Message

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

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1/25/21 - Environmental News Clips

EARNED MEDIA

Audobon County (IA) Advocate Journal – EPA Recommends Preventing Lung Cancer by Testing your Home for Radon – 1/22/21 - Much of EPA Region 7 states (Iowa, Kansas, Missouri and Nebraska) have counties with elevated indoor radon screening levels. EPA developed the Radon Zone Map in 1993 to identify areas of the U.S. with the potential for elevated indoor radon levels. http://bit.ly/2LTwHRT

R7 IN THE NEWS

Wahoo (NE) Newspaper - County board hears AltEn concerns – 1/22/21 - That same summer, AltEn, an ethanol plant located near Mead, had started spreading waste from old, insecticide-ridden seed corn in the fields around where Weible lived as a soil conditioner. http://bit.ly/2M6id54

Cedar Rapids (IA) Gazette - Senators ask Biden administration to reverse latest ethanol waivers – 1/22/21 - Iowa's senators expressed their unhappiness with three ethanol waivers granted by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Tuesday, in the waning hours of the Trump administration. http://bit.ly/3qOwDS7

Lincoln (NE) Journal-Star - Editorial: Nebraska's better off without Keystone XL – 1/23/21 - Biden's plan to cancel the project again — which then-President Barack Obama first did in 2015, before his successor, Donald Trump, revived it his first week in office — excited many Nebraskans, no doubt. But TC Energy's announcement only underscored the finality of the moment. http://bit.ly/2KMlVMx

Great Bend (NE) Tribune - Audubon sues to restore Quivira water rights – 1/23/21 - Audubon of Kansas on Friday, Jan. 15, filed suit in U.S. District Court in Kansas City to restore the 60-plus-year-old water rights belonging to the Quivira National Wildlife Refuge, claiming

irrigation along the Rattlesnake Creek has hampered water flow into the refuge. This is the latest action in a dispute that dates back nearly a decade. http://bit.ly/3puEnZr

REGIONAL

Beatrice (NE) Daily Sun - Homestead may expand prescribed burns – 1/23/21 - Homestead National Historical Park has prepared a fire management plan and associated environmental assessment that will guide wildfire response and prescribed fire use at the park for the next decade. http://bit.ly/36eftW2

Kansas City Star – Opinion: Armadillos now, cotton in the future: Missouri's climate is changing, and we must act – 1/22/21 - Global climate change, which has led to an increase in the number of natural disasters and amplifies the impact of many other crises, remains one of the most important domestic and foreign issues facing the United States. http://bit.ly/3a4UwOn

Lincoln (NE) Journal-Star - Lincoln climate battle: Salt Creek floodplain, finding second water source and carbon emissions eyed as key goals – 1/24/21 - Addressing issues and protecting homes in the Salt Creek floodplain is one of the priorities city officials have identified in the city's Climate Action Plan. http://bit.ly/3a6ynzq

Hays (KS) Post - HaysMed recognized for energy reduction efforts – 1/25/21 - HaysMed, part of The University of Kansas Health System was recently honored by the American Society for Health Care Engineering and the American Hospital Associate for their energy reduction efforts. http://bit.ly/2LUMvE1

TRANSITION 2021

AP – Column: Biden has pledged to advance environmental justice – here's how the EPA can start – 1/25/21 - Achieving environmental justice is a long-term project, and the EPA is just one of many government agencies that need to change their ways before the U.S. can make progress. Eventually Congress will need to provide the EPA with new tools. Until that time, the agency can more effectively use its current authorities to get started. http://bit.ly/2YfDPdP

New York Times - Restoring Environmental Rules Rolled Back by Trump Could Take Years – 1/22/21 - President Biden has promised to reinstate more than 100 rules and regulations aimed at environmental protection that his predecessor rolled back. It won't happen overnight. http://nytl.ms/3sHq2RU

AgDaily - Ag groups endorse nomination of new EPA administrator – 1/22/21 - This week, 23 national agricultural organizations sent a letter to the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee backing Michael Regan to serve as Administrator of the EPA. http://bit.ly/3iJjW8c

Missouri Times - Opinion: Farm groups cautiously eye Biden regulatory actions – 1/22/21 - Many of the items within EPA's jurisdiction could impact agriculture and rural America. From the looks of it, the Biden EPA thinks almost any regulation falls under the banner of climate change. The directive charges EPA with reviewing rules on such disparate issues as drinking water, lead-based paint and bug-control products like chlorpyrifos. http://bit.ly/2YaF5P9

Brownfield Ag News - Agriculture Concerned WOTUS Could Reappear – 1/22/21 - Compeer Financial vice president of legislative affairs Perry Aasness tells Brownfield there will likely be new members in Congress and on Biden's staff who want to bring WOTUS back. http://bit.ly/3iLVvqS

NPR - How Biden Administration Plans To Navigate Challenging Topic Of Climate Change – 1/22/21 - Addressing climate change is one of the Biden administration's top priorities. NPR looks at President Biden's pledge to stop new oil and gas leasing on public lands and the challenges he might face. http://n.pr/3qQZ7ut

Real Clear Energy - Fettering Biden's Administrative State | Trump-era rules will constrain the new president's activism – 1/24/21 - Executive-agency rulemaking in the U.S. is more circumscribed. Agencies must show cause, respect precedent, and demonstrate that their rulemaking is properly grounded in the relevant statute and in a factual record sufficiently compelling to refute any suggestion that their action was "arbitrary or capricious." They should expect controversial rules to be able to withstand challenges in the courts. http://bit.ly/3ollSIN

NPR - What's Next For The U.S. After Rejoining The Paris Climate Agreement – 1/24/21 - The U.S. is rejoining the world's largest effort to address climate change: the 2015 Paris climate agreement. Climate change is one of the Biden administration's top priorities. http://n.pr/39ZeOco

Chemical & Engineering News - Will public trust in science survive the pandemic? – 1/25/21 - The confluence of rapidly evolving science, mixed messaging, misinformation, and flagrant politicization in the US is creating a perfect storm for eroding trust in science. http://bit.ly/3oglqHk

Bloomberg Law - Clean Air Issues Take a Top Spot in Biden's Agency Priorities – 1/22/21 - President Joe Biden teed up a slew of clean air and carbon issues as top environmental priorities for his administration in a new executive order signed this week. https://bit.ly/3qQlJu1

Bloomberg Law - Biden to Convene World Leaders to Talk Climate on Earth Day – 1/22/21 - The Biden administration is planning to host world leaders in a climate summit on Earth Day according to three people familiar with the matter, a sign of the new president's commitment to not just rejoin the Paris carbon-cutting accord but also strengthen it. https://bit.ly/36bEGQY

Bloomberg Law - Biden Oil Leasing Halt Said Legally Sound – 1/25/21 - An industry trade group is pledging legal action to force the Biden administration to hold quarterly oil and gas leases, but legal observers say the federal government's expected moratorium on such sales stands on solid legal ground. https://bit.ly/3cbmQkP

Inside EPA - Citizen Coalition Urges Biden To Tap PFAS 'Czar' To Oversee Federal Actions – 1/22/21 - A coalition of local citizen and environmental groups is urging the Biden administration to embrace aggressive measures to address per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), stressing the need for a White House PFAS "czar" to oversee policy and ensure accountability from the Defense Department (DOD) in addressing the chemicals. http://bit.ly/2Yjx6zj

Inside EPA - EPA Asks DOJ To Seek Stays Of Litigation Challenging Agency Rules – 1/22/21 - EPA Acting General Counsel Melissa Hoffer is officially asking the Justice Department (DOJ) to seek judicial pauses in pending litigation challenging agency rules or seeking to establish a deadline for EPA regulation, in order to provide the Biden administration time to review a slew of lawsuits before deciding how to proceed. http://bit.ly/3qNz7QE

Inside EPA - House GOP criticizes Biden's revocation of '2 for 1' rule review order – 1/22/21 - Republicans on the House Small Business and Oversight and Reform panels are decrying President Joe Biden's decision to revoke an executive order issued by former President Donald Trump directing EPA and other agencies to identify two rules for repeal for every new rule they issue, saying it will increase "red tape" and harm the economy. http://bit.ly/3a1Hb9B

Inside EPA - Biden to issue sweeping set of orders on climate change policy – 1/22/21 - President Joe Biden is slated next week to unveil a sweeping set of orders on climate change policy including elevating the issue in domestic and national security policy, following a number of actions he took on his first day in the White House Jan. 20 to address climate change and reverse the Trump EPA's climate rollbacks. http://bit.ly/39iTQGh

Inside EPA - Biden Taps Hill Staffer Who Helped Reform TSCA As Deputy OCSPP Chief – 1/22/21 - President-elect Joe Biden has named Michal Freedhoff, a long-time Capitol Hill staffer, as the deputy head of EPA's chemical-safety office -- placing one of the people who helped craft the 2016 TSCA reforms in charge of the new law's implementation during at least the administration's early months. http://bit.ly/39ekv2l

The Hill - Biden EPA asks DOJ to hit pause on defense of Trump-era rules – 1/22/21 - The EPA is asking the government to pump the brakes in its defense of Trump-era environmental rollbacks in court. http://bit.ly/3ogiYBH

CORONAVIRUS

Des Moines Register - Iowa reports another 452 confirmed coronavirus cases, no additional COVID-19 deaths – 1/25/21 - The Iowa Department of Public Health was reporting at 10 a.m. Monday that there are 313,263 confirmed cases of coronavirus, an increase of 452 since the state's tally 10 a.m. Sunday, according to the state's website. http://bit.ly/2Mj6OdY

Kansas City Star - CDC: Missouri ranks last in percentage of residents to receive first COVID-19 vaccine – 1/24/21 - The percentage of residents across the state to receive the first doses of the coronavirus vaccine is lower in Missouri than in any other state, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. http://bit.ly/3iJZPqB

WIBW Ch. 13 Topeka KS - More Kansas Guardsmen will be called up in near future for COVID-19 response – 1/23/21 - More Kansas guardsmen are likely to be called up to help with the state's COVID-19 response. The state's emergency operations center is preparing for the increase of vaccinations in the state. https://bit.ly/2M2awZG

FUELS

Biofuels Digest - D.C. Circuit Court Stays EPA Action Granting Refinery Waivers – 1/24/21 - In Washington, D.C., in response to an emergency motion filed by the Renewable Fuels Association, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit ordered that EPA's action on Tuesday to grant three small refinery petitions must be "administratively stayed pending further order of the court." http://bit.ly/3cbC7SS

The Guardian (UK) - 'No more broken treaties': indigenous leaders urge Biden to shut down Dakota Access pipeline – 1/24/21 - Indigenous leaders and environmentalists are urging Joe Biden to shut down some of America's most controversial fossil fuel pipelines, after welcoming his executive order cancelling the Keystone XL (KXL) project. http://bit.ly/3plvWiI

Brownfield Ag News - NBB: Regaining Certainty in The RFS is Goal Number One – 1/22/21 - The biggest policy priority for the National Biodiesel Board is to regain certainty in implementation of the Renewable Fuel Standard. Kurt Kovarik, vice president of federal affairs with the National Biodiesel Board, says small refinery exemptions and other actions by the Trump administration contradicted its promise to uphold the RFS. http://bit.ly/3lKkD1a

Brownfield Ag News - Growth Energy Ready For 'New Era of Biofuels' – 1/22/21 - Growth Energy's CEO Emily Skor says Growth Energy is looking forward to working with the administration to promote clean energy and include biofuels as a key piece of climate strategy. http://bit.ly/3iRGOT9

Farm Forum - Farm, biofuels and environmental group oppose SAFE Rule – 1/25/21 - An alliance of farm, biofuels, and environmental organizations filed an amicus brief on Jan. 21 in objection to the Safer Affordable Fuel Efficiency Vehicle Rule on the grounds that it both fails to account for toxic pollution from aromatic-laden fuel as well as ignores the important role that

ethanol can play in improving fuel efficiency and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. http://bit.ly/3sYEuvy

Inside EPA - Refiners seek to exclude biofuels groups from RFS waiver suit – 1/22/21 - Small refiners suing EPA over its 2020 denial of their petitions for waivers from renewable fuel standard (RFS) compliance mandates are seeking to block biofuels advocacy groups from intervening in the case to defend the agency's decisions, as legal battles ramp up that might determine the fate of EPA's RFS waiver policy. http://bit.ly/36bwekZ

NATIONAL

Reuters - Many U.S. utilities plan to hang on to their coal plants for a decade: Sierra Club – 1/25/21 - The most coal-dependent U.S. utilities plan to keep around 75% of their coal-fired power plants running for another decade, according to an analysis by the environmental group Sierra Club released on Monday, posing a threat to the climate. http://reut.rs/2NBD9qP

Scientific American - Forever Chemicals Are Widespread in U.S. Drinking Water – 2/23/21 - Experts hope that with the incoming Biden administration, the federal government will finally regulate a class of chemicals known as PFASs. http://bit.ly/3ocJnA5

Scientific American - Twitter Bots Are a Major Source of Climate Disinformation – 1/22/21 - Such accounts can distort online conversations and potentially diminish support for climate policies. http://bit.ly/3iKb4zi

CNBC - Renewables chief hails 'crucial' Biden climate agenda as administration plans massive energy overhaul – 1/25/21 - The International Renewable Energy Agency has hailed the U.S. decision to rejoin the Paris Climate Accord as a "crucial" step forward in the fight against climate change. http://cnb.cx/3ohq5QX

PBS - Environmentalists, industries are trying to -find a methane solution (video 7:14) – 1/24/21 - Methane emissions caused by human-related activities, especially from livestock, and oil and gas industries, are responsible for 25% of global warming, according to the United Nations. https://bit.ly/3iLDCZb

TheStreet - Trump's big gamble to gut US power plant emissions rules fails in court, opening door for powerful new climate rules – 1/24/21 - Joe Biden got a big judicial win for his climate agenda just hours before his inauguration as U.S. president. The case involved plans for cutting power plant emissions and a big gamble by the Trump administration. http://bit.ly/39gLJK5

Waste DIVE - Landfill operators weigh next steps for PFAS regulation, research and opportunity – 1/22/21 - The industry's top companies recently weighed in on where they think

policy could be heading, as the Biden administration is expected to designate certain chemicals as hazardous. http://bit.ly/36bJ6HF

The New Yorker - To Counter Climate Change, We Need to Stop Burning Things – 1/22/21 - Burning wood emits large amounts of carbon for each unit of energy it produces, and forests take decades to regrow and absorb that carbon—decades we don't have. http://bit.ly/3ocvqda

Brownfield Ag News - Sustainability can pay – 1/22/21 - With all the focus on sustainability in agriculture – one of the questions is, can it pay for practices that benefit the environment? http://bit.ly/2KMMI0N

Christian Science Monitor - Meet the team shaking up climate models – 1/22/21 - If scientists can create a new way to predict climate change – making it as accurate as, say, forecasting the weather – it would help people make everyday decisions: how high to build a sea wall or what crops to plant. http://bit.ly/3qR35mR

Christian Science Monitor - Gavin Schmidt: The problem with climate models? People. – 1/22/21 - Meet Gavin Schmidt. He's part of an elite team of scientists hoping to put climate prediction in the palm of your hand. http://bit.ly/39qFbeH

Chemical & Engineering News - Chemours settles PFAS dispute with DuPont, Corteva – 1/22/21 - After a long battle in court and arbitration, Chemours has come to an agreement with DuPont and Corteva Agriscience on how to pay for up to $4 billion in per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) liabilities over the next 20 years. Chemours will be responsible for 50% of the costs of litigation and cleanup, while DuPont and Corteva will share the other half. http://bit.ly/2NpBWcb

Inside EPA - As Support Grows, Backers Seek To Lower Costs Of CO2 Removal Methods – 1/22/21 - Carbon 180, a group that advocates for removing carbon dioxide (CO2) from the atmosphere as a critical component of any climate change strategy, is urging the Biden administration to work with Congress to quickly launch a major policy effort that would dramatically lower the cost of such novel approaches. http://bit.ly/39XqeUE

Inside EPA - EPA opts against tightening cyanide air toxics limits – 1/22/21 - In one of its final actions before leaving office, the Trump EPA proposed to leave air toxics emissions standards for cyanide chemicals manufacturing plants essentially unchanged, an action that echoes a lengthy list of air toxics rule reviews during the Trump administration but that could face reversal by the Biden EPA. http://bit.ly/39qcfU0

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