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TRUMP'S EPA: Agency at a crossroads -- Complete coverage

June 27, 2017

Latest News

Pruitt Faces Early Legal Tests Over Efforts To Delay Obama-Era EPA Rules

EPA is using both the Clean Air Act and the Administrative Procedure Act (APA) to delay Obama-era regulations -- a tactic to buy time for the Trump administration to rewrite the rules -- but environmentalists' challenges to those stalling tactics could be first legal tests to the bounds of EPA's authority to administratively stay its rules.

Three Suits Test Scope Of EPA Authority To Administratively Stay Rules

Three lawsuits in which environmentalists are challenging EPA administrative delays of Obama-era regulations are likely to provide the first legal tests of the agency's authority to stay its rules using administrative tools -- as EPA's use of the statutes has little prior legal precedent and could be legally risky.

EPA Seeks New Science Advisors, But Delay May Halt CASAC In Fall

EPA is poised to call for new experts to join two of its advisory committees, the Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee (CASAC) and Science Advisory Board (SAB), though the nearly two-month delay in doing so may mean that CASAC, which reviews the science underlying EPA's air quality standards, will be without new members before current members leave in the fall, effectively grinding that group's work to a halt.

Continuing Trend, EPA Taps New Water Office Deputy Ahead Of AA

EPA has named Dennis Lee Forsgren, a former industry lobbyist, Capitol Hill aide and NASA official in the Bush administration, as its new deputy assistant administrator for water, continuing a trend seen in several other offices of appointing deputies who do not require Senate confirmation before nominating office chiefs who require approval.

High Court Declines To Hear Suits On EPA's SSM Policy, Gold King Spill

The Supreme Court has declined to hear an industry suit seeking to overturn an Obama administration policy that emissions limits apply even in cases of

malfunctions as it applied to a boiler air toxics rule, leaving industry groups and the agency to now reconsider the broader issue of waivers for startup, shutdown and malfunctions (SSM) as they apply to state air quality plans.

Critics Say Trump Officials' 'Red Team' Climate Review Would Mislead Public

Trump administration critics say calls by EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt and other cabinet officials for a “red team, blue team” approach to refine climate change science would mislead the public because scientific findings already undergo a rigorous peer-review process and the new approach would give unwarranted weight to claims made by a small percentage of climate skeptics.

Daily Feed

Senate Democrats pledge to block environment 'riders' in spending bills

“To help maintain regular order and to ensure bipartisan support, we urge you to keep the FY 2018 bills free of controversial environmental policy riders,” 39 Senate Democrats write.

Report seeks better Superfund data to address cleanup slowdowns

“There is a pressing need to better understand what factors have led to the slowdown in cleanup progress and what steps could be taken to address this issue,” the report says.

Democratic AGs fear regulatory reform bill would stymie asbestos ban

A group of 13 Democratic attorneys general says a pending regulatory reform bill in the Senate would block EPA from banning asbestos under the new toxics law.

Our most read: about EPA personnel and revamping rules

The most-accessed stories over the past week involve personnel issues -- including the deputy administrator guessing game -- and rules -- including TSCA and NSR.

RGGI floats 'other ways' to link carbon trading programs

“In cases where jurisdictions may not wish or may not be able to fully adopt the RGGI Model Rule, their program may still allow for trading allowances with the RGGI program,” says a presentation from the nine-state program.

Ewire: Pruitt joins Trump to push US energy 'dominance'

The EPA administrator joins the president and other officials to make the case of increasing energy exports. Plus: Clearing BOSC will leave a 'huge void' and mayors step up climate policy work.

9th Circuit rejects rehearing in Navajo haze air plan suit

A federal appeals court has denied a tribe's request to reconsider a ruling that upheld a haze emissions reduction plan EPA issued for a power plant on its land.

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