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Subject: The Morning Headlines from InsideEPA.com -- May 25, 2017

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

May 25, 2017

Latest News

Pruitt Moves To Curtail EPA Use Of 'Sue And Settle' As GOP Pushes Bills

EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt says he has signed a “directive” curtailing so-called sue and settle tactics that produce consent decrees including court-enforced deadlines for rulemaking even as observers have warned it will be difficult for the administrator to adopt such limits and as administration allies move to use the process for their own deregulatory goals.

Trump's FY18 Budget Would Maintain Smaller, 'Refocused' IRIS Program

EPA's proposed budget for fiscal year 2018 seeks to preserve a smaller version of the agency's influential but often controversial Integrated Risk Information System (IRIS), which had been slated for elimination in an early budget memo, signaling the program will be devoted in part to assessing substances under the revised toxics law and other mandatory regulatory programs.

After Delays, EPA's Superfund Vapor Intrusion Rule Quietly Takes Effect

EPA has quietly put into effect an Obama-era rule that opens the door to listing Superfund sites based solely on vapor or water intrusion, after twice delaying the effective dates of the rule along with several others that were signed late in the last administration but which were slated to take effect under the new regime.

Trump EPA's High Court Brief Defends Obama-Era Malfunction Air Policy

The Trump EPA in a new Supreme Court brief is defending an Obama-era policy under which the agency sets Clean Air Act limits without allowing any exceedances of those standards due to emissions spikes associated with facility malfunctions, even as the administration reconsiders a rule that barred states from granting such waivers.

Trump EPA Advances First Final Rule To Implement Revised Toxics Law

The Trump EPA has sent for White House pre-publication review its first final rule to implement the revised Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA), advancing a measure

establishing how to prioritize chemicals for risk evaluation that the Obama EPA proposed but the new administration will finalize based on its own approach to TSCA.

Trump's 2-1 Order Seen Driving 'Haphazard Regulation,' Experts Charge

Almost 100 economists and lawyers are criticizing President Donald Trump's executive order that requires EPA and other agencies to repeal two rules for every new measure promulgated, charging it retreats from the long-standing principle of maximizing rules' "net benefits" and opens the door to "haphazard regulation" that could harm the public.

Appliance Group Warns EPA Against 'Broad Reconsideration' Of HFC Limits

As EPA is gathering input on which regulations it should scrap or significantly revise, a major commercial appliance industry group is urging the agency to maintain its rules limiting hydrofluorocarbon (HFC) refrigerants, requesting only targeted changes to some of the deadlines.

Daily Feed

Pruitt, queried by lead candidate, remains mum on EPA deputy

"When are you going to name a deputy administrator at EPA?" the lead candidate for the post asked the administrator.

House approves bill exempting pesticide spraying from CWA

Similar legislation has cleared the House in the past but has never made it out of the Senate, though its prospects may now be better given pressure on many farm state Democrats who face tough re-election battles in 2018.

Pruitt starts over on BOSC nominees

EPA seeks nominees for its BOSC panel one day after its chair doubted new panelists could be selected in time for an August meeting.

Quote-Unquote: Talking about budgets, science and Superfund

A lot of budget talk in a week when the Trump administration proposed a 31 percent funding cut for EPA in fiscal year 2018.

EPA's FY18 budget request: A recap of our coverage

A wrap up of our recent coverage of EPA's budget request and what it means for states, the administration's efforts to reshape the agency and its regulatory agenda, climate policy and more.

Ewire: A daily news roundup

EPA cuts climate funds to bolster TSCA implementation. Plus, Fiat-Chrysler targeted over emissions cheating and health risks from coal mining.

Power company urges 4th Circuit to take up coal ash CWA appeal

Dominion says 4th Circuit has authority to decide whether it faces Clean Water Act liability for groundwater contamination, without waiting for a district court ruling.

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