From: Thomas, Hattie
Sent: Mon 8/26/2013 8:14:20 PM
Subject: OPA Daily Digest 8/26/13

OPA Daily Digest for 8/26/13

Congressional Inquiries:

Rep. William Lacy Clay (Mo.) 7/31/13: Coordination of information sharing with citizens group and local residents about cleanup efforts at the West Lake Landfill site. Due: 8/14/13. Contact: LaTonya Sanders, 7555 (closed)

Sen. Claire McCaskill (Mo.) 8/6/13: West Lake Landfill FUSRAP designation. Due: 8/20/13. Contact: LaTonya Sanders, 7555 (closed)

Non-Responsive

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State Government Inquiries:

None

Press Inquiries:

Non-Responsive

Non-Responsive

Environmental Stories:

KSDK Ch. 5 St. Louis - Nuns to pray for Westlake Landfill - 8/26/13 - A group of nuns will return to the Westlake Landfill in Bridgeton on Wednesday to pray for the removal of radioactive waste.

http://www.ksdk.com/news/article/394745/3/Nuns-to-pray-for-radioactive-waste-site

KMOX Radio (St. Louis) – Environmentalists Cite Issues in Bridgeton Landfill Revised Contingency Plan - 8/23/13 - The owners of Bridgeton's smoldering landfill, Republic Services, are out with a revised contingency plan, and, in the eyes of those watching it, it's good and bad. http://stlouis.cbslocal.com/2013/08/23/environmentalists-cite-issues-in-bridgeton-landfill-revised-contingency-plan/

Washington Times - TIAHRT: Missing 'green coal' opportunities - 8/26/13 - The sky has no walls. Pollution rides the wind around the entire Earth. Developing countries are trying to mimic America's affordable and reliable coal power, but without "green coal" technologies, or pollution controls. The best way to target this worldwide contamination is to find solutions here at home. http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2013/aug/26/tiahrt-missing-green-coal-opportunities/

Associated Press - Environmentalists sue Missouri over renewable energy - 8/25/13 - An environmental group has asked a Missouri judge to overturn the way state officials have implemented a 2008 ballot initiative meant to increase the use of renewable energy sources by power companies.
http://www.kansascity.com/2013/08/25/4435772/environmentalists-sue-missouri.html

Associated Press (Iowa) - Environmental groups fault utility plans to increase efficiency - 8/25/13 - Environmental groups are challenging the conservation plans of Iowa's largest gas and electricity providers, saying Interstate Power and Light and MidAmerican Energy are not doing as much as they could to help consumers use less electricity. http://www.desmoinesregister.com/viewart/20130826/NEWS/308260052/Environmental-groups-fault-utility-plans-to-increase-efficiency

Lincoln Journal Star - Arena area will be clean enough to protect human health - 8/22/13 - The discovery of several small pockets of diesel fuel floating on the groundwater 20 feet underground in the West Haymarket area is "unremarkable," said Miki Esposito, director of the city's Public Works and Utilities Department. http://journalstar.com/news/local/govt-and-politics/arena-area-will-be-clean-enough-to-protect-human-health/article_86813e60-6c82-5b6a-a00e-b05c1a18dcb2.html

Lincoln Journal Star - Diesel discovery in Haymarket spurs more soil monitoring - 8/22/13 - The firm monitoring environmental problems around the new Lincoln arena will install six additional monitoring wells after discovering a small amount of diesel fuel about 20 feet under ground, above the groundwater in three areas. http://journalstar.com/news/local/diesel-discovery-in-haymarket-spurs-more-soil-monitoring/article_6ad6674c-4309-5adb-8a17-8a1c241f7d75.html

St. Louis Post-Dispatch - Oil sands pipeline avoids Keystone XL scrutiny - 8/25/13 - In the coming months, hundreds of pieces of pipe will be strung together as part of Enbridge Energy Co.'s Flanagan South Pipeline, a new 589-mile artery that will transport heavy Canadian oil through the nation's midsection. http://www.stltoday.com/business/local/oil-sands-pipeline-avoids-keystone-xl-scrutiny/article_5a80dcef-44aa-5272-8451-fb4511a33522.html

Topeka Capital-Journal - Westar seeks more renewable energy - 8/22/13 - Westar Energy is seeking proposals to add at least 80 megawatts of renewable energy potential to its portfolio. http://cjonline.com/news/business/2013-08-22/westar-seeks-more-renewable-energy

Wichita Business Journal - Westar Energy seeks renewable energy partnership - 8/23/13 - Westar Energy wants to add 80 megawatts of renewable energy to its portfolio. The utility company is seeking a developer to build and operate a renewable energy project that would be producing power by the fourth quarter of 2016. http://www.bizjournals.com/wichita/news/2013/08/23/westar-energy-seeks-renewable-energy.html

Wichita Eagle - Wichita City Council to consider settlement over failing water pumps, motors - 8/24/13 - Thirty failing submersible pumps and motors that have plagued the city's groundwater recharge program would be replaced under a settlement being considered Tuesday by the Wichita City Council. http://www.kansas.com/2013/08/24/2961835/wichita-city-council-to-consider.html

Quad-City Times - Projects put stormwater into the ground - 8/25/13 - The new emphasis on infiltrating stormwater into the ground for cleaner water can be seen in several projects in Davenport and Bettendorf. http://qctimes.com/news/local/projects-put-stormwater-into-the-ground/article_9dba4d85-5f57-5465-97b6-a20afd8ff3f1.html

Lincoln Journal Star - Ethanol-free fuel will cost more, may be scarce - 8/25/13 - Prices of premium and regular grades of gasoline without ethanol are likely to rise in Nebraska and Iowa, and those fuels may become harder to find. http://journalstar.com/news/state-and-regional/ethanol-free-fuel-will-cost-more-may-be-scarce/article_43763b16-8697-5099-910c-43e55142e87b.html

Omaha World-Herald - Editorial: Nuclear ruling points to two problems - 8/25/13 - A federal appeals court says the Nuclear Regulatory Commission must renew its long-stalled review of the Yucca Mountain nuclear waste storage project. The ruling calls attention to two very different, but very big, problems. http://www.inspiredhomeomaha.com/article/20130825/NEWS08/130829465

Des Moines Register - Charging stations added slowly as electric car use sputters - 8/26/13 - It's supposed to be an Iowa truism that "If you build it, they will come." But that hasn't happened yet at an electric vehicle charging station in northwest Des Moines. http://www.desmoinesregister.com/article/20130826/NEWS/308260034/1001/

Inside EPA - Petition For Iowa Nutrient Limits Renews Battle In Mississippi Watershed - 6/23/13 - Environmentalists are petitioning Iowa officials to issue long-delayed numeric nutrient water quality criteria, a move renewing the battle over such standards in a key Mississippi River Basin state. http://insideepa.com/Water-Policy-Report/Water-Policy-Report-08/26/2013/petition-for-iowa-nutrient-limits-renews-battle-in-mississippi-watershed/menu-id-127.html

Chemical & Engineering News - Pinpointing Intermediates Catalysis: Study identifies key player in NOx cleanup, shows connection to enzyme catalysis - 8/26/13 - The once-familiar scene of long lines of diesel trucks belching black smoke along roadways has largely faded as a result of demanding environmental legislation and the technology it has compelled. http://cen.acs.org/articles/91/i34/Pinpointing-Intermediates.html

Greenwire - DOE stayed silent on State's latest pipeline review - 6/23/13 - The Department of Energy didn't join U.S. EPA and the Interior Department in writing public comments on the review of the controversial Keystone XL pipeline. http://www.eenews.net/greenwire/stories/1059986407/feed

Greenwire - State IG to stretch probe of environmental review into 2014 - 6/23/13 - The State Department's inspector general said today that it would extend until 2014 an inquiry into the choice of the private contractor that gave a positive environmental review to Keystone XL this spring. http://www.eenews.net/greenwire/stories/1059986408/feed

Greenwire - EPA doesn't know if its security program works -- IG - 6/23/13 - U.S. EPA has only limited knowledge about the effectiveness of its water security program more than a decade after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. http://www.eenews.net/greenwire/stories/1059986412/feed

NPR - The 'Consensus' View: Kevin Trenberth's Take On Climate Change (audio - 7:49) - 8/23/13 - Next month, a scientific committee sponsored by the United Nations will put out its latest assessment of climate change. The report is expected to underscore yet again that climate change is a serious problem and human beings are largely responsible. http://www.npr.org/2013/08/23/214198814/the-consensus-view-kevin-trenberths-take-on-climate-change?ft=1&f=1025

Los Angeles Times - Obama administration proposes new standards for silica dust - 6/23/13 - The Obama administration on Friday proposed long-awaited rules for silica dust in the workplace that would cut exposure levels in half. http://www.latimes.com/nation/politics/politicsnow/la-na-pn-silica-dust-osha-20130823,0,7832094.story

Popular Science - Drinking Arsenic-Laced Water Is Like Smoking For Decades, Study Finds - 8/25/13 - Drinking water contaminated with unsafe levels of arsenic harms the lungs as much as decades of smoking, a new study has found. Researchers looked at arsenic levels that were at least twice as high as what the U.S Environmental Protection Agency considers permissible for drinking water. http://www.popsci.com/science/article/2013-08/arsenic-water-damages-lungs-decades-smoking-study-finds

Wall Street Journal - Fight Over Proposed Federal Fracking Rules Flares Up - 8/23/13 - A voluminous file of public comments shows how high the stakes are for President Barack Obama's Interior Department as it prepares to decide the fate of proposed rules for hydraulic fracturing on federal lands.
http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424127887323980604579031171520457480.html

New York Times - New Rules Would Cut Silica Dust Exposure - 8/23/13 - OSHA proposed long-awaited rules on Friday to limit crystalline silica, a move it said would prevent nearly 700 deaths a year by reducing exposure to these very small particles that can cause lung cancer and other diseases.
http://www.nytimes.com/2013/08/24/business/new-rules-would-cut-silica-dust-exposure.html

The Independent (UK) - Fracking: The great debate - 8/23/13 - It's either the answer to our energy supply problem, according to David Cameron. Or a toxic threat to the environment, if you believe Caroline Lucas. So which of them is right? Tom Bawden, Environment Editor, weighs the evidence.
http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/fracking-the-great-debate-8782853.html

Washington Post - Fracking health project puts numbers to debate, suggests air pollution may be bigger concern - 8/25/13 - A project examining the local health impacts from natural gas drilling is providing some of the first preliminary numbers about people who may be affected. http://www.washingtonpost.com/business/fracking-health-project-puts-numbers-to-debate-suggests-air-pollution-may-be-bigger-concern/2013/08/25/596d1134-0da2-11e3-a2b3-5e107edf9897_story.html

The Tarton - Small gives thoughts on environmental impact of fracking - 8/26/13 - Mitchell Small, H. John

Heinz professor of civil and environmental engineering, weighed in on the controversial issue of fracking in a webinar for weekly magazine Engineering-News Record last Wednesday. http://thetartan.org/2013/8/26/news/shale

American Thinker - Commentary: Restrictive Work Practices killing Green Energy – 8/25/13 - The problem with the green energy twins, wind and solar, is that they work as if they were unionized. http://www.americanthinker.com/blog/2013/08/restrictive_work_practices_killing_green_energy.html

Triple Pundit (blog) - How to Address Both Economic & Environmental Problems - 8/26/13 - Environmental, technological, socioeconomic and political forces continue to disrupt and reshape American and global society, manifesting themselves today in what many see as twin economic and ecological crises. http://www.triplepundit.com/2013/08/economic-environmental-problems/

USA Today - Domestic natural gas: From boom to overkill - 8/25/13 - Natural gas was first a boon for domestic energy producers and then an albatross. Hydraulic fracturing, or 'fracking', made production possible in many previously untapped shale fields, sparking a land grab that began a decade ago. www.usatoday.com/story/money/business/2013/08/25/natural-gas-boom-overkill/2692767/

USA Today - Report: 95% odds that humans are to blame for warming - 8/20/13 - The world's top group of climate scientists is preparing to report that man-made global warming is "extremely likely," putting the odds that humanity is the main reason for the warming at 95%. http://www.usatoday.com/story/weather/2013/08/20/climate-change-global-warming-ipcc-report/2678683/

Politico - When energy dreams fall short - 8/25/13 - If the energy visions of past years had come true, throngs of Americans would be using switchgrass to fuel their cars and running their homes on electricity from nuclear fusion or carbon-capturing coal plants. http://www.politico.com/story/2013/08/alternative-energy-sources-95855.html

The Hill - Climate 'hawks' hatch super-PAC ahead of 2014 races - 8/25/13 - A group of veteran political organizers have launched a super-PAC to support Democrats who make climate change a top priority. http://thehill.com/blogs/e2-wire/e2-wire/318667-climate-hawks-hatch-super-pac-ahead-of-2014-races

Inside EPA - EPA Likely To Drop Strictest Power Plant ELG Option Sought By Advocates - 08/23/2013 - EPA says it is unlikely to move forward with the most stringent of its proposals for governing power plant discharges as part of its effluent limitation guidelines (ELG). http://insideepa.com/Water-Policy-Report/Water-Policy-Report-08/26/2013/epa-likely-to-drop-strictest-power-plant-elg-option-sought-by-advocates/menu-id-127.html

Inside EPA - EPA Plan To Review Oldest Effluent Standards Wins Praise From States - 08/23/2013 - EPA's preliminary plan for crafting new or revised effluent limitation guidelines (ELG) indicates that the agency will not be developing any new sector-based discharge limits over the next two years. http://insideepa.com/Water-Policy-Report/Water-Policy-Report-08/26/2013/epa-plan-to-review-oldest-effluent-standards-wins-praise-from-states/menu-id-127.html

Inside EPA - EPA Drops Bifurcated Approach For Strict Ammonia Water Quality Criteria - 08/23/2013 - EPA has unveiled strict new water quality criteria for ammonia, dropping a bifurcated approach that the Fish & Wildlife Service (FWS) had urged the agency to eliminate from an earlier proposal. http://insideepa.com/Water-Policy-Report/Water-Policy-Report-08/26/2013/epa-drops-bifurcated-approach-for-strict-ammonia-water-quality-criteria/menu-id-127.html

Inside EPA - EPA Seeks To Increase Drinking Water Emergency Response Coordination - 08/23/2013 - EPA and state drinking water administrators have released new guidance aimed at increasing coordination between state drinking water and emergency management agencies, as part of EPA's efforts to better prepare drinking water utilities for emergencies such as Hurricane Sandy. http://insideepa.com/Water-Policy-Report/Water-Policy-Report-08/26/2013/epa-seeks-to-increase-drinking-water-emergency-response-coordination/menu-id-127.html

Inside EPA - Touting SRF, States Urge Senate To Drop Plan For New EPA Water Fund - 08/23/2013 - State officials are urging key senators to drop legislation to create a pilot EPA program to test direct water infrastructure loans to large municipalities -- renewing states' push to defeat the pilot. http://insideepa.com/Water-Policy-Report/Water-Policy-Report-08/26/2013/touting-srf-states-urge-senate-to-drop-plan-for-new-epa-water-fund/menu-id-127.html

Inside EPA - States See FY14 resolution as best outcome of fight over epa funding - 8/23/16 - States and others that rely on EPA grants say Congress approving a continuing resolution (CR) to maintain current agency funding levels into fiscal year 2014 is the best -- and most likely -- outcome. http://insideepa.com/Water-Policy-Report/Water-Policy-Report-08/26/2013/states-see-fy14-resolution-as-best-outcome-of-fight-over-epa-funding/menu-id-127.html

Inside EPA - EPA's CAFO Deal With Iowa Likely To Sidestep Stance On Permitting 'Duty' - 08/23/2013 - EPA is nearing an agreement with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) on its plan to strengthen the state's Clean Water Act (CWA) permit program for concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFOs). http://insideepa.com/Water-Policy-Report/Water-Policy-Report-08/26/2013/epas-cafo-deal-with-iowa-likely-to-sidestep-stance-on-permitting-duty/menu-id-127.html

Inside EPA - Industry Asks Court For Deadline On EPA Review Of Combustion Air Rules - 08/22/2013 - Industry groups are asking a federal appeals court to require EPA to finalize its reconsideration of its combustion air rules by the end of 2013, saying a court-ordered deadline is vital to resolve regulatory uncertainty. http://insideepa.com/201308222444777/EPA-Daily-News/Daily-News/industry-asks-court-for-deadline-on-epa-review-of-combustion-air-rules/menu-id-95.html

Inside EPA - EPA Poised To Issue Stricter Water Quality Criteria For Ammonia - 08/21/2013 - EPA is poised to unveil strict new water quality criteria for ammonia, dropping a bifurcated approach that the Fish & Wildlife Service (FWS) had urged the agency to eliminate from an earlier proposal.
http://insideepa.com/201308212444618/EPA-Daily-News/Daily-News/epa-poised-to-issue-stricter-water-quality-criteria-for-ammonia/menu-id-95.html

Inside EPA - Energy Groups Urge EPA To Revise Air Data To Fix Incinerator Rule Flaws - 08/21/2013 - Oil and gas industry groups in Alaska are urging EPA to work with them on developing new emissions data to remedy what they say are flaws in the agency's incinerator emissions rule as it applies to small remote sources. http://insideepa.com/Inside-EPA/Inside-EPA-08/23/2013/energy-groups-urge-epa-to-revise-air-data-to-fix-incinerator-rule-flaws/menu-id-67.html

BNA - States, Advocacy Groups Threaten Lawsuits Over Missed Deadline for Wood Heater Rule - 8/26/13 - Seven states and several advocacy groups are threatening to sue the Environmental Protection Agency for missing its Clean Air Act deadline to review air quality standards for new residential wood heaters.
http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=35699417&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0e1b4y4n9&split=0

BNA - USDA Expected to Respond to Request - For Better Oversight of Biotech Crop Trials - 8/26/13 - The U.S. Department of Agriculture will issue a formal response to a coalition of more than 150 farming organizations and businesses that asked the department to improve federal oversight of field trials for genetically engineered crops, according to a representative of the Organic Seed Alliance.
http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=35699423&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0e1b5p8m4&split=0

BNA - Court Says Time Limit in Air Act Case Applies to Penalties, Not Injunctive Relief - 8/26/13 - A federal judge said the Environmental Protection Agency can seek injunctive relief from an industrial source that is accused of modifying its facility without required permits and emissions controls, even beyond a five-year statute of limitations.
http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=35699426&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0e1b5q5n4&split=0

BNA - EPA Next Generation Compliance Program - Outlined in Article Written for Law Institute - 8/26/13 - EPA's top enforcement official says EPA's Next Generation Compliance program addresses options for agency rules and emphasizes more monitoring and transparency.
http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=35699420&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0e1b5m9q0&split=0

BNA - Revisions to Hazardous Waste Exemption Top EPA Priority, Chemical Makers Told - 8/26/13 - Finalizing revisions to a 2008 rule setting out the definition of solid waste is the top priority of EPA's waste office, an industry group says after an agency meeting.
http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=35699419&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0e1b5k5w9&split=0

Inside EPA - Agricultural Industry Details Path For EPA To Update Fertilizer Safety Alert - 8/26/13 - Agricultural retail industry officials are detailing options for EPA to update its 1997 warning on ammonium nitrate's explosive dangers by crafting new recommendations on storage. http://insideepa.com/201308262444946/EPA-Daily-News/Daily-News/agricultural-industry-details-path-for-epa-to-update-fertilizer-safety-alert/menu-id-95.html

Inside EPA - DOJ Urged To Probe Oil Industry's Alleged Bid To Block Renewable Fuels - 8/23/13 - Two senators are urging the Justice Department (DOJ) and Federal Trade Commission (FTC) to investigate allegations that the oil sector is trying to block market access for renewable fuels. http://cleanenergyreport.com/201308232444888/Clean-Energy-Report-Daily-News/News/doj-urged-to-probe-oil-industrys-alleged-bid-to-block-renewable-fuels/menu-id-202.html

Inside EPA - DOE Advisors Eye Options To Solve 'Challenge' Of Lifting Biofuel Barriers - 8/23/13 - Department of Energy (DOE) advisors are crafting policy recommendations to solve the "grand challenge" of barriers to biofuels production, including how to address possible hindrance of alternative fuels under EPA's greenhouse gas (GHG) vehicle rules and options to boost biofuels under the agency's renewable fuel standard (RFS). http://cleanenergyreport.com/201308232444788/Clean-Energy-Report-Daily-News/News/doe-advisors-eye-options-to-solve-challenge-of-lifting-biofuel-barriers/menu-id-202.html

Inside EPA - Agencies See 'Systematic Review' As Key To New Risk - 8/23/13 - EPA and the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) are planning to hold separate public workshops in the coming weeks to promote to skeptical industry officials the "systematic review" approach that they hope to adopt. http://insideepa.com/201308232444887/EPA-Daily-News/Daily-News/agencies-see-systematic-review-as-key-to-new-risk-analysis-approaches/menu-id-95.html

Inside EPA - EPA Likely To Drop Strictest Power Plant ELG Option Sought By Advocates - 8/23/13 - EPA says it is unlikely to move forward with the most stringent of its proposals for governing power plant discharges as part of its effluent limitation guidelines (ELG), arguing that portions of that standard may be too costly. http://insideepa.com/201308232444782/EPA-Daily-News/Daily-News/epa-likely-to-drop-strictest-power-plant-elg-option-sought-by-advocates/menu-id-95.html

Inside EPA - EPA Pressured To Reach Deal Setting New Stormwater Rule Deadline - 8/23/13 - Environmentalists are pressing EPA to quickly release its long-awaited proposal requiring developers to limit stormwater runoff after new construction is complete, rather than negotiate another extension. http://insideepa.com/201308232444781/EPA-Daily-News/Daily-News/epa-pressured-to-reach-deal-setting-new-stormwater-rule-deadline/menu-id-95.html

Inside EPA - Ruling Raises Hurdles For Class Action Brownfields Civil Rights Litigation - 8/23/13 -

A district court judge has denied Baltimore residents' request to halt construction work at a brownfields site until a more stringent cleanup plan is developed, raising questions about the likely success of the novel class action litigation. http://insideepa.com/201308232444780/EPA-Daily-News/Daily-News/ruling-raises-hurdles-for-class-action-brownfields-civil-rights-litigation/menu-id-95.html

Press Releases:

Link to all R7 press releases: http://go.usa.gov/Qx5

Local and Industrial Emergency Planners Recognized for Chemical Emergency Planning Achievements throughout EPA Region 7- 8/26/13 – Contact: Kris Lancaster, 7557

Fact Sheets:

Link to all R7 fact sheets: http://www.epa.gov/region7/factsheets

None

Non-Responsive

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