.ly/3s30abi

AP - Nebraska governor criticizes need for rolling blackouts – 2/17/21 - Nebraska avoided another round of rolling power outages on Wednesday, but Gov. Pete Ricketts criticized the

need for them at all this week, especially because they were partly driven by utility problems elsewhere in the region. http://bit.ly/3dpg5wH

Lincoln (NE) Journal Star - Local View: Nebraska's energy future - Nebraska is not competitive for large-scale development of industry in part because almost all of its energy needs are imported from places with fossil fuel resources. http://bit.ly/3k1Eyth

Midwest Energy News - Kansas City utility pivots in support of coal securitization bills in two states – 2/18/21 - After opposing such legislation in previous sessions, Evergy is backing bills in Kansas and Missouri that would help it refinance and retire coal plants ahead of schedule. http://bit.ly/2NBlrKf

St. Louis Business Journal - St. Louis County hires a permanent health director - 2/17/21 - St. Louis County Executive Sam Page said Wednesday he's hiring Dr. Faisal Khan to run the government's department of health. http://bit.ly/3bfW1fO

KTVO Ch. Kirksville MO - Department of Natural Resources offers funding to improve water quality – 2/17/21 - The Missouri Department of Natural Resources has funding available for projects that will protect Missouri's waters from pollution caused by stormwater runoff, also known as nonpoint source pollution. http://bit.ly/2Ng6j56

TRANSITION 2021

Waste DIVE - New action on horizon for sustainable materials management under Biden, experts predict – 2/17/21 - Recycling market development and food waste are among many issues stakeholders hope will receive renewed federal engagement, despite limited attention in the president's agenda to date. http://bit.ly/2NBAa8b

Bloomberg Law - State Challenge to EPA Water Rule on Hold Pending Agency Review – 2/17/21 - A lawsuit challenging the EPA's rule limiting the scope of state analysis of infrastructure projects will be on hold pending the Biden administration's review, a South Carolina federal court ruled Wednesday. https://bit.ly/2Zr0Z1d

Regulatory Freeze Must Not Delay EPA PFAS Moves, Capito Says – 2/17/21 - The EPA must be allowed to publish its preliminary conclusion to restrict two "forever chemicals" in drinking water so it can proceed to regulate them, Sen. Shelley Moore Capito (R-W.Va.) told the White House Wednesday. https://bit.ly/3u7w0Fl

Biden's Plea to Remake Grid Gets a Boost on Texas Power Crisis – 2/17/21 - The icy weather that left millions without power in Texas has critics of the Biden administration's fight against climate change blaming renewable energy, but the failures have more to do with an ill-prepared power grid and shortfalls in traditional electricity sources. https://bit.ly/2NBf1e8

Bloomberg Law - Buttigieg Sets Climate, Race Equity as Infrastructure Priorities – 2/17/21 - The Biden administration is revamping a key infrastructure grant program to prioritize projects that address climate change and racial equity. https://bit.ly/3avisff

The Guardian - 'America, send us your ideas': Biden pledges to protect 30% of US lands by 2030 – 2/17/21 - To reach this conservation goal, the country will have to conserve more than 400m acres of land and waterways in the next 10 years. http://bit.ly/3qyRZTT

Inside EPA - Updated EPA Audit Guide Signals Biden Support For Compliance Policy – 2/17/21 - EPA has released new guidance outlining the process for facility self-audits, drawing praise from industry attorneys who see the move as a sign that the Biden administration will continue to back the compliance policy after its use grew dramatically during the Trump era, even as the agency looks to ramp up enforcement. http://bit.ly/3qKVFIH

Inside EPA - EPA's Pledge To Rework TSCA Review Method Deepens Break With Trump – 2/17/21 - EPA's announcement that it will scrap and replace the Trump administration's controversial approach to systematic data review, a core element of all 10 Trump-era TSCA evaluations of existing chemicals, could further unsettle the legal status of those studies just as environmentalists are calling for the new administration to re-do them entirely. https://bit.ly/3bhnX24

Inside EPA - Environmentalists Eye Biden EPA To Revitalize Regional Haze Air Program – 2/17/21 - Environmentalists are looking to the Biden administration to push for more significant reductions in haze-forming air emissions when states submit their second round of pollution-cutting compliance plans this summer under EPA's regional haze program, after the Trump administration eased haze controls in some states. http://bit.ly/3bmbLLO

FUELS

Biofuels International - Carbon capture project to lower 'footprint' of biorefineries – 2/18/21 - Summit Carbon Solutions has partnered with a group of leading biorefiners located in Iowa, Minnesota, South Dakota and North Dakota to execute the first phase of the project, which will put them on the path of delivering net-zero carbon fuel. http://bit.ly/3udk7Or

Radio Iowa - State biofuels mandate gets first airing in Iowa legislature – 2/18/21 - Governor Kim Reynolds says it's time for an ethanol mandate in Iowa, to boost an industry battered by the EPA's resistance to the federal ethanol production mandate. http://bit.ly/2ORFOUb

Fence Post - RFA's Cooper: Zero-carbon corn ethanol is coming – 2/17/21 - "Mark my words – zero-carbon corn ethanol is coming!" Renewable Fuels Association President and CEO

Geoff Cooper told the National Ethanol Conference on Tuesday, Feb. 16, in what amounted to a defense of ethanol compared to electric vehicles. http://bit.ly/3prDsbav

Energy AgWired - New RFA Chair Opens National Ethanol Conference – 2/17/21 - Guardian Energy CEO Jeanne McCaherty took over as chair of the RFA in October so this was her first NEC welcome. McCaherty reflected on the 40th anniversary of the RFA, the toll 2020 took on the industry, and the opportunities for ethanol in a low carbon future. https://bit.ly/3pxTYXg - Audio Presentations and Interviews - http://bit.ly/37qLw61

Successful Farming – Ethanol, Facing Slow Recover, Rebrands as Climate-Friendly Fuel – 2/17/21 - Battered by the pandemic, the ethanol industry labeled itself on Tuesday as the climate-friendly automobile fuel of the future. Officials said it could be a year or more before straggling biofuel sales recover fully from the coronavirus. http://bit.ly/3dqYIAL

Iowa Farmer Today - Biofuel bill would set 10% minimum standard for Iowa – 2/17/21 - A bill introduced in the legislature and backed by Gov. Kim Reynolds could set a biofuel standard for the state of Iowa. http://bit.ly/3bnXs9Q

CORONAVIRUS

Nature - The coronavirus is here to stay — here's what that means – 2/16/21 - A *Nature* survey shows many scientists expect the virus that causes COVID-19 to become endemic, but it could pose less danger over time. https://go.nature.com/3dxorlE

Kansas City Beacon - For older adults in Kansas City, getting the COVID-19 vaccine is riddled with digital obstacles – 2/17/21- One of the primary ways to schedule a COVID-19 vaccination appointment exists online. But older adults are more likely to lack access to the resources to successfully navigate those forms. http://bit.ly/3bjifPZ

White House says U.S. vaccinations picking up – 2/18/21 - The White House said the U.S. is vaccinating some 1.7 million people per day, up from under 1 million a month ago. New figures from the White House show the steady increase in the pace of vaccinations over President Joe Biden's first month in office. http://bit.ly/3ub3zqA

Omaha (NE) World-Herald - Editorial: Leaders at all levels must provide public with clarity on COVID situation – 2/18/21 - Uncertainty over the vaccination situation is weighing on Americans almost as much as the COVID threat itself. http://bit.ly/37rdYEK

Missouri Independent - Added COVID-19 testing on the way with $1.6B from the Biden administration – 2/17/21 - The Biden administration is directing $1.6 billion to bolster COVID-19 testing nationally, including money to expand testing in schools and homeless shelters,

boost supplies needed for testing, and analyze results to more quickly identify new strains of the virus. http://bit.ly/3ua9OuD

NATIONAL

FCW - Warner seeks answers from FBI, EPA on Florida water utility breach – 2/17/21 - The chairman of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence is calling on the FBI and the EPA to provide more information about the cybersecurity breach at a Florida water utility earlier this month. http://bit.ly/3qIufQW

AP - FBI issues cybersecurity outline for water treatment plants – 2/17/21 - A four-page joint advisory from the FBI, the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, the EPA and Multi-State Center for Internet Security has been circulated among Vermont officials outlining how to avoid cyberattacks. http://bit.ly/3s6D1ok

Cleaning & Maintenance Management - Study Examines the Impact of Disinfectants on Asthma – 2/17/21 - As commercial and residential facilities undergo more frequent cleaning and disinfecting to help control the spread of the coronavirus, a study published in the *Journal of Allergy and Clinical Immunology: In Practice* found that people with asthma have less control over their condition due to the increased use of disinfectants, *HealthDay* reports. http://bit.ly/3dvz8FH

The Hill - Capito asks White House to allow toxic chemicals rule to proceed – 2/17/21 - Sen. Shelley Moore Capito (R-W.V.) in a letter to the White House on Wednesday said the Biden administration has frozen a "significant" action on perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) drinking water standards with a recent executive order and asked the administration to "promptly" publish the rule in question. http://bit.ly/3awlr65

Politico - The lessons from the winter storm – 2/17/21 - The winter storms that have paralyzed nearly all of Texas are proving to be a real-time lesson in the chaos climate change can inject into markets, industries and politics. http://politi.co/3u8WCWX

Roll Call - Trump's energy plan was vacated and Obama's is outdated. What's next? – 2/17/21 - The acting administrator for EPA's air office, Joseph Goffman, said in a memo Friday that reinstating the Obama-era plan — a pollution rule that set tougher standards than the agency did during the Trump administration — would "not make sense." http://bit.ly/3pv4Ui2

Report: Pandemic put US on track to meet Paris climate goals – 2/18/21 - Renewable energy saw a record-setting level of deployment in 2020 as coal consumption dwindled, figures show. Transportation emissions may jump this year. http://bit.ly/3puMxzR

Environmental News Network - Plastic Recycling Results in Rare Metals Being Found in Children's Toys and Food Packaging – 2/17/21 - Some of the planet's rarest metals – used in

the manufacture of smartphones and other electrical equipment – are increasingly being found in everyday consumer plastics, according to new research. https://bit.ly/3blUp1C

Environmental News Network - Scientists Develop Blood Test to Predict Environmental Harms to Children – 2/17/21 - Scientists at the Columbia Center for Children's Environmental Health (CCCEH) developed a method using a DNA biomarker to easily screen pregnant women for harmful prenatal environmental contaminants like air pollution linked to childhood illness and developmental disorders. http://bit.ly/37q3xBs

Christian Science Monitor - Why is it so cold? Also, why is it so warm? Scientists explain. – 2/17/21 - Record subzero temperatures and deep freezes in Texas, Oklahoma, and Mexico cut millions of people off the power grid on Tuesday. But places like Greenland and Norway are seeing warm weather. Scientists shine light on what the polar vortex has to do with it all. http://bit.ly/3s1XMSf

Environmental News Network - Climate Change and Suppression Tactics are Critical Factors Increasing Fires – 2/17/21 - The millions of people affected by 2020's record-breaking and deadly fires can attest to the fact that wildfire hazards are increasing across western North America. http://bit.ly/3qyDS0R

Brownfield Ag News – EPA Refining Approach to Chemical Risk Evaluations – 2/17/21 - The EPA says it is refining its approach to selecting scientific studies used to inform chemical risk evaluations. The evaluations apply to any substances that could be toxic to humans or the environment including various agriculture products. http://bit.ly/2NEr0HI

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. https://nyti.ms/3k0zK7s

Texas Tribune - No, frozen wind turbines aren't the main culprit for Texas' power outages – 2/16/21 - Lost wind power was expected to be a fraction of winter generation. All sources — from natural gas, to nuclear, to coal, to solar — have struggled to generate power during the storm that has left millions of Texans in the dark. http://bit.ly/3jYWhBx

Climatewire - Analysis: The real reasons Texas went dark – 2/18/21 - On Sunday night, as a burst of Arctic air swept southward across the Great Plains, power plants in Texas started flicking offline. Wind generation fell 32% between 9 p.m. Sunday and 3 a.m. Monday local time, according to U.S. Energy Information Administration figures. Coal dropped 13%. And natural gas generation, the cornerstone of the Texas grid, plummeted 25% over that six-hour period. http://bit.ly/3dtfD0e

Utility DIVE – Opinion: No state is an island — Transmission keeps the lights on – 2/18/21 - How many "unprecedented" weather events does it take before we realize that the future is inherently uncertain? No power system engineer can offer more wisdom than Yogi Berra's: "The future ain't what it used to be," and "it's tough to make predictions, especially about the future." http://bit.ly/3awj7Nw

NPR - How Much Is The Weather In Texas Due To Climate Change? – 2/18/21 - NPR's Steve Inskeep talks to James Marshall Shepherd, director of the atmospheric sciences program at the University of Georgia, about if climate change is responsible for the nation's violent storms. http://n.pr/3saZZLf

E&E News - Democrats put scrapping Trump rules on the back burner – 2/18/21 - Talk about the Congressional Review Act flared in early January, after Democrats won the Georgia Senate races and secured the chamber majority. The once rarely cited 1996 law was thrust into the national spotlight as Democrats and regulatory policy wonks speculated about which Trump regulations might be quickly repealed. http://bit.ly/37qDNVf

The Revelator - The Extinction Crisis: Coming to a Dinner Table Near You? – 2/15/21 - Wild plants related to our main agricultural crops are important to future food security. But more than half are endangered, a new study finds. http://bit.ly/2ZvcMM0

Bloomberg Law - Trump's Energy Chief Says Renewables to Blame for Texas Crisis – 2/16/21 - Dan Brouillette, who served as former President Donald Trump's Energy secretary, says that intermittent renewable power was largely to blame for the ongoing power crisis in Texas. https://bit.ly/3qyW7TU

AP – Column: Air filters can scrub out pollutants near highways, reduce blood pressure – 2/18/21 - For people living near busy highways, using air filters indoors results in short-term improvements to blood pressure, according to a new study I co-authored. http://bit.ly/3k0pcFf

Greenwire - Firefighters' Catch-22: Protective gear full of carcinogens (First in a series.) – 2/16/21 –Firefighters are exposed to cancer-causing chemicals in the very clothing and gear that is meant to protect them, a paradox that stems from standards set under industry influence. http://bit.ly/3dr49u3

Greenwire - Firefighters face lies, 'phony' studies on PFAS exposure (Second in Series) – 4/17/21 - Firefighters attempting to uncover the truth about carcinogens in their protective clothing are confronted with the same playbook chemical companies have used for decades: twisting science to deny and downplay the dangers of their products. http://bit.ly/2NjI0Dl

Energywire - DOE, White House: Don't blame wind for grid crisis – 2/18/21 - The Biden administration pushed back yesterday against false claims that frozen wind turbines were

mostly to blame for power outages plaguing Texas, saying that the crisis was caused primarily by gas, coal and nuclear failures. http://bit.ly/3pt92p7

Inside EPA - Ambiguities In TSCA Orders Spur Call For Firms To Work With EPA On Tests – 2/17/21 - Industry attorneys are warning that EPA's recent round of TSCA orders for companies to conduct occupational exposure monitoring studies of several chemicals under evaluation left unclear the exact targets of some of those tests, and are urging firms to seek clarification lest they produce data the agency would consider irrelevant or unusable. http://bit.ly/3dm1gCl

Inside EPA - Study Finds Zero-Waste Options Spur More Jobs Than Disposal Methods – 2/18/21 - A new study by supporters of novel zero-waste strategies finds that such systems create a greater number of jobs, at higher wages, than disposal-based approaches that mainly rely on traditional landfilling or incinerating waste. http://bit.ly/37rqryW

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