Message

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

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# 2/11/21 - Environmental News Clips

## R7 IN THE NEWS

**Wahoo (NE) Newspaper - City council lends support to AltEn opposition – 2/10/21 -** The Ashland City Council its lending support to an effort to force an ethanol plant in Mead to clean up its mess. http://bit.ly/373tKFG

**Wahoo (NE) Newspaper - Bostleman presents LB507 in committee hearing - 2/10/21 -** District 23 Sen. Bruce Bostelman explained LB507 will prohibit utilizing treated seed corn in ethanol development. If the bill were to be passed, the bill's emergency clause means the prohibition would go into effect immediately. http://bit.ly/3pbqNZQ

**Quad-City Times - Grassley, Ernst call on Biden administration to release vaccine allocation numbers – 2/10/21 -** Iowa Republican U.S. Sens. Charles Grassley and Joni Ernst say greater transparency is needed from the Biden administration on the state's allocation of COVID-19 vaccines, as reports suggest Iowa ranks near the bottom of states in vaccines delivered. http://bit.ly/3tKN9ou

## REGIONAL

**Nebraska Today (UN-Lincoln) - Youth panel to focus on climate change solutions – 2/11/21** - The 2020-21 E.N. Thompson Forum on World Issues continues Feb. 23 with a Cooper Conversation youth panel, "Naming the Beast: Climate Change and Our Youth Taking Action," livestreamed at 7 p.m. from the Johnny Carson Center for Emerging Media Arts. http://bit.ly/373ZEBH

**St. Louis Post-Dispatch - As more cars go electric, Missouri's fleet remains exclusively gas-powered – 2/10/21** - Although General Motors has pledged to stop making gasoline-powered vehicles by 2035, Gov. Mike Parson's administration is not yet studying what it will cost to convert the state's fleet to an all-electric lineup. http://bit.ly/3qdE7Ov

**Missouri Times - Opinion: Missouri needs climate action. Preemption stands in the way – 2/10/21** - Missouri is joining the ranks of many states across the country currently attempting to ban movements towards electrification at the local level. http://bit.ly/3rJZHuE

**Mexico (MO) Ledger - Report: Continued conservation practices by soybean farmers making an impact – 2/10/21**- A new report identifies the incredible impact from Missouri farmers' efforts around soil conservation and climate change. http://bit.ly/3paPLZs

**Axios - Mysterious elevated chloride levels documented in Des Moines streams – 2/10/21** - Elevated levels of chloride have been consistently documented in at least 11 metro area stream test sites, according to a new report from the Polk County Conservation Board. http://bit.ly/3jGCma5

**Des Moines Register – 2/10/21 - After a decade and a campaign that included a YouTube plea for funds, Iowa town will be allowed to raise its levee – 2/10/21 -** Nearly a decade after being told to lower their town's flood protection levee — and two years after being inundated with Missouri River floodwaters — the residents of the southwest Iowa town of Hamburg finally got some good news Wednesday. The Army Corps of Engineers, in an announcement, said it had approved the city's plan to raise its levee by about 8 feet. http://bit.ly/3d00nl4

**Hutchinson (KS) News - Kansas pollinator conference examines impact of climate change, regenerative farming and more on bees – 2/10/21** - There are all types of livestock, from those with four legs to those underground to ones with wings. Sarah Red-Laird, the executive director of Bee Girl, a nonprofit organization based in Oregon, gave the keynote address during the virtual Pollinators on the Plains conference. http://bit.ly/375ALFP

**Food & Water Watch - Iowans Demand Legislative Action on Factory Farm Moratorium – 2/10/21 -** This week, Representative Art Staed (D-Cedar Rapids) and Senator Pam Jochum (D-Dubuque) introduced a new house bill (HF 440) and companion senate bill (SF 282) that, if passed, would stop all new factory farms in the state. http://bit.ly/2Z8LLOw

**2021 TRANSITION**

**Lexology - EPA under the Biden Administration - What the Regulated Community Can Expect – 2/10/21 -** President Joseph R. Biden and his Administration will present a stark contrast to his predecessor's approach to the environment. First and foremost, President Biden believes that climate change is the greatest threat facing our country and our planet. http://bit.ly/3tMtJB

**Reuters/AgWeb - Biden's EPA Pick to Review Options for Biofuel Blending Law Beyond 2022 – 2/10/21** - President Joe Biden's pick to lead the Environmental Protection Agency said

he will confer with legal and policy teams to understand the options available for setting mandates to blend biofuels into the nation's fuel mix beyond 2022. https://bit.ly/2MV0Qk6

**Bloomberg Law - Biden May Give Wall Street More Climate Data, and Fast (Podcast) – 2/10/21 -** President Joe Biden's nominee to lead the Securities and Exchange Commission hasn't even been confirmed by the Senate yet. But Bloomberg Law's Andrew Ramonas says the agency may not wait for a permanent leader to begin pushing companies to disclose more climate change information to their investors. https://bit.ly/3jGnLf0

**Bloomberg Law - Biden's Green-Grid Timeline 'Difficult', Power Trade Group Says – 2/10/21** - The Biden Administration's goal of a carbon-free U.S. electricity grid by 2035 would be an "incredibility difficult situation to handle" for most power companies, according to the head of utility trade group Edison Electric Institute. https://bit.ly/3peTncG

**FUELS**

**CStoreDecisions - Growth Energy Applauds Senate Push on Biofuel Infrastructure – 2/10/21 -** The Renewable Fuel Infrastructure Investment and Market Expansion Act would authorize $500 million over five years for infrastructure grants, building on programs like the USDA's Biofuel Infrastructure Partnership and the Higher Blends Infrastructure Incentive Program. http://bit.ly/3jDnnOe

**Brownfield Ag News – Ethanol Leader: "Stop Handing SRE's Out Like Candy On Halloween – 2/10/21** - An ethanol expert is watching the new EPA leaders closely this year to see how they handle small refinery exemptions under the renewable fuels standard. http://bit.ly/3aRZzCw

**CORONAVIRUS**

**AP - 'Overwhelm the problem': Inside Biden's war on COVID-19 – 2/10/12 -** Where the last administration addressed the pandemic with the vernacular of a natural disaster — using the Federal Emergency Management Agency's mantra of a "federally supported, state managed and locally executed" response — President Joe Biden's team is borrowing from the Pentagon and the doctrine of overwhelming force. http://bit.ly/3qb9Qln

**Wichita (KS) Eagle - Can Kansas have a normal summer? Here's how many more vaccine doses are needed weekly – 2/10/21 -** The top doctor leading the Kansas response to the coronavirus pandemic said the state needs five times as many COVID-19 vaccine doses each week in order for Kansans to have a normal summer in 2021. http://bit.ly/3p7aq0t

**WIBW Ch. 13 Topeka KS - Kansas ranks near last among U.S. states in COVID vaccination rate – 2/10/21 -** Kansas is almost dead last when it comes to getting the vaccine out--48th out of all 50 U.S. states. It seems that Kansas continues to struggle in getting the

vaccine out. We are second from last according to Becker's Hospital Review. http://bit.ly/3rNsrTh

**Wyandotte (KS) Daily - Kansas to receive a little more COVID-19 vaccine – 2/10/21 -** The state of Kansas will receive a slight increase in the amount of COVID-19 vaccine, according to Gov. Laura Kelly. The state will receive close to 82,650 doses, she said at a news conference on Wednesday afternoon. That is an increase of more than 2,000 doses from last week. http://bit.ly/3qdKtZh

**Topeka (KS) Capital-Journal - Kansas adds 1,900-plus COVID-19 cases as 'numbers continue to improve' – 2/10/21** - Between Monday and Wednesday, Kansas reported 1,934 new COVID-19 cases, 106 new deaths and 91 new hospitalizations, according to the Kansas Department of Health and Environment. http://bit.ly/3jGHzPb

**Wichita (KS) Eagle - COVID vaccine shots begin at Kansas Walmarts on Friday. See which store is nearest you – 2/10/21** - Twenty Walmart pharmacies in Kansas will begin giving COVID shots on Friday as part of a federal retail pharmacy program. http://bit.ly/2OwMF5r

**New York Times - Coronavirus in the U.S.: Latest Map and Case Count – 2/11/21 -** At least 3,252 new coronavirus deaths and 94,855 new cases were reported in the United States on Feb. 10. Over the past week, there has been an average of 104,554 cases per day, a decrease of 36 percent from the average two weeks earlier. http://nyti.ms/3abdpR3

**New York Times - See How the Vaccine Rollout Is Going in Your State – 2/10/21 -** The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said on Wednesday about 33.8 million people have received at least one dose of a Covid-19 vaccine, including about 10.5 million people who have been fully vaccinated. http://nyti.ms/2NlxDj3

**NATIONAL**

**Buzzfeed - Trump Led An "All-Out Assault" On The EPA. Now Biden Has To Rebuild It. – 2/10/21 -** After four years at the wheel, the Trump administration came closer to taking down the EPA than many employees thought was possible. http://bit.ly/3aTfPmx

**Yahoo! Money - Climate change will cause industry disruptions at 'unprecedented rate': Gro Intelligence CEO (video) – 2/11/21** - Sara Menker, Gro Intelligence Founder and CEO, joins 'Influencers with Andy Serwer' to discuss the impact that climate change will have on the global food supply in the near future. http://bit.ly/3qbd7zr

**Environment America - New report: Toxic waste cleanup efforts lag, putting Americans at risk | Funding shortfalls hinder 'Superfund' program's ability to clean up toxic sites – 2/10/21 -** One in six Americans lives within three miles of a toxic waste site so dangerous that it

has been approved or proposed for cleanup under the federal government's "Superfund" program. http://bit.ly/2MV7zdU

**Chemical & Engineering News - Declining funds slow US hazardous waste cleanup | Start of remediation at many EPA Superfund sites delayed – 2/10/21** - The federal Superfund program for cleaning up toxic waste sites in the US has slowed over the past 20 years as its funding dwindled, an analysis finds. http://bit.ly/3rP3UNH

**Microsoft News - Funding shortfall drastically impedes Superfund cleanup, leaving millions of Americans in the toxic lurch: report – 2/11/21** - Superfund cleaning monies have dwindled in the past 20 years to a fraction of what's needed for cleanup, leaving one in six Americans living within three miles of a dangerously toxic site. http://bit.ly/3p5STpi

**Forbes - As Recyclables Pile Up, A New Approach May Help Cut The Heap Down To Size – 2/11/21** - It's easy to blame consumers for throwing all sorts of the wrong things in recycling bins, but environmentalists are now calling for a different solution – pressuring manufacturers to help dispose of the materials they use to package their products. http://bit.ly/373Jecu

**Daily Yonder - Is There Green Energy Waiting to Be Unlocked From Hogs' Waste? – 2/10/21** - Turning hog manure into renewable natural gas sounds like a win for both hog farms and communities that live around them. But the truth is far less appealing, more complicated and still stinks to high heaven. http://bit.ly/2OsIA3c

**Bloomberg - Trump's Environmental Policies Killed Thousands of People, Scientists Say – 2/10/21** - The British medical journal *The Lancet* released a new report attributing 22,000 deaths in 2019 to the former president's regulatory rollbacks. http://bloom.bg/3d3xCdq

**Bloomberg Law - Trump EPA Actions Caused Thousands of Deaths, Lancet Finds – 2/10/21** - The Trump administration deliberately harnessed racism and class animosity to push policies that caused hundreds of thousands of U.S. deaths, according to a scathing new report in the British medical journal *The Lancet*. https://bit.ly/2Z9o094

**The Hill – Opinion: We can build the economy while addressing the climate crisis and environmental injustice – 2/10/21** - Time is running out and millions of lives are on the line. We have already lost so much; swift action must be our top priority. http://bit.ly/3jBGW9O

**Brookfield Institute – Commentary: Will the Climate Crisis Change the Way We Work? – 2/10/21** - From wildfires to flooding, the effects of the global climate crisis are accelerating fast — as are attempts to kickstart the growth of the green economy. http://bit.ly/370CdcA

**AP - Amazon ordered to stop selling illegal pesticides online – 2/10/21** - Amazon.com, Inc. has been ordered for the third time in three years to stop selling illegal pesticides on its online

marketplace, including some products claiming to kill viruses, federal officials said. http://bit.ly/2NlKRv6

**Bloomberg Law - Ford EV F-150 Battery Supplier Loses Fight Over U.S. Imports - 2/10/21** - SK Innovation Co.'s South Korean-made batteries will be banned from the U.S. for 10 years, dealing a potential blow to efforts by Ford Motor Co. and Volkswagen AG to ramp up production of electric vehicles. https://bit.ly/3jGKdEB

**Bloomberg Law - Water Plant Cyberattack Is Wake Up Call, 20 Years in the Making – 2/10/21** - A cyberattack on a Florida water treatment plant underscores the need for strong security protections at the municipal level, attorneys and industry professionals say. https://bit.ly/2OuthG7

**Inside EPA – EPA Jump-Starts Major HFC Regulation Using New Statutory Authority –** 2/10/21 - The Biden EPA is taking the first step toward regulating climate-warming hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) under new Clean Air Act authority it received from a bipartisan law enacted late last year, floating a data notice to inform a pending rule setting production limits for the chemicals used in refrigeration and other sectors. http://bit.ly/3pbDlLk

**Inside EPA – Environmentalists Praise EPA Decision To Freeze Trump PFAS Proposal – 2/10/21** - Environmentalists are hailing EPA's decision to freeze and review an 11th-hour proposal by the Trump EPA that dropped a prior commitment to designate two per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) as "hazardous substances" under the Superfund law and instead said the agency would weigh whether they should receive such a designation. http://bit.ly/3jDzqUm

**Inside EPA – Utilities, Environmentalists Seek Negotiated Rulemaking For SDWA Policy – 2/10/21** - Drinking water utilities and two environmental groups are jointly asking EPA to conduct a negotiated rulemaking to develop updates to the agency's Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) rules for microbial pathogens and disinfection byproducts, noting the agency used this approach for the existing rules. http://bit.ly/3jQUluV

**Inside EPA – Despite EPA Guidance, Groundwater Permitting Decisions Remain Murky – 2/10/21** - The Trump EPA's guidance on implementing the Supreme Court's test for determining when pollutants that travel through groundwater to surface waters require a Clean Water Act (CWA) discharge permit is unlikely to be of much assistance to industry, due to ongoing legal uncertainty and a likely change in approach from the Biden administration. http://bit.ly/376lln5

**Inside EPA – Environmentalists threaten to sue EPA over delayed ozone plans – 2/10/21** - Environmental groups Center for Biological Diversity (CBD) and Center for Environmental Health (CEH) are threatening to sue EPA over its failure to ensure that several states have

Clean Air Act plans in place to implement federal ozone standards in major metropolitan areas including New York, Los Angeles and Chicago. http://bit.ly/3aZtHM4

**Inside EPA – Former SAB staffer sees challenges for Regan to bolster EPA – 2/10/21 -** Former EPA Science Advisory Board (SAB) career staffer Chris Zarba says Michael Regan, President Joe Biden's nominee to lead the agency, faces significant challenges in revamping the agency following the Trump administration's budget cuts and deregulatory actions, calling for a funding hike and a change in how EPA promotes its rules. http://bit.ly/3qaQPOg

**Inside EPA – Environmentalists press EPA for answers on radioactive byproduct plan – 2/10/21 -** Environmentalists say EPA has failed to give a timely response to their Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request for "all records" related to the agency's October decision to allow the use of a radioactive byproduct from fertilizer production as a component in federal road construction. http://bit.ly/3pb8XpR

**Inside EPA – EPA Expands Reviews Of Trump TSCA Actions, Strengthening Biden Plans** – 2/10/21 - EPA is broadening its efforts to revisit and potentially withdraw or rewrite Trump-era toxics rules, chemical studies and other actions issued under TSCA, adding to what is already an aggressive agenda by the Biden administration to comprehensively rework the Trump EPA's approach to implementing the toxics law. https://bit.ly/3bhnX24

**Inside EPA – EPA Registers Copper Alloys As First Durable COVID Disinfectant – 2/10/21 -** EPA has certified that surfaces made from certain copper alloys "provide long-term effectiveness" against viruses including the SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus that causes COVID-19, marking the first time the agency has met its long-sought goal to grant a nationwide approval for a product as a "durable" disinfectant against the virus. http://bit.ly/3ac8uPU

**Inside EPA – EPA Weighs Calls For Strict Rules To Satisfy TSCA's EJ Mandates** – 2/10/21 -Environmentalists are urging EPA to strictly regulate two chemicals the agency recently evaluated, arguing that only strict limits on their uses will satisfy TSCA's mandate to protect susceptible groups, adding to their calls for the agency to go beyond Trump-era evaluations they see as too lenient. http://bit.ly/2MMloPv

**Inside EPA – EPA Weighing Computational Tool To Prioritize Chemicals For TSCA Review – 2/10/21 -** EPA's toxics office is considering a new computational toxicology tool that could aid efforts to pre-screen chemicals before "prioritizing" them for TSCA risk evaluations, offering a possible remedy for long-standing concerns about the volume of information the agency must gather to support the assessments under short statutory deadlines. http://bit.ly/2OkOQtY

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