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Subject: The Morning Headlines from InsideEPA.com -- May 22, 2017

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

May 22, 2017

Latest News

Acting EPA, DOJ Officials See Compliance Assistance Boost Under Trump

Acting EPA and Justice Department (DOJ) officials say they expect the Trump administration to bolster compliance assistance programs and cooperation with states as it scales back federal environmental enforcement efforts, though with both departments lacking political leadership it is unclear what concrete steps they will take to meet that goal.

NACAA Document Shows Trump Budget Likely to Stick With Deep EPA Cuts

The administration's final budget plan for EPA in fiscal years 2018, due for release next week, appears likely to stick with the steep, roughly 31 percent cut the White House first proposed for the agency earlier this year, including elimination of scores of popular grant programs, according to a document released by state air regulators.

House Democrats Give Mixed Reaction To Draft SDWA Improvements Bill

House energy panel Democrats are giving a mixed reaction to a discussion draft of legislation aimed at improving drinking water systems through changes to the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA), with Rep. Frank Pallone (D-NJ) saying it is inadequate but Rep. Paul Tonko (D-NY) saying there is potential for a bipartisan deal to proceed.

Trump Urged To Exit Climate Deal As Scandals Stall Deregulatory Agenda

President Donald Trump, with his deregulatory agenda stalled by scandals related to alleged campaign ties to Russia, is facing a barrage of conservative pressure to pull the United States out of the Paris climate agreement, just as he is leaving on his first overseas trip that will include the annual G7 meeting where many foreign leaders will be pressing him to remain in the deal.

DOJ Warns Murray Precedent Could Aid Broad Attacks On Rollback Agenda

The top Trump environment official at the Justice Department (DOJ) says the administration is continuing to fight coal companies' lawsuit claiming EPA neglected mandatory reviews of air rules' employment impacts in large part because officials

fear a loss in the case would open the door for environmentalists to broadly challenge the agency's deregulatory agenda.

Environmentalists Fear Regulatory Reform Push May Hinder TSCA Reform

Environmentalists fear that the Trump EPA's regulatory reform effort might hinder implementation of the revised Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) by diverting scarce agency resources to identifying TSCA rules for possible repeal rather than pursuing the new toxics rules mandated by the law that have broad bipartisan backing.

EPA Approval Of State's Haze Plan Highlights Questions Over Air Trading

EPA's proposed approval of Louisiana's plan for reducing regional haze highlights questions over the future of air pollution trading programs under the Trump administration, because the agency is backing the state's participation in a trading program to satisfy haze reduction mandates even though the fate of such programs remains unclear.

Daily Feed

EAB permit case poses test for Trump EPA's nutrient policy

Environmentalists claim that a CWA permit released early in the Trump administration dropped Obama-era nutrient targets without justification.

EPA sets aside \$12 million in FY17 for early retirements

Funding for the program is roughly comparable to levels in the Obama administration.

House creates bipartisan task force to weigh federalism issues

The group's agenda is broadly consistent with efforts by EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt, who is seeking to increase the role of states in environmental policymaking.

Bipartisan bill backs EPA water efficiency program Trump wants to end

The senators' bill supports efforts to preserve EPA's WaterSense program just as the Trump administration is seeking to end it.

EPA draws second suit seeking Lake Erie impairment decision

The suits seek a decision on whether Ohio's open water portions of Lake Erie should be declared impaired, a decision that is a precursor to establishing a TMDL.

Court grants EPA motion to pause methane NSPS suit

The D.C. Circuit's order also calls on EPA to file status reports on its review of the

methane rule every 60 days.

NAS panel to develop carbon capture research agenda

The committee's launch stands in contrast to Trump administration plans to eliminate funds for climate research.

Ewire: A daily news roundup

EPA's FY18 budget may be enacted via CR. Plus, EPA's TSCA rules ramp up and Fiat/Chrysler faces emissions suit.

Connecticut sues EPA to force ozone petition response

The state's lawsuit could ultimately force EPA to take a policy position on whether upwind emissions endanger air quality in downwind states.

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