Message

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

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2/4/21 - Environmental News Clips and Special Clips - Michael Regan Confirmation Hearing

R7 IN THE NEWS

KOLN Ch. 10/11 Lincoln NE - 'It is poison': Mead residents describe effects of city's ethanol plant – 2/3/21 - There's a growing concern in Mead, Nebraska about the ethanol plant within the city. This has lead Senator Bruce Bostelman to bring legislation to prohibit treated seed corn if it's harmful to people and livestock. http://bit.ly/3rklFTx

Omaha World-Herald – Bill would force ethanol plant near Mead to stop using pesticide-treated seed corn - 2/4/21 - State lawmakers were urged Wednesday to quickly advance and pass a bill that would force an ethanol plant near Mead to stop using pesticide-treated seed corn to produce fuel. http://bit.ly/2LjUkTl

Shawnee Mission Post - Johnson County neighbors organize in opposition to 600-acre Edgerton warehouse project – 2/4/21 - "The potential increase in runoff from Edgerton because of a development expanding the extent of impervious surface would not be something KDHE or EPA would regulate nor prohibit," Kristi Zears, communications director of the Kansas Department of Health and Environment said in an email. http://bit.ly/2MpvaTV

Cedar Rapids Gazette - Sen. Chuck Grassley anticipates smooth Senate confirmation for Tom Vilsack as ag secretary – 2/3/21 - Iowa's Republican U.S. Sen. Chuck Grassley said he anticipates a smooth Senate confirmation of former Iowa Gov. Tom Vilsack as President Joe Biden's pick to again head the U.S. Department of Agriculture. http://bit.ly/39Ncjen

REGIONAL

KOAM Ch. 7 Joplin/Pittsburg - Galena receives $40,000 grant to improve water treatment system – 2/3/21 - The Missouri Department of Natural Resources is awarding a $40,000 grant

to the city of Galena, Kansas. The funds will be used to evaluate Galena's wastewater system. http://bit.ly/2YJ4oIr

Webster (MO) County Citizen – Opinion: DNR, gas leak shows state's incompetency – 2/3/21 - Last week, thanks to the diligence of North Ward Alderman William Pogue and his quest for the simple truth, the Missouri Department of Natural Resources (DNR) provided the city of Seymour with some answers regarding the seemingly eternal situation with the smell of gasoline and associated gas leakage into the city's sewer lines on North Frances Street. As one would expect, the answer from the DNR was vague. http://bit.ly/3trekod

2021 TRANSITION

Hutchinson (KS) News - Proposed secretary of agriculture wants to focus on the environment and trade; many Kansas leaders support him – 2/3/21 - Many leaders in Kansas' agriculture community are excited to have former Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack head back to this position. For everyone, he is a known commodity. http://bit.ly/3riYmdg

Washington Times - Biden's Pentagon makes effects of climate change central to military planning – 2/3/21 - Across the armed forces, climate change and its ripple effects are taking center stage in the Biden administration's Pentagon. http://bit.ly/2Lp1hCE

The Hill - Water infrastructure — the unmet needs of low-income communities – 2/3/21 - To meet the promise of its day one executive order on Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities, the Biden administration needs to provide low-income communities, communities of color and Indigenous people the same access to clean and safe water that the rest of our nation takes for granted. http://bit.ly/2NVq9mb

Lexology - Environmental Justice in the Biden Administration – 2/3/21 - The Biden Administration is seeking to advance "environmental justice" (EJ) through its policy and regulatory priorities in a way that no administration has before. http://bit.ly/39N9x8L

Bloomberg Law - Green Hydrogen Backers See Opening in Biden Climate Ambition – 2/3/21 - The green hydrogen industry says it needs the Biden administration and Congress to push on the demand side and pull on the supply side if it wants the technology to play a part in reducing the nation's carbon emissions. https://bit.ly/3tuyuOi

Bloomberg Law - EPA Fleshes Out Ranks With More Former Obama-Era Appointees – 2/3/21 - The Biden administration continued fleshing out its EPA ranks on Tuesday, appointing a mixture of Obama-era holdovers and academics to key roles. https://bit.ly/3pQPThH

Bloomberg Law - Biden Puts Weight Behind Climate Pledge With Rules Office Pick – 2/3/21 -President Joe Biden has picked Obama-era environmental official Alex Barron as senior counselor in the White House regulatory review office, adding a climate scientist to the team

that will vet and sign off on rules written by agencies across the federal government. https://bit.ly/3tmsxTv

Biden Administration Names Climate Advisors at NASA, SEC, USDA, GSA – 2/3/21 - President Joe Biden is continuing to build out an administration-wide climate infrastructure with new appointments. This interagency "climate cabinet," anchored by National Climate Advisor Gina McCarthy and Special Presidential Envoy for Climate John Kerry in the White House, looks to extend to every department. https://bit.ly/2YHAm7R

CORONAVIRUS

KSHB Ch. 41 Kansas City - Kansas, Missouri officials say supply continues to be major obstacle in COVID-19 vaccine rollout – 2/3/21 - On both sides of the state line in Kansas and Missouri, COVID-19 vaccine demand continues to outpace supply. "We do not have enough, and that is without question the source of anxiety," Dr. Lee Norman of the Kansas Department of Health and Environment. http://bit.ly/3oOtiY0

KSNT Ch. 27 Topeka KS - Kansas health officials find UK COVID-19 variant case in state - 2/3/21 - The Kansas Department of Health and Environment said it identified the first case of the United Kingdom variant of the coronavirus. KDHE said it found the case in Ellis County. http://bit.ly/2MqWJfC

AP - A return to normal from COVID is still a ways off, Kansas doctors say – 2/3/21 - Despite improvement in pandemic indicators and the continued roll-out of COVID-19 vaccines, the top doctor in Kansas says it is too early to celebrate and start returning back to normal. http://bit.ly/3oLvZmP

AP - Does double-masking provide more protection? Get answers to common COVID-19 questions. – 2/2/21 - Does wearing two masks provide more protection? It depends, but it's possible that doubling up could help in some situations. http://bit.ly/2YJDQgx

Missouri Independent - Health leaders appeal to Congress for more vaccines, better communication, increased funding – 2/3/21 - State health officials from around the country had a clear answer when asked Tuesday what they need to better vaccinate their residents: more doses, more information to guide their planning and more money to pay for the mammoth undertaking. http://bit.ly/3jp04l4

FUELS

Fence Post - Renewable fuels look to states, marketplace, exports – 2/3/21 - While renewable fuels industry officials will continue to push the EPPA to maintain favorable policies

for the industry, their organizations are increasingly focusing on the role that the states, the marketplace and exports can play in increasing consumption. http://bit.ly/3tsCxdS

Cedar Rapids (IA) Gazette - Renewable fuels accounted for almost $4 billion in Iowa's GDP in 2020, report shows – 2/3/21 - Iowa's renewable fuels industry accounted for almost $4 billion or about 2 percent of Iowa's gross domestic product in 2020, according to a report commissioned by the Iowa Renewable Fuels Association. http://bit.ly/3axFdhE

Nebraska Ag Connection - POET Urges Biden Climate Team to Embrace E15 - 2/3/21 - On Tuesday, POET applauded President Biden's leadership in making climate a top priority. Each member of the Biden Climate Team will play a key role in helping the administration make good on its commitment to fight for family farms, end environmental injustice and shift the nation to net-zero emissions. http://bit.ly/3oQ0iJf

FreeThink - Biofuel Rocket Launch Is a First In Aerospace | A future of more sustainable spaceflight could be just on the horizon. – 2/4/21 - With one rocket launch, aerospace startup bluShift just achieved two firsts. Not only was its Stardust 1.0 the first rocket to lift off from the startup's home state of Maine, but it was also the first commercial rocket *anywhere* to get its power from a biofuel. http://bit.ly/3aNNJt9

NATIONAL

National Law Review - How Will President Biden's Elevation of Environmental Justice Within the EPA Affect Your Permitted Facility or Redevelopment Project? – 2/3/21 - The Biden administration continues to make many major environmental policy actions aimed at climate change, enforcement, and several other issues. http://bit.ly/3cNTKZ4

The Guardian - Joe Biden's plans to combat climate crisis have – predictably – provoked GOP backlash – 2/4/21 - The Democrat in the White House may be different, but the attacks are very familiar. Joe Biden's early blitz to confront the climate crisis has provoked a hostile Republican backlash eerily similar to the opposition that stymied Barack Obama 12 years ago. Once again, efforts to reduce planet-heating emissions are being assailed as radical, job killing and elitist. http://bit.ly/3jlGAES

Charleston (WV) Gazette-Mail - Manchin touts "all-of-the above" energy policy as he heads first climate hearing of new Congress – 2/3/21 - Presiding over a hearing Wednesday on global climate trends as incoming chairman of the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, West Virginia's senior senator urged sticking with the facts, the most important being that climate change is a "critical" issue every country must face. http://bit.ly/3trivAo

Yahoo! Finance – Editorial: A Renewable Energy Waste Crisis Is Looming – 2/3/21 - While renewable resources are greatly reducing many forms of waste associated with the fossil

fuel industry, clean energy infrastructure contains its own fair share of harmful materials that will require special and costly disposal methods. http://yhoo.it/2MwtLuw

Brownfield Ag News - $2B Settlement Announced For Roundup Cases – 2/3/21 - Bayer has agreed to pay up to $2 billion as part of a settlement agreement for current and future Roundup cases that claim the herbicide causes cancer. http://bit.ly/3ikJjhc

Bloomberg Law - Bayer Floats Revised Plan to Resolve Future Roundup Lawsuits – 2/4/21 - Bayer AG will ask a U.S. judge to approve a settlement of as much as $2 billion to resolve future lawsuits over claims that its Roundup weedkiller causes cancer, the company said. https://bit.ly/3jiu6wU

Chemical & Engineering News - Human skin oils drive ozone chemistry in occupied house – 2/3/21 - Ozone pollution is a well-known health concern, but researchers understand less about how the highly reactive molecule behaves indoors in the complex environment of a home. Yingjun Liu of Peking University and coworkers now report that human skin oil drives ozone chemistry in an occupied home as the residents go about their lives. http://bit.ly/2MUTXz3

NPR - Could We Pay Back The Earth For What It Provides? A New Report Offers A Roadmap – 2/3/21 - How much is nature worth? It's the question at the heart of a landmark new report commissioned by the British government to evaluate the economic cost of continued environmental devastation. http://n.pr/39P57hQ

AP - Germany says it beat 2020 goal to cut greenhouse emissions – 2/3/21 - Germany's economy minister says the country beat its target of cutting greenhouse gas emissions by 40% last year compared to 1990 levels. http://yhoo.it/3rqN9rV

Energy AgWired - Senators Reintroduce Adopt GREET Act – 2/4/21 - Sens. John Thune (R-SD) and Amy Klobuchar (D-MN) this week reintroduced the Adopt GREET Act which would require the EPA to update its greenhouse gas modeling for ethanol and biodiesel. https://bit.ly/3ttiSyo

Utility DIVE - Social factors could be final barrier to deep US decarbonization, National Academies report finds – 2/3/21 - The vast majority of the technology needed to realize a full decarbonization of the U.S. economy exists, and most of the technology is more cost effective than fossil fueled alternatives, according to the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine. But a committee assembled by the NASEM to study decarbonization says all levels of government must do more to ensure the coming economic transition is just and fair to all. http://bit.ly/3jfW9Ns

Bloomberg Law - EPA to Launch Broader Review of Asbestos Risks This Summer – 2/3/21 - The EPA this summer will launch a court-ordered review of risks arising from old uses

of asbestos that still may lead people to inhale the cancer-causing mineral, an agency official said Wednesday. https://bit.ly/2MBB0BB

Bloomberg Law - Climate Suits Pushing Tort Law Into Uncharted Waters (Podcast) – 2/3/21 - A group of big cities are seeking damages from the fossil fuel industry over the costs of climate change. These suits against some of the biggest names in the energy world are taking a very old legal idea—the tort—and trying to adapt it to a new environmental problem. https://bit.ly/36Hr9RH

Bloomberg Law - Biden's Climate Adviser Leading Talks with Auto, Utility Sectors – 2/3/21 - White House climate adviser Gina McCarthy and other top officials are in talks with automakers and utilities as the Biden administration determines its next steps for paring greenhouse gas emissions, according to a person familiar with the matter. https://bit.ly/3pNKw2Z

Bloomberg Law - Trump's Last Minute Flubs Gift Biden Time to Rewrite Regulations – 2/4/21 - Skeptical courts are giving President Joe Biden a window to reopen last-minute rules that the Trump administration tried to rush out to beat a regulatory freeze. https://bit.ly/39PcE06

Inside EPA - Top House Democrats Urge WOTUS Repeal, DOJ Requests Lawsuit Delays – 2/2/21 - Two House Democratic panel chairs are urging President Joe Biden to "to immediately repeal" the Trump administration's rule narrowly defining waters of the United States (WOTUS), while the administration is seeking months-long delays in a host of suits filed over the policy to give it time to review its position on the rule. http://bit.ly/2YEaE47

Inside EPA - DOJ seeks to pause suit over EPA oil & gas methane rollback – 2/3/21 - The Biden administration is urging an appellate court to pause litigation challenging the Trump EPA's rollback of direct methane standards for new oil and gas facilities, a major policy that top administration officials have already said they will review and likely try to reverse. http://bit.ly/3cGRYt2

Inside EPA - Biofuels Producers Seek Role In Providing Near-Term, Low-GHG Fuels – 2/3/21 - Biofuels advocates are seeking to carve out a role for their industry as a provider of near-term cuts in greenhouse gas emissions in the transportation sector, pressing the Biden EPA to allow higher ethanol blends in motor fuel as the administration balances its support of biofuels with a push to greatly expand the use of electric vehicles (EVs). http://bit.ly/3jhlw1u

Inside EPA - EPA Aims To Issue Long-Delayed Federal Landfill Methane Plan By May – 2/3/21 - EPA is notifying a federal appeals court that it intends to issue in May a long-delayed federal plan implementing landfill methane limits in the vast majority of states, and the agency is also asking that oral arguments scheduled for Feb. 22 over a Trump EPA rule delaying the deadlines for the federal plan be postponed due to the pending action. http://bit.ly/3cGZrZ2

Special Clips - Michael Regan Confirmation Hearing

Associated Press - Biden EPA nominee vows 'sense of urgency' on climate change – 2/3/21 - President Joe Biden's nominee to run the EPA says he learned the importance of preserving the outdoors while hunting and fishing with his father and grandfather in rural North Carolina. http://bit.ly/2MWHXNb

PBS - WATCH: Biden EPA nominee vows 'sense of urgency' on climate change – 2/3/21 - Michael Regan told a Senate committee that under Biden the EPA "will stand up for environmental justice and equity" and will collaborate with business and community groups, state and local governments and others "who know their own communities better than the federal government ever could." http://to.pbs.org/2YWTbV3

Washington Post - Biden's EPA nominee vows 'urgency' on climate change – 2/3/21 - Michael Regan, who would be the first Black man to serve as EPA administrator, promises to seek consensus as he pursues an ambitious agenda. http://wapo.st/2YKuFGs

RFD-TV - Sen. Grassley and Ernst weigh in on EPA Administrator nominee – 2/3/21 - According to Sen. Grassley, "By 2022, the statutory requirements of the RFS run out and will be up to EPA to set those, and I urge Regan not to do anything less than what the law requires now and hopefully more requirements for biofuels." Senator Joni Ernst also had the opportunity to discuss Renewable Fuels with the EPA nominee, but was concerned with his answers on small refinery waivers. http://bit.ly/3ltWpNu

FarmWeek - EPA Administrator nominee: 'We will restore the role of science and transparency at EPA' – 2/3/21 - Michael Regan, nominee to be administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, (EPA) said he aims to approach the role with transparency, science and stakeholder engagement in mind. http://bit.ly/36IFQ6N

Radio Iowa - Senator Ernst questions EPA nominee – 2/4/21 - Iowa Senator Joni Ernst - asked nominee Michael Regan about issues surrounding renewable fuels — including the Renewable Fuel Standard. "RFS is definitely a priority for this administration… the reality is that I want to sit down with my staff, sit down with legal counsel. There are a number of things that are caught up in litigation, there are a number things that we more transparency around how we arrived at those decisions," Regan says. http://bit.ly/3jkyJqu

Roll Call - EPA nominee Regan says environmental progress is good for jobs – 2/3/21 - Republican Sen. Shelley Moore Capito said she fears Biden's environmental agenda will represent a third Obama term. President Joe Biden's pick for EPA administrator on Wednesday told skeptical Republican senators that environmental progress can also foster economic growth. http://bit.ly/3aAsRVU

DTN Progressive Farmer - Regan Faces Barrage of Senate Questions | EPA Nominee Intends to Review Implementation of RFS as Head of Agency – 2/3/21 - EPA Administrator nominee Michael Regan said he wants to strike a balance between government regulation on the environment and stakeholder input about life on the ground. http://bit.ly/3oR0NCK

MarketScreener - ACE Statement on EPW Committee Confirmation Hearing with EPA Chief Nominee Regan – 2/3/21 - American Coalition for Ethanol (ACE) CEO Brian Jennings issued a statement following Mr. Regan's confirmation hearing. 'If confirmed as EPA Administrator, Mr. Regan inherits a long list of unfinished business with respect to the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS). https://bit.ly/3avPGdr

Biomass Magazine - Regan promises 'no surprises' in EPA's administration of the RFS – 2/3/21 - Michael Regan, President Biden's nominee to serve as administrator of the U.S. EPA, said the Renewable Fuel Standard will be a priority for the new administration and stressed agriculture will have a seat at the table when it comes to Biden's climate objectives during his Feb. 3 appearance before the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works. http://bit.ly/3oW4kQx

Bloomberg Law - EPA Nominee Touts Power to Set Auto Rules Aligned With EV Push – 2/3/21 - President Biden's nominee to lead the EPA said the agency can help chart fuel-economy and tailpipe emissions standards that guide an automobile industry already embracing electric vehicles. https://bit.ly/3azU4YY

Bloomberg Law - Biden's EPA Pick Promises Holistic Review of Biofuel Mandate – 2/3/21 - EPA Administrator-designee Michael Regan vowed "a thorough review" of renewable fuel standard decisions, including waivers exempting oil refineries from annual biofuel-blending quotas. https://bit.ly/3tBzyQg

Bloomberg Law – Biden's EPA Pick Promises 'Thorough Review' of Biofuel Waivers – 2/3/21 - President Joe Biden's nominee to lead the EPA is promising a "thorough review" of waivers exempting oil refineries from biofuel-blending requirements, one of the thorniest issues confronting the agency. https://bit.ly/3oR3yE6

Bloomberg Law – EPA Pick Regan Vows Collaboration as GOP Warns of Lost Jobs – 2/3/21 - President Joe Biden's nominee to run the EPA vowed to collaborate with local governments, businesses and working Americans to confront major environmental threats if confirmed by the U.S. Senate. https://bit.ly/39N7VMn

Bloomberg Law – Biden's EPA Pick Sees Limits of Regulations – 2/4/21 - Michael Regan, Joe Biden's pick to run the EPA, sought to reassure skittish Republicans that the president's early executive orders reducing fossil fuel emissions and reviewing Trump-era regulations will not kill jobs or strangle industry. https://bit.ly/2MVehQA

Inside EPA - Regan Vows To 'Assess' Trump EPA Record But Focus On New Actions – 2/3/21 - EPA Administrator nominee Michael Regan is vowing to senators that, if confirmed, he will conduct an "assessment" of the agency's Trump-era actions in line with President Joe Biden's directive to review specific policies for revision but will focus more on collaborative approaches in crafting new high-priority policies. http://bit.ly/2YJr0bP

Inside EPA – Regan Defends Biden GHG Agenda, Hedges On Details of EPA Rules – 2/3/21 - EPA Administrator-designate Michael Regan during his first Senate confirmation hearing broadly defended the Biden administration's emerging climate change agenda as an environmental and economic priority, while keeping his options open on how the agency would help implement that agenda and pledging to work with industry. http://bit.ly/3azULBy

Inside EPA - Regan could boost enforcement as EPA administrator – 2/3/21 - If the Senate confirms Michael Regan to be EPA administrator, the agency's focus on enforcement could increase, according to a new analysis of Regan's leadership of North Carolina's environment department that found a boost in inspections and penalties levied by the state although less of a clear-cut trend in other enforcement actions. http://bit.ly/39LrxjH

Fox News - Biden's EPA pick says U.S. can't 'regulate our way out of every problem' | Michael Regan nominated to steer Biden's climate agenda along with John Kerry, Gina McCarthy - Under questioning from GOP senators, Regan, 45, vowed to "follow the law, not exceed my statutory authority" in enacting a slew of new regulations on everything from powerplants to vehicle tailpipes, mercury emissions to waterways. http://fxn.ws/3pNRdlF

Wall Street Journal - President Biden's EPA Nominee Says He Will Work With Business | Republican senators say Michael Regan gained reputation for fairness as environmental regulator in North Carolina – 2/3/21 - Michael Regan, President Biden's nominee to lead the Environmental Protection Agency, drew bipartisan support at his Senate confirmation hearing Wednesday, including from North Carolina Republicans who said he has a history of working constructively with businesses. http://on.wsj.com/36GVPlI

Twitter - @SenJoniErnst – 2/3/21 - At today's @EPWGOP hearing, I pressed President Biden's nominee to lead the @EPA, Michael Regan, on his commitment to defending the #RFS and his view on the new #WOTUS rule. (includes video) https://bit.ly/3cHr3NM

HuffPost - Biden EPA Pick Pledges To Take Swift Action On Climate, Fix Trump-Era Damage – 2/3/21 - Michael Regan, President Joe Biden's pick to lead the Environmental Protection Agency, told lawmakers Wednesday that he would move swiftly to rein in planet-warming greenhouse gas emissions, repair the damage that the Trump administration inflicted at the federal agency and put environmental justice communities at the heart of the agency's efforts. http://bit.ly/39OofMK

Reuters - Biden's EPA Pick to Review Options on Biofuel Waiver Program – 2/3/21 - U.S. President Joe Biden's pick to lead the Environmental Protection Agency said on Wednesday he will consult with general counsel to understand the options available for a program that exempts small refiners from biofuel blending obligations. https://bit.ly/3roCKwW

The Hill - EPA nominee Regan pledges 'urgency' on climate change at confirmation hearing – 2/3/21 - During his confirmation hearing on Wednesday, President Biden's pick to lead the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Michael Regan, pledged to act with "a sense of urgency" on climate and to increase the agency's focus on science, transparency and combating inequality. http://bit.ly/3ioggSt

The Independent - Biden's EPA nominee will do 'damage assessment' of Trump era's impacts on science, morale and transparency – 2/3/21 - President Biden's nominee to run the Environmental Protection Agency has said that he will do a "damage assessment" at the agency if confirmed, following four years in which former President Donald Trump sidelined science and rollbacked or weakened dozens of environmental and climate policies. http://bit.ly/3jor3Dt

Daily Caller - Biden EPA Nominee Faces Questions About Agency's Independence During Confirmation Hearing – 2/3/21 - - EPA Administrator nominee Michael Regan faced questions about the agency's independence within the Biden administration during his confirmation hearing Wednesday before the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee. http://bit.ly/3pNU7XB

UPI – EPA nominee Michael Regan pledges to focus on environmental justice - 2/3/21 - Michael Regan, President Joe Biden's selection to head the EPA, pledged Wednesday to place a focus on environmental justice if confirmed. http://bit.ly/3pPhy2G

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