Message

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

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1/14/21 - Environmental News Clippings

EARNED NEWS

KCRG Ch. 9 Cedar Rapids IA - Environmental Protection Agency orders Hy-Vee to stop selling some disinfectant wipes - 1/13/21 -The Environmental Protection Agency is ordering Hy-Vee to stop selling Outlaw Germ Justice Disinfectant Wipes. The EPA said it contacted MJB Worldwide in November 2020 about an unregistered product, and the company assured the agency it had recalled the disinfectant products and would ensure all future production would be done in compliance with federal law. http://bit.ly/38Kvama

Des Moines Register - EPA orders Hy-Vee to stop selling unregulated disinfectant wipes in Kansas City - 1/13/21 -The EPA has ordered Hy-Vee to remove an unapproved brand of disinfectant wipes from shelves at some of its stores. Hy-Vee spokesperson Christina Gayman told the Des Moines Register that the West Des Moines-based grocer only sold the product in Kansas City-area stores, and that it has removed them. http://bit.ly/38Ic9nS

KCTV Ch. 5 Kansas City - EPA orders Hy-Vee to stop selling 'Outlaw Germ Justice Disinfectant Wipes' - 1/12/21 - The EPA has ordered Hy-Vee to stop selling a brand of disinfectant wipes that are noncompliant with federal law and may put consumers in danger. http://bit.ly/3leQ17z

R7 IN THE NEWS

News Channel Nebraska - AltEn Has Two Months to Remove Toxins - 1/31/21 - An ethanol plant has been cited with non-compliance of pollution rules. Officials say the ethanol plant is creating waste that's contaminating the air and water. The ethanol plant was given until March by the Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy to fix matters. Alt En told NCN that they are on schedule and working with NDEE. http://bit.ly/3if3yiK

WOWT Ch. 6 Omaha NE - Saunders County problematic compost facility catches attention of national environmentalists - 1/13/21- A seed-corn recycling facility is continuing to cause a stink among residents just west of the Omaha-metro area. Pollution concerns have

spread to environmental watchdogs in the United States and internationally. http://bit.ly/3bG53Ce

KHGI Ch. 13 Kearney NE - Mead resident says toxic waste from AltEn plant is cause for serious concern - 1/13/21 - Smells and sickness across the community, in Mead folks have been dealing with significant problems caused by toxic byproducts produced at the local AltEn Ethanol plant and community members say despite their best efforts, the plant has taken little to no steps to remedy the situation. http://bit.ly/3qhdqs3

REGIONAL NEWS

North Platte (NE) Telegraph - Cherry County Planning Commission recommends OK of Cherry County hog facility - 1/12/21 - The Cherry County Planning Commission has recommended approval of a conditional use permit for Phase I of a proposed hog confinement facility near Valentine. http://bit.ly/3oJkSvv

Wahoo (NE) Newspaper - Decommissioning part of wellhead protection plan - 1/13/21- The City of Ashland is offering an opportunity for residents to decommission abandoned wells for free. The grant money will be used to close abandoned wells to prevent possible contamination of the city's water system. http://bit.ly/39wMSMD

KMIZ Ch. 17 Columbia MO - Generator issue at Callaway Energy Center keeps plant offline - 1/13/21 - Ameren is reporting that an issue with a generator at the Callaway Energy Center has kept the plant offline while the company investigates. http://bit.ly/3ibaABY

Reuters - Ameren says Callaway nuclear plant restart delayed by snag - 1/14/21 - Ameren Corp. said on Thursday its Callaway nuclear power plant experienced a non-nuclear operating issue related to its generator while the plant was being ramped up following maintenance.

Des Moines Register - Iowa Environmental Council hires Central College sustainability director as its new leader - 1/13/21- The Iowa Environmental Council has hired Brian Campbell, Central College's director of sustainability, to lead its push for clean water and energy in the state. http://bit.ly/35GOP8a

eMissourian Washington MO - Union Gets Reprieve on Wastewater Treatment Plant - 1/14/21- After its permit was placed on hold, one of Union's two wastewater treatment plants got a reprieve for at least four years from the Missouri Department of Natural Resources. http://bit.ly/2XEZLI7

Joplin (MO) Globe - Utilities installing solar power operations in Missouri, Kansas - 1/12/21 - Two area utilities are adding solar power to their portfolios of electrical generation to meet the needs of Southwest Missouri and Southeast Kansas. http://bit.ly/2Kdq7Vi

Solar Power World - Renew Missouri and StraightUp Solar launch commercial solar group buy program for St. Louis area - 1/12/21 - Renew Missouri, a non-profit clean energy advocacy group, and St. Louis-based installer StraightUp Solar are launching Renew STL Solar, a group buy program that will enable St. Louis area businesses to reduce energy costs and lower emissions by installing solar. http://bit.ly/3lcMhne

Radio Iowa - Des Moines leaders set goal of using all carbon-free power by 2035 - 1/12/21 - Des Moines is setting the goal of using 100 percent carbon-free electricity community-wide by 2035 to fight the effects of climate change. http://bit.ly/3qilpUy

News Channel Nebraska Central, Grand Island - Gage County extends ban on new wind or solar permits, through mid-July - 1/13/21- The Gage County Board has voted 5-2 to extend a moratorium on wind and solar energy project permit applications, through July 15th. The moratorium was set to expire January 15th. http://bit.ly/3bDq4xg

Forbes - Warren Buffett's Iowa Wind Power Expansion Derailed By the Bridges of Madison County - 1/13/21- MidAmerican Energy, a Berkshire Hathaway subsidiary, has aggressively built lots of wind farms and now expects to collect $10 billion in federal tax credits on the $12.9 billion it has spent erecting wind turbines. But Buffett's company's push to add even more turbines in Iowa is being derailed by the bridges of Madison County. http://bit.ly/2KdXebA

TRANSITION 2021

Environment News Service - 1/13/21 - Biden's Green Team Takes Shape with Race, Gender Firsts - 1/13/21 - President-elect Joe Biden, who takes office on January 20 at noon, has nominated a team of seasoned environmental leaders to fill his Cabinet in positions that will impact the Earth's unique places, people, and species, now more vulnerable than ever after the Trump administration. Climate will be a top priority of Biden's core plan for a "clean energy revolution and environmental justice." http://bit.ly/3oK82xc

E&E News - Here's what might be in Biden's first climate order - 1/11/21 - Joe Biden could mark his first day as president with one or more executive orders announcing plans to rejoin the Paris Agreement, submit a global deal on refrigerants for ratification and deliver on the sweeping climate pledges he made on the campaign trail. http://bit.ly/2XF3VXf

E&E News - Trump EPA aims to tie Biden's hands with rulemaking surprise - 1/12/21 - EPA has finalized a rule that leaves untouched an Obama-era requirement that new coal plants partially capture their carbon dioxide emissions — walking away from its proposal more than two years ago to scrap that mandate in favor of laxer standards. http://bit.ly/3qr9MvT

Trump Rulemaking Blitz Cuts Waiting Period to Restrict Biden - 1/13/21 - The Trump administration is rushing to impose industry-backed regulations using a tactic that will make it

harder for President-elect Joe Biden to repeal them. Federal agencies, including the EPA, have skirted the customary waiting period of at least 30 days for new regulations to take effect and put several into force immediately. https://bit.ly/35Ig569

Bloomberg Law - Biden Cabinet Risks Slow Start With Lag in Senate Confirmations - 1/13/21- Joe Biden will begin his presidency next week with a cabinet made up mostly of acting officials as delays in the Senate slow confirmation of his top choices for key positions including the secretaries of Defense and Treasury. https://bit.ly/35G9rxi

Bloomberg Law - Democrats to Target Trump Environment Rules But Weigh Cost - 1/13/21- Prominent Democratic lawmakers stand ready to use their control of the House and Senate to try erasing last-minute Trump administration environmental rules. https://bit.ly/39wG4P8

Bloomberg Law - Beating Biden's Day One Freeze Sparks Stampede to Lock in Rules - 1/12/21 - The rush to get last-minute regulations out before President-elect Joe Biden halts any rules not in place before his inauguration exacerbates a logjam at the federal government's daily journal. https://bit.ly/3bDrNme

Bloomberg Law - Trump Blocks Biden From Increasing Energy Efficiency Standards - 1/14/21 -The incoming Biden administration will be blocked from increasing energy efficiency requirements for furnaces, water heaters and boilers under a final Energy Department rule made public Thursday. https://bit.ly/3gjsNIF

Bloomberg Law - EPA Move on Chemical Rules Impedes Potential Biden Action - 1/14/21 - The EPA is withdrawing three Obama-era proposed chemical rules, making it harder for the incoming Biden administration to quickly restrict three hazardous solvents. https://bit.ly/3bFPPwU

FUELS

DTN Progressive Farmer - Federal Lawmakers Ask Trump to Reject Pending SRE Requests for 2019 - 1/13/21 - Federal lawmakers expecting the Trump administration to announce a new round of small-refinery exemptions for 2019 to the Renewable Fuel Standard any day, asked President Donald Trump to reject the 32 pending requests. http://bit.ly/3sqdKqg

Biodiesel Magazine - House Biofuels Caucus urges Trump to reject SRE petitions - 1/13/21- Members of the House Biofuels Caucus sent a letter to President Trump on Jan. 12 urging him to direct the U.S. EPA to immediately reject any pending small refinery exemption (SRE) requests that do not meet criteria established by the Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals in its January 2020 ruling on SREs. http://bit.ly/2Kon1Ro

Biofuels Digest - House Biofuels Caucus calls on EPA to not issue any 2019 SREs - 1/13/21- In Washington, Rep. Cindy Axne (IA-03), co-chair of the House Biofuels Caucus, led a bipartisan letter urging President Trump to direct the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to immediately reject the issuance of any illegal Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) waivers. http://bit.ly/3oLIlXt

Reuters - U.S. biofuel industry expects outgoing EPA to grant majority of 2019 refinery waivers - 1/13/21 - The U.S. biofuel industry expects the outgoing Trump administration to approve most of the waiver requests it has pending from the oil refining industry for 2019, three sources familiar with industry discussions said. http://reut.rs/3ssNFXt

DTN Progressive Farmer - Ethanol Inventory Rises | US Ethanol Stocks at 35-Week High Despite Modest Demand Boost - 1/13/21 - Total domestic ethanol inventories increased 1.7% in the week ended Jan. 8 as production continued higher while demand, though up 4% from a week earlier, remains more than 12% below a year earlier, data released by the Energy Information Administration on Wednesday, Jan. 13, show. http://bit.ly/3qjs02q

Brownfield Ag News - Senators Urge Biden to Swiftly Restore Biofuels Integrity - 1/13/21 - A group of US Senators is urging the incoming Biden administration to take quick action to restore integrity to the Renewable Fuels Standard and make good on campaign promises on energy and climate. http://bit.ly/3nHFUtd

USAgNet - RFA Thanks Senators for Defending Renewable Fuel Standard - 01/13/21- The Renewable Fuels Association thanked a group of Democratic Senators today for calling on President-elect Joe Biden to restore the integrity of the Renewable Fuel Standard and quickly reverse the damages done to the RFS by the outgoing Trump administration. http://bit.ly/35lstTF

Bio - Trump Administration Move to Issue RFS Waivers "Beyond Egregious" - 1/13/21 - "This action by the outgoing administration is beyond egregious. More than ever, as we look to improve the public health of our nation and build a 21st century green economy we must support the development of sustainable fuels to clean up our air and bring back jobs." http://bit.ly/3nJ3ztl

Bloomberg Law - EPA Readies Biofuel Waivers, Delays for Trump's Final Days - 1/13/21 - The Trump administration is expected to exempt some oil refineries from 2019 mandates to use renewable fuel as it readies possible last-minute moves on U.S. biofuel policy. https://bit.ly/39uPxq9

Inside EPA - D.C. Circuit schedules oral argument in E15 fuel case - 1/13/21 - The U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit has scheduled oral argument for Feb. 19 in litigation brought by refiners and biofuels interests against EPA's 2019 authorization of year-

round sales of 15-percent ethanol fuel (E15), with refiners seeking to undo the approval while biofuels advocates push for allowing sales of higher blends. http://bit.ly/3nDXQF6

Blomberg Law - EPA Proposes Delayed Biofuel-Blending Deadlines for Refiners - 1/14/21 - Oil refiners would get more time to comply with 2019 biofuel-blending requirements under an EPA proposal set to be published Friday. https://bit.ly/35Gf92c

CORONAVIRUS

KSNW Ch. 2 Wichita KS - Coronavirus in Kansas: 100 more deaths, 189 new hospitalizations - 1/13/21- State health officials say 100 more Kansas deaths are linked to COVID-19, bringing the state's death toll to 3,355. Since Monday, 4,539 more Kansans have tested positive for the coronavirus. It brings the Kansas total since the pandemic began to 252,041. http://bit.ly/2XHak48

KTIV Ch. 4 Sioux City IA - Nebraska reports 1,529 new cases of COVID-19 and 12 additional virus-related deaths - 1/13/21 - Nebraska health experts report 1,529 new cases of COVID-19 in the state on Wednesday, bringing the total number of cases in the state to 179,199. http://bit.ly/3nJi8gu

KCUR Kansas Public Radio - Kansas City, Here's How To Reserve Your Spot In Line For A COVID-19 Vaccine - 1/13/21- With Missouri and Kansas in the initial phases of their vaccine distribution plans, some counties are allowing residents to sign up to be notified when they're eligible. http://bit.ly/3ssqjlg

Topeka (KS) Capital-Journal - Kansas sees largest downward two-week trend in nation for number of new COVID-19 cases - 1/13/21 - Between Monday and Wednesday, the Kansas Department of Health and Environment reported 4,539 new COVID-19 cases and 100 new deaths. There were also 189 new hospitalizations. http://bit.ly/2N1871r

KWCH Ch. 13 Wichita KS - HHS announces sweeping changes in COVID-19 vaccine rollout guidelines - 1/13/21- he Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) on Tuesday (Jan. 12) announced sweeping changes in COVID-19 vaccine rollout guidelines. It's an effort to boost the lagging number of vaccinations seen in the first month of distribution. http://bit.ly/35Gqx53

Wyandotte (KS) Daily News - Kansas really in top tier of states for vaccine distribution, health secretary says - 1/13/21 - Dr. Lee Norman, Kansas health secretary, said Tuesday morning that, contrary to reports, Kansas is really in the top tier for vaccine distribution. http://bit.ly/3oWWret

Missouri Independent - Feds tell states to give COVID-19 vaccine to anyone 65 and older in bid to speed rollout - 1/13/21 - Missouri officials have expressed exasperation at changing figures on the amount of vaccines they will receive each week. http://bit.ly/2LqY7hM

Missouri Independent - Nearly a quarter of Missourians would 'definitely not' get a COVID vaccine, poll finds - 1/12/21 - As the state works through the first phases of its coronavirus vaccine rollout, a new poll released Monday finds that about 23 percent of Missourians would "definitely not get it." http://bit.ly/38KixLk

St. Louis Post-Dispatch - Missouri reports 2,780 COVID-19 cases, infections slow after two-week uptick - 1/14/21- Missouri's seven-day average of COVID-19 cases declined for the third day in a row on Thursday, following a two-week uptick. Missouri reported 2,780 new cases of COVID-19 on Thursday, up from 2,060 the day before. http://bit.ly/3nLl4cl

NATIONAL

The Guardian - Top scientists warn of 'ghastly future of mass extinction' and climate disruption - 1/13/21 - Sobering new report says world is failing to grasp the extent of threats posed by biodiversity loss and the climate crisis. http://bit.ly/3bDCOnD

Politico - Trump's EPA team overrules career scientists on toxic chemical - 1/13/21 - Changes to the safety assessment for a major cause of water pollution are the administration's latest "landmine" for Joe Biden's incoming appointees, one Democratic aide said. http://politi.co/39MhKZR

National Law Review - Asbestos Reporting and Regulation to be a TSCA Focal Point for EPA in 2021 - 1/13/21 - A flurry of asbestos-related activity in the last weeks of 2020 will require the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to devote significant regulatory attention to asbestos in 2021. http://bit.ly/3sjjuC2

Compliance Week - Opinion: EPA's toxic love affair with high-polluting industries needs to end - 1/13/21- The love affair the heads of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) have demonstrated with executives of high-polluting industries in recent years is as repulsive and indecent as the cringe-worthy season finales of "The Bachelor" and "The Bachelorette." http://bit.ly/3nNfmH0

AP - NTSB says vehicle battery fires pose risks to 1st responders - 1/13/21 - Electric vehicle fires pose safety risks to first responders and guidelines from manufacturers about how to deal with them have been inadequate, according to U.S. investigators. http://bit.ly/3qiAxCu

E&E News - Top senator warns banks: 'Account for climate' - 1/11/21 - Even before Democrats won control of the Senate last week, experts said the next four years could be ripe

for pushing financial regulators — and Wall Street giants — forward on climate change. http://bit.ly/3slhf1j

Science Magazine - Low Cost Chlorine Dispensing Device Improves Tap Water Safety In Low-Resource Regions - 1/13/21- A team of researchers led by engineers at Tufts University's School of Engineering and Stanford University's Program on Water, Health and Development have developed a novel and inexpensive chlorine dispensing device that can improve the safety of drinking water in regions of the world that lack financial resources and adequate infrastructure. http://bit.ly/3sqdUhm

Bloomberg - Ex-Governor of Michigan Charged with Neglect in Flint Crisis - 1/14/21 - Former Michigan Governor Rick Snyder was charged with willful neglect of duty on the eve of the state's announcement about the outcome of a criminal probe into the lead contamination of the water supply in the city of Flint. http://bit.ly/35lR3nk

Smart Water Magazine - Scientist develops method to find toxic chemicals in drinking water - 1/13/21 - Johns Hopkins Environmental Health and Engineering Prof. Carsten Prasse proposes a new approach to assessing drinking water quality that could result in cleaner, safer taps. http://bit.ly/39wBDns

Energy News Network - Cities, states would lose voice on model energy code updates under proposal - 1/13/21 - The International Code Council is set to consider a proposal that would strip public sector members of their voting rights on updates to influential model building energy code. http://bit.ly/38JqtDf

Inside Climate News - American Petroleum Institute Chief Promises to Fight Biden and the Democrats on Drilling, Tax Policy - 1/14/21 -Mike Sommers, in his annual address, said the oil and gas industry remained essential to America. Will Biden and political leaders agree? http://bit.ly/3ssfpvB

Bloomberg Law - Justice Department Memo Targets Environmental Mitigation - 1/13/21 - The Trump administration is limiting the inclusion of certain mitigation requirements in environmental enforcement cases, building on other Justice Department moves to set constraints on settlements. https://bit.ly/39y0yXF

Bloomberg Law - Coronavirus Stunted EPA's Enforcement Metrics in Fiscal 2020 - 1/13/21- The coronavirus pandemic dented the EPA's enforcement numbers in fiscal 2020, although the agency said Wednesday that it had been on pace earlier to outdo its numbers from previous years. https://bit.ly/3icSKOS

Bloomberg Law - 'Troubling' Results Seen in EPA Look at Two Newer PFAS Chemicals - 1/13/21 - Early data from the EPA's ongoing studies of two of the newer types of so-called

forever chemicals shows they can harm laboratory animals exposed in the womb, which suggests they also could harm people. https://bit.ly/2N6xOgR

Bloomberg Law - Environmental Cases Filling Up Supreme Court Docket (Podcast) - 1/13/21- The Supreme Court hasn't been shy about wading into some pretty thorny environmental disputes. Including the two cases it took up last week, the justices now have six environmental cases on their docket. https://bit.ly/3qm6YjC

Inside EPA - EPA Touts Increase In Criminal Enforcement Despite Limits from Pandemic - 1/13/21- EPA says its annual enforcement and compliance data for fiscal year 2020 includes opening 247 new criminal cases, which is 77 more than it opened in FY19 and the largest number of such cases since 2014. http://bit.ly/3bEmMtD

Inside EPA - EPA Proposes Slightly Stricter Air Toxics Regulations for Five Industries - 1/13/21- EPA is proposing to slightly tighten air toxics controls for five industries, the latest in a series of Clean Air Act-mandated reviews of existing hazardous air pollutant (HAP) regulations that finds public health risks from certain sectors' emissions are acceptable and do not justify significantly tightening the emissions standards. http://bit.ly/3oKtToe

Inside EPA - EPA Region 2 Administrator Lopez leaves agency- 1/13/21 - Peter Lopez, administrator of EPA Region 2 that covers New Jersey, New York, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands and eight tribes, has announced he will be leaving the agency on Jan. 20, the day President-elect Joe Biden will be inaugurated and when the top political appointees at EPA will be required to step down. http://bit.ly/3qmyRYM

Inside EPA - EPA inks MOU with OSHA on new chemical reviews - 1/13/21- EPA and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) are pledging to deepen their coordination on TSCA reviews of new chemicals to avoid threats to worker safety, but the pact appears to exclude evaluations of existing chemicals even though EPA's advisors have urged it to improve its work with OSHA on that program specifically. http://bit.ly/38IXBEr

Inside EPA - EPA Faces Second Industry Suit Testing FIFRA's Reach Amid COVID-19- 1/13/21 - The maker of a line of hand wipes is suing EPA over an enforcement action targeting advertising that the agency said amounts to improper claims that the wipes are effective as disinfectants, setting up another test of EPA's aggressive use of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) during the COVID-19 pandemic. http://bit.ly/3nJxYaP

Inside EPA - Democrats' PFAS Agenda Could Drive Sweeping Efforts Under TSCA - 1/13/21 - Democrats are poised to pursue an aggressive agenda on per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) after winning unified control of the federal government in the 2020 elections, including stringent TSCA actions from the Biden EPA as well as legislation that could

give the agency broad new authority to address the chemicals under several programs. https://bit.ly/3bhnX24

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