Message

From: alertsadmin@opisnet.com [alertsadmin@opisnet.com]
Sent: 3/24/2021 8:25:36 PM
To: Hengst, Benjamin [Hengst.Benjamin@epa.gov]
Subject: BIOFUELS UPDATE: ***UPDATE: US EPA to Propose Revised Passenger Vehicles GHG Standards by July

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***UPDATE: US EPA to Propose Revised Passenger Vehicles GHG Standards by July

(Updating with Regan's remarks to Agri-Pulse conference.)

The Biden administration is planning to issue by late July its proposed rewrite of the Trump administration's fuel efficiency rule for light-duty vehicles, EPA Administrator Michael Regan said at the CERES21 conference on Wednesday.

Regan said EPA and the U.S. Department of Transportation are working on a joint approach for replacing the 2020 Safer Affordable Fuel Efficient (SAFE) rule, which requires a 1.5% annual increase in fuel efficiency and carbon emission standard for model years 2021 through 2026.

The rule was widely criticized for retreating from the nearly 5% annual increases proposed by the Obama administration and for yanking California's authority to set more stringent fuel economy standards that other states could choose to follow.

CERES is a Boston-based nonprofit that works with companies and investors to promote sustainability.

Regan, who followed his remarks at CERES with an appearance at Agri-Pulse's virtual Ag & Food Policy Summit, referred to the agency's plans to develop new fuel efficiency standards and told the agricultural audience that renewable fuels, particularly lower-carbon advanced biofuels, will have a role to play in the Biden administration's efforts to cut greenhouse-gas (GHG) emissions.

"There's no doubt that one component of our climate strategy is biofuels. The [Renewable Fuel Standard] is EPA's primary tool here, so we will be working this year to get that program back on the track of more transparency, more certainty in the decisions that we have made and looking at fuel volumes."

Regan said that while the "next generation" of emissions standards for passenger cars and trucks "are very important ... we are going to need a suite of options for our transportation agenda and biofuel, especially advanced biofuels, are part of that agenda."

He also told Agri-Pulse conference attendees that one of his first calls after being confirmed was to U.S. Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack to discuss "how we can partner to pursue those efforts."

-Reporting by Amena Saiyid, amena.saiyid@ihsmarkit.com and Patrick Newkumet, pnewkumet@opisnet.com; Editing by Jeff Barber, jbarber@opisnet.com

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