

**To:** Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]  
**From:** InsideEPA.com  
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**Subject:** The Morning Headlines from InsideEPA.com -- November 16, 2017

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

November 16, 2017

**Latest News**

**States Fault EPA's 'Optimistic' Ozone Data, Seek New Air Transport Policy**

Northeastern and Mid-Atlantic states in the Ozone Transport Commission (OTC) area are faulting what they see as EPA's overly optimistic projections that no areas outside California are likely to exceed the 2008 ozone air standard in 2023, calling on the agency to instead pursue a "full remedy" policy to curb interstate ozone transport.

**Dourson's EPA Nomination In Doubt With Two GOP Senators' Opposition**

Michael Dourson's controversial nomination to head EPA's toxics office appears in doubt after GOP North Carolina Sens. Richard Burr and Thom Tillis announced late Nov. 15 that they would oppose him, because along with Sen. Susan Collins (R-ME) as a likely no vote, Democrats can kill the nomination if they all vote against Dourson.

**CSB Backs Parts Of Obama EPA RMP Rule To Address Facility Flood Risks**

The U.S. Chemical Safety Board (CSB) is backing parts of the Obama EPA's facility safety prevention rule to help facilities better prepare for worsening risks from flooding, saying companies should reassess their emergency planning and coordination with first responders and communities to ensure adequate planning for extreme weather.

**Manufacturers Push NSR Reform To Promote Lower-Emitting Technology**

Manufacturers are calling for an overhaul to ease EPA's Clean Air Act new source review (NSR) permitting program to help promote technologies that can improve facilities' efficiency and reduce emissions of greenhouse gases and conventional pollutants, arguing that NSR discourages installation of such technology.

**EPA Outlines Options To Prioritize Chemicals For TSCA Risk Analyses**

EPA is proposing for public comment multiple approaches to prioritize existing chemicals to enter the pipeline for high- or low-priority designation and potential risk evaluation as part of its new responsibilities under the revised Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA), with some of the proposals reflecting ideas that have enjoyed

industry support in the past.

### **EPA Brownfields Grants To States Face Cuts Despite Increased Demand**

An EPA brownfields official is warning state officials of expected cuts to the grants the agency gives states annually to support brownfields programs -- even if Congress restores some of the funding the Trump administration proposed to eliminate -- noting the likely reductions come as demand among states and tribes for the grants continues to rise.

### **Senate Democrats Float EPA Asbestos Ban Bill Due To Fears Over Dourson**

Eight Senate Democrats have introduced a bill seeking to ban asbestos -- even as EPA is working on a precedential risk evaluation of the substance under new responsibilities in the reformed Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) -- in part because of concerns that President Donald Trump's nominee to lead the agency's toxics office wouldn't ban its use.

### **Daily Feed**

#### **House brownfields bill cleared for floor consideration**

A House brownfields bill has moved closer to a floor vote, but it appears highly unlikely lawmakers will attach a "good Samaritan" measure suggested by a Trump EPA official.

#### **Final defense authorization bill requires national PFAS study**

The House and Senate have agreed to require a national study on the health effects of perfluorinated substances, focusing on at least eight military facilities.

#### **EPA working to tighten contracting policies after IG report**

EPA is crafting an array of new internal guidances for release in early 2018 designed to cut back on contracts that do not guarantee a fixed price for the services the agency receives.

#### **Quote-Unquote: For and against EPA's new advisory policy**

Plus key quotes on Superfund reform, international climate talks, and former EPA officials on the Trump administration's rollback agenda.

#### **Ewire: At climate talks, Trump officials not undermining Paris deal**

In today's news roundup: United States negotiators at the international climate talks aren't undermining implementation of the Paris Agreement, to the relief of some who worried about President Donald Trump.

EPA, industry groups defend 'exceptional events' air rule

EPA and industry groups are defending the agency's Obama-era rule on “exceptional events,” saying the agency's definition of “natural event” is reasonable and due deference by courts.

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Mailing address: 1919 South Eads Street, Suite 201, Arlington VA 22202

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