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Subject: The Morning Headlines from InsideEPA.com -- July 14, 2017

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

July 14, 2017

Latest News

Bodine Backs Centralized OECA, Squelching Talk Of New Program Function

EPA enforcement chief nominee Susan Bodine is dismissing earlier discussion that the Trump administration is planning to close down the agency's Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance (OECA) and disperse its functions to program offices, embracing its mission as a centralized entity in EPA headquarters, according to her written response to senators' questions.

Communities Ready Task Force To Resist Pruitt Superfund Reform Effort

Grassroots community groups are forming a task force to help them push back against EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt's efforts to reform the Superfund program, arguing that his endeavor raises significant concerns about curtailing cleanup oversight and planning to come up with alternative approaches to offer the administrator.

Court Recalls Mandate In Methane NSPS Suit, But Only For 'Limited Period'

The federal appellate court panel that last week vacated EPA's stay of portions of the Obama-era oil and gas new source methane rule is granting the agency's motion to recall its immediate mandate to lift the stay, though it gives the agency only two weeks -- well short of the almost two months EPA was seeking -- before it must implement the rule.

Pruitt Sets Longer-Term Plans To Remake EPA, Secure Deregulatory Agenda

Even as EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt works to roll back a host of Obama-era rules as a relatively short-term priority, he is preparing a set of medium-term plans for the agency's budget and policy agenda that would remake the agency and institutionalize the Trump administration's deregulatory agenda.

EPA Sees Potential For Long-Term RFS Obstacle With Ethanol 'Blend Wall'

EPA's proposed rule setting renewable fuel standard (RFS) blending goals for 2018 indicates that the agency sees the potential for a progressively worsening long-term

obstacle to increased ethanol use in the "blend wall," the limit on how much ethanol can be blended into the fuel supply given infrastructure and vehicle constraints.

EPA's 2018 RFS Targets Biofuel Fraud But Avoids 'Obligation' Point Debate

EPA in its proposed renewable fuel standard (RFS) volumes rule for 2018 is seeking public input on potential steps it could take to avoid fraud in the program and improve the RFS' market for biofuels credits, but avoids taking a position in the contentious debate over which stakeholders should be subject to the rule's compliance "obligation" point.

Daily Feed

EPA releases first SNURs since TSCA reform enactment

EPA's release of significant new use rules for 29 chemicals is part of an effort to cut the backlog of new chemical reviews since last year's overhaul of the federal toxics law.

EPA denies iron foundry air permit objection petition

EPA has denied a petition by a private citizen asking it to object to a Clean Air Act operating air permit that Wisconsin issued to an iron foundry.

Senate panel advances controversial judicial nominee but ENRD pick stalls

The Senate Judiciary Committee advanced the nomination of Damien Schiff to the Court of Federal Claims in a party-line vote, though Democrats delayed a vote on the nomination of Jeffrey Clark to head the Justice Department's environment division.

4th Circuit declines coal ash CWA appeal

The appeals court will not review Clean Water Act liability for groundwater pollution from coal ash until district court proceedings finish -- a process that could reach into or beyond 2018.

Environmentalists oppose relaxed cement plant air monitoring

EPA's plan to indefinitely lift continuous air monitoring requirements for cement plants could trigger a legal challenge.

Ewire: The surge in environmental litigation

From today's Ewire: Litigation over Trump deregulatory efforts is heating up but one former EPA official says: "Their legal reasoning in some of these cases is so bare bones that it just seems experimental." Plus: Pruitt on Europe's climate "hypocrisy."

Environmentalists fault Pruitt's 'closed mind' to attack RMP delay

EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt's past opposition to facility safety rule revisions undermines his lengthy stay of the regulatory changes, according to environmentalists.

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