To: R7 Daily Digest Group[R7_Daily_Digest_Group@epa.gov]
From: Washburn, Ben
Sent: Fri 1/16/2015 10:45:21 PM
Subject: OPA Daily Digest 1/16/15

OPA Daily Digest for 1/16/15

Congressional Inquiries:

None

State Government Inquiries:

None

Press Inquiries:

KSN-TV (Wichita, Kan.) – Brittany Glas – 1/13/15: Requesting on-camera interviews regarding the three Wichita Superfund sites. Contact: Ben Washburn, 7364 (open)

KMUW Public Radio, Wichita – Sean Sandefur – 1/14/15: Questions about status of EPA's cleanup of Integrated Plastics Solutions in El Dorado, Kan. Contact: Chris Whitley, 7394 (open)

Freelancer - Jack Suntrup – 1/15/15: Update on Coastal Energy case. Contact: David Bryan, 7433 (open)

KWIX-AM (Lebanon, Mo.) – Kyle Hill – 1/15/15: Request Region 7 radon expert to be interviewed. Bob Dye set for interview on Tuesday, Jan. 20. Contact: David Bryan, 7433

(open)

Kansas City Star – Jim Fussell – 1/16/15: Looking for a cost comparison for LED versus CFL bulbs. Contact: David Bryan, 7433 (open)

KMOV Radio (St. Louis) – Russ Kinsaul – 1/16/15: Questions regarding EPA letter to PRPs requesting additional site characterization. Contact: Ben Washburn, 7364 (closed)

Environmental Stories:

St. Louis Post-Dispatch - EPA wants to map radioactive waste in Bridgeton Landfill - 1/16/15 - The Environmental Protection Agency wants tests of the Bridgeton Landfill to map radioactive contamination. The decision takes a step back from past pronouncements by the EPA, which had said the waste was contained within fenced areas of the adjacent West Lake Landfill. http://www.stltoday.com/business/local/epa-wants-to-map-radioactive-waste-in-bridgeton-landfill/article_81a69952-4cbc-5851-86b1-e3f42561ed3b.html

St. Louis Post-Dispatch - MSD speeds up fix for Chesterfield trouble spot - 1/15/15 - After several sewer line breaks near Chesterfield last year, the Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District is accelerating a fix for the area. One of those breaks resulted in the release of 12.5 million gallons of sewage. http://www.stltoday.com/business/local/msd-speeds-up-fix-for-chesterfield-trouble-spot/article_5a70b4ff-2538-5dc6-8993-0d041d9df773.html

St. Louis Post-Dispatch - Analysis: Climate Change and Intergenerational Ethics - 1/14/15 - Humanism, despite its name, is concerned not only with humanity. People exist in and only because of a fantastically complex natural system, and therefore humanists believe that an essential part of living ethically is living in a way that is sustainable for future generations as well as for other species. http://www.stltoday.com/lifestyles/faith-and-values/civil-religion/kate-lovelady/climate-change-and-intergenerational-ethics/article_1736901c-9c1f-11e4-844d-8b26cdb28539.html

Associated Press - Study: $18B to Divert Missouri River to Irrigate Farms - 1/14/15 -

Building a 360-mile aqueduct to reroute water from the Missouri River to irrigate crops in western Kansas where underwater stores are being exhausted would cost $18 billion and require an additional $1 billion each year to operate, a new draft report shows.
http://abcnews.go.com/US/wireStory/study-18b-divert-missouri-river-irrigate-farms-28228494

KSNT Ch. 27 Topeka, Kan. - Kansas gets $13 million to improve water quality - 1/15/15 - Kansas has been awarded $13 million from the Agriculture Department for a multi-state project designed to improve water quality through the use of forestry practices.
http://kansasfirstnews.com/2015/01/16/kansas-gets-13-million-to-improve-water-quality/

Kearney Hub (Neb.) - USDA funds aquifer, Platte recovery - 1/15/15 - The Ogallala Aquifer and Platte River Recovery Project will receive funding under a new U.S. Department of Agriculture Regional Conservation Partnership Program.
http://www.kearneyhub.com/news/local/usda-funds-aquifer-platte-recovery/article_5a19e7de-9cde-11e4-a88e-f3dd405db47e.html

KRCG Ch. 9 Cedar Rapids, Iowa – Agribusiness Report Jan. 16 – 1/16/15 - The Agricultural Act of 2014 created the regional conservation partnership program, or RCPP, and on Jan. 14. It paid dividends to efforts at improving Iowa's water quality. Under the program, USDA's natural resources conservation service injected $3.5 million into the Iowa Department of Agriculture's targeted watershed demonstration projects.
http://www.kcrg.com/subject/news/business/agriculture/agribusiness-report-jan-16-20150116

Huffington Post - McCarthy: It's Time to Get Serious About Harmful Radon Exposure - 1/15/15 - Radon, a naturally-occurring invisible gas, is the second leading cause of lung cancer after smoking. Twenty-one thousand Americans die from radon-induced lung cancer each year.
http://www.huffingtonpost.com/gina-mccarthy/its-time-to-get-serious-a_b_6479112.html

KCAU Ch. 9 Sioux City, Iowa – Detect and Protect Yourself From Radon Gas – 1/15/15 - Radon gas is the number one cause of lung cancer among non-smokers, according to Environmental Protection Agency. Iowa is one of the leading states in the nation with radon gas problems and officials say it's imperative that residents get their homes tested.
http://www.siouxlandmatters.com/story/d/story/detect-and-protect-yourself-from-radon-gas/21054/zrFB0jzYN0OU3HeDb3ec9w

Also Scottsbluff Star Herald (Neb.), Hays Daily News (Kan.), WOWT Ch. 6 Omaha (Neb.),

Dubuque Times Herald (Iowa), Mapleton Press (Blair, Neb.), KCSR Radio (Chadron, Neb.),

KTIV Ch. 4 Siouxland - Hog confinement project creates controversy in Dickinson County, Iowa (video) – 1/15/15 - A proposed hog confinement in Dickinson County continues to stir up controversy as more concerns are being issued to the Iowa Department of Natural Resources. http://www.ktiv.com/story/27864434/2015/01/15/hog-confinement-project-creates-controversy-in-dickinson-county-iowa

WHO Ch. 13 Des Moines - Iowa Receives Millions of Federal Dollars for Water Quality - 1/15/15 - The most recent farm bill created the Regional Conservation Partnership Program, or RCPP, and on January 15 it paid dividends to efforts at improving Iowa's water quality. http://whotv.com/2015/01/15/iowa-receives-millions-of-federal-dollars-for-water-quality/

Joplin Globe - Some Spring River landowners eligible for water quality program - 1/15/15 - Landowners in parts of Jasper and Barton counties are eligible for assistance through an initiative to improve water quality in three Missouri watersheds. http://www.joplinglobe.com/news/local_news/some-spring-river-landowners-eligible-for-water-quality-program/article_386d6451-6bbb-57f3-9d8f-5e4dbeb17be9.html

St. Louis Post-Dispatch - MSD to propose stormwater charge with sewer fee hike - 1/16/15 - As expected, the Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District will submit a proposal next month to ratchet up sewer rates through 2020 to pay for billions of dollars in upgrades to the region's aging sewer system. But MSD plans to also propose new charges to pay for stormwater fixes. http://www.stltoday.com/business/local/msd-to-propose-stormwater-charge-with-sewer-fee-hike/article_9a5d5b7a-d3f3-5920-af39-8f060041aaef.html

Iowa Public Radio - New EPA Guidelines Limit Methane Release From Drilling - 1/14/15 - Methane is also a powerful greenhouse gas that warms the atmosphere. NPR's Christopher Joyce reports on what the government plans to do about that. http://iowapublicradio.org/post/new-epa-guidelines-limit-methane-release-drilling

Lincoln Journal-Star (Neb.) - Nebraska should 'get on board' with wind power, lawmakers say - 1/16/15 - Surrounding states continue to outpace Nebraska in their production and promotion of wind power and other renewable energy sources, a group of state lawmakers said

Friday. Five senators plan to introduce bills providing tax incentives and encouraging the state to better market its wind resources. http://journalstar.com/legislature/nebraska-should-get-on-board-with-wind-power-lawmakers-say/article_dcad843e-6ab0-5efd-a92c-56808391fdf2.html

Nebraska Watchdog - Nebraska holdouts mull next move on Keystone XL, some will sue - 1/16/15 - Tarnick is one of about 70 landowners who met at Chances R steakhouse in York Thursday evening, deciding their next move in a fight to stop a Canadian company from building an oil pipeline across Nebraska. http://watchdog.org/193531/keystone-2/?roi=echo3-24560905039-24983570-06936ffcb2d6de75fe1bffe82f1f01d1

Domestic Fuel - Ethanol Producers Meet RFS without Final Rule - 1/15/15 - The latest data from the Environmental Protection Agency shows that ethanol producers met the 2014 statutory requirements under the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) without a final rule, according to the Renewable Fuels Association (RFA). http://domesticfuel.com/2015/01/15/ethanol-producers-meet-rfs-without-final-rule/

Ethanol Producer Magazine - RFA: Ethanol producers meet statutory 2014 RFS without final rule - 1/15/15 - Renewable identification number (RIN) generation data released by the U.S. EPA shows that the statutory 2014 renewable fuel standard (RFS) requirements established by Congress in 2007 could have easily been met, and that the RFS waiver proposed — and later rescinded — by EPA was totally unnecessary. http://www.ethanolproducer.com/articles/11831/rfa-ethanol-producers-meet-statutory-2014-rfs-without-final-rule

The Hill - Boehner: 'I'll let scientists' debate climate change - 01/15/15 - Speaker John Boehner (R-Ohio) wouldn't say whether he believed human activities contribute to climate change on Thursday, instead targeting the administration for a "job killing" environmental agenda. http://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/229689-boehner-ill-let-scientists-handle-climate-change

Talking Points Memo (blog) - Speaker Boehner Won't Say If He Believes Climate Change Science - 1/15/15 - House Speaker John Boehner wouldn't say if he believes the scientific consensus that humans contribute to climate change when asked here at the Republican retreat on Thursday. http://talkingpointsmemo.com/livewire/john-boehner-climate-change

Center for Public Integrity - Who needs lobbyists? See what big business spends to win American minds - 1/15/15 - Forget lobbying. When Washington, D.C.'s biggest trade associations want to wield influence, they often put far more of their money into advertising and public relations, according to a new Center for Public Integrity investigation. http://www.publicintegrity.org/2015/01/15/16596/who-needs-lobbyists-see-what-big-business-spends-win-american-minds

National Hog Farmer - Water conservation adds up in swine operations - 1/15/15 - Hog producers use a great quantity of water, and in addition to water conservation being the environmentally correct thing to do, producers have a number of other reason to watch every drop they use in their operation. http://nationalhogfarmer.com/facilities/water-conservation-adds-swine-operations

Economist - Invisible fuel | The biggest innovation in energy is to go without - 1/17/15 - THE CHEAPEST AND cleanest energy choice of all is not to waste it. Progress on this has been striking yet the potential is still vast. http://www.economist.com/news/special-report/21639016-biggest-innovation-energy-go-without-invisible-fuel

Inside Climate - Obama's Methane Crackdown to Come Slow and Easy - 1/14/15 - Cautious approach to regulating oil and gas industry disappoints environmentalists, who regard the plan as a 'toe in the water.' http://insideclimatenews.org/news/20150114/obamas-methane-crackdown-come-slow-and-easy

Los Angeles Times - Editorial: Reducing methane is a wise short-term win - 1/14/15 - Reducing methane and other short-lived gases gives by far the biggest bang for the short-term buck. http://www.latimes.com/opinion/editorials/la-ed-methane-regulations-obama-20150115-story.html

The Guardian (U.K.) - Rate of environmental degradation puts life on Earth at risk, say scientists - 1/15/15 - Humans are 'eating away at our own life support systems' at a rate unseen in the past 10,000 years, two new research papers say. http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2015/jan/15/rate-of-environmental-degradation-puts-life-on-earth-at-risk-say-scientists

The Guardian (U.K.) - Activists say Obama action on methane emissions 'misses 90% of pollution' - 1/14/15 - The plan, a clear signal the president aims to shore up his climate legacy, applies only to future oil and gas infrastructure – a move environmental groups say will fail to combat the rise in emissions from the booming US oil and gas industry. http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2015/jan/14/obama-executive-action-curb-methane-emissions

Fast Company Co.EXIST - The Cost Of Carbon Pollution Is Much Higher Than The Government Thinks - 1/15/15 - What is the cost to society of a ton of carbon dioxide emissions? The U.S. government estimates it at $37, when you account for rising sea levels, loss of farm productivity, and other impacts of climate change. But some researchers reckon that number is too low. Much too low. http://www.fastcoexist.com/3040802/the-cost-of-carbon-pollution-is-much-higher-than-the-government-thinks

The Hill - Republicans blast Obama's methane plan - 1/14/15 - Leading congressional Republicans blasted President Obama's plan to slash methane emissions from oil and gas as an expensive regulatory structure that would have little environmental benefit. http://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/229496-republicans-blast-obamas-methane-plan

Houston Chronicle - Oil industry says methane plan unneeded - 1/14/15 - The Obama administration's plan to slash methane emissions by imposing sweeping new rules on the oil and gas industry invites a fight with the sector and its allies on Capitol Hill. http://www.houstonchronicle.com/business/energy/article/Plan-to-cut-methane-emissions-brings-quick-rebuke-6016116.php

eNews USA (blog) - Scientific Report Shows Strong Connection between Wetlands, Streams, Rivers and Estuaries - 1/16/15 - An extensive, thorough review of more than 1,200 peer-reviewed, published scientific studies to learn how small streams and wetlands connect to larger, downstream water bodies -- Connectivity of Streams and Wetlands to Downstream Waters: A Review and Synthesis of the Scientific Evidence -- a state-of-the-science report that presents findings on the connectivity of streams and wetlands to larger water bodies. http://enewsusa.blogspot.com/2015/01/scientific-report-shows-strong.html

eNewsUSA (blog) - GAO Says Impact of Deadline Suits on EPA's Rulemaking Is Limited - 1/15/15 - The report was requested by a number of House Republican leaders on the Energy and

Commerce Committee. The Government Accountability Office (GAO) letter report indicates EPA and DOJ officials stated that the factors they consider include (1) the cost of litigation, (2) the likelihood that EPA will win the case if it goes to trial, and (3) whether EPA and DOJ believe they can negotiate a settlement that will provide EPA with sufficient time to complete a final rule if required to do so. http://enewsusa.blogspot.com/2015/01/gao-says-impact-of-deadline-suits-on.html

The Economist - Seize the day - 1/17/15 - The fall in the price of oil and gas provides a once-in-a-generation opportunity to fix bad energy policies.
http://www.economist.com/news/leaders/21639501-fall-price-oil-and-gas-provides-once-generation-opportunity-fix-bad

Media Matters - Despite Dropping Oil Prices, Media Are Still Dismissing Keystone XL's Climate Impact - 1/15/15 - Many news outlets are uncritically touting the State Department's conclusion that building the Keystone XL pipeline would not significantly worsen climate change without noting that this determination was based on an expectation of high oil prices.
http://mediamatters.org/research/2015/01/15/despite-dropping-oil-prices-media-are-still-dis/202160

Press Releases:

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

None

Fact Sheets:

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

None

Upcoming Administrator/RA Events:

* New additions noted with an asterisk

2/3/15 – Air and Waste Management Association – 23rd Annual Environmental Conference, Overland Park, Kan. Contact: Becky Weber, 7487

2/17/14 – Agriculture Future of America's On Tap Webinar Series, Regional Office. Contact: Katie Howard, 7861

2/18/15 – Regional Tribal Operations Committee (RTOC) Meeting, Lawrence, Kan. Contact: Patrick Bustos, 7969

2/24-27/15 – Regional Administrator/Deputy Regional Administrator Meetings, San Francisco, Calif. Contact: Julia Cacho, 7071

3/19/14 – American Society of Environmental Historians Annual Conference, Washington D.C. Contact: Julia Cacho, 7071

4/15/15 – Dole Institute of Politics – Public Service and Policy Session, Lawrence, Kan. Contact: David Bryan, 7433

DRA:

2/18/15 – Regional Tribal Operations Committee (RTOC) Meeting, Lawrence, Kan. Contact: Patrick Bustos, 7969

2/24-27/15 – Regional Administrator/Deputy Regional Administrator Meetings, San Francisco, Calif. Contact: Julia Cacho, 7071

RA/Immediate Office

None

Other Events

AWMD

1/14-16/2015– Participating in Corrective Action Lean Workshop, Dallas, Texas. Contact: Becky Weber, 7487.

CNSL

None

ECO/EJ

None

ENSV

None

PLMG

None

RA/OPA

None

SUPR

1/21/2015 – Kansas Pipeline Association meeting – Pipeline Safety Program for Emergency Response, Paola, Ks. Contact: Megan Schuette, 7630

WWPD

***1/26-29/15** – National Enforcement Case Development Training, Denver, Colo. Contact: Maria Morey, 7079

***1/28/15 –** EPA Region 7 discussion with KDHE regarding new or revised water quality standards, Topeka, Kan. Contacts: Karen Flournoy, 7782, John DeLashmit, 7821, Amy Shields, 7396

***2/3-5/15** – 2014 State Revolving Fund Annual Review with Kansas Department of Health and Environment, Topeka, Kan. Contacts: Sabre Germano, 7026, Chris Simmons, 7237

***2/4-6/15** – Visit water utility operator from Blair, Nebraska to work on Climate Ready Evaluation Assessment Tool Model, Omaha, Neb. Contact: Ken Deason, 7585

***2/8-11/15** – 2015 Groundwater Protection Council and Underground Injection Control Conference, Austin, Tex. Contacts: David Garrett, 7159, Kurt Hildebrandt, 7413

*** 2/10-11/15** – Drinking Water Program Coordination Meeting with Iowa Department of Natural Resources, Des Moines, Iowa. Contact: Neftali Hernandez-Santiago, 7036