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

August 3, 2017

### **Latest News**

#### **In Sudden Reversal, EPA Withdraws Plan To Delay Ozone Designations**

In a sudden reversal, EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt has withdrawn his decision to delay by one year agency designations for whether areas are attaining strict Obama-era ozone air quality standards, saying that “information gaps” justifying the delay no longer appear to be as extensive as initially believed and that EPA might be able to issue the designations this year.

#### **DOJ, EPA Revising Pending Deals To Comply With Sessions' Funding Ban**

EPA and the Justice Department (DOJ) are revising a series of pending settlement agreements to ensure they comply with Attorney General Jeff Sessions' recent memo barring legal settlements from including payments to third parties, lawyers involved in the talks say.

#### **Environmentalists Urge Court To Reject Methane NSPS En Banc Petitions**

Environmentalists and their state allies are urging an appellate court to reject separate petitions filed by oil and gas industry groups and their state supporters that asked the court to reconsider its ruling that vacated EPA's administrative pause of its methane standards for new equipment, arguing that the ruling was correctly decided and that critics do not raise any compelling reasons for full court review.

#### **Biofuels Group Warns EPA Not To Weaken RFS With 'Reset,' Import Limits**

Biofuels supporters are warning EPA not to “gut” its renewable fuel standard (RFS) program in its upcoming rule to “reset” statutory blending targets for renewable and alternative fuels, and also cautioning against creating any extra barriers to biofuel imports as it crafts its final version of RFS targets for the 2018 compliance year.

#### **Environmentalists Seek Formal EPA Rule On Coal Ash Permit Programs**

Environmentalists in a recent meeting with White House and EPA officials urged the agency to craft a formal rule on how it will review states' coal ash disposal permit programs to ensure they comply with EPA's ash waste rule, saying draft permit

guidance under White House review is not enough to guarantee states' policies will be adequate.

### Utility's Appeal May Set Precedent On CWA Liability For Coal Ash Disposal

A Virginia power company is again appealing a closely watched Clean Water Act (CWA) suit over coal ash disposal, hoping to win a precedential ruling that would avert any CWA liability for groundwater contamination from ash sites, even as environmentalists have begun a fresh case in the same circuit over alleged groundwater harms.

### EPA Retains Reliance On Audits In RMP Pacts Despite Doubts Over Rule

EPA's latest proposed settlement with a company for alleged violations of the Risk Management Plan (RMP) facility safety program includes strict mandates for independent audits to prevent future violations, suggesting the agency will retain reliance on audits in such pacts despite delaying an Obama-era rule to mandate audits as part of RMP.

### **Daily Feed**

#### EPA hails states' role in air quality progress

EPA sees air quality improvements but also more work to be done.

#### D.C. Circuit grants states' bid to defend ozone NAAQS

Six Democratic-led states and the District of Columbia can now defend EPA's 2015 ozone standard in a pending suit, over the Trump administration's objections.

#### EPA forgives Flint's SRF debt

EPA formalizes plans to forgive more than \$20 million the Michigan city owed to the agency's drinking water loan fund, aiding efforts to shore up its infrastructure.

#### Quote-Unquote: Talking about EPA's new directions

. . . including CWA effluent rules, the Superfund strategy and Clean Power Plan symbolism.

#### Science groups question Pruitt's 'red team' climate review

"The integrity of the scientific process cannot thrive when policymakers regardless of party affiliation -- use policy disagreements as a pretext to challenge scientific conclusions," say officials from 16 scientific groups.

#### Ewire: Pruitt cleared in inquiry over climate science claim

In today's Ewire: The administrator's comments were not “made in a decisional context” and did not violate EPA's integrity policy. Plus: Scientists fear Trump EPA input on a key climate study.

**IG cites WaterSense as model voluntary program**

The Inspector General's praise of EPA's WaterSense Program comes as House appropriators are rejecting the Trump administration's plan to eliminate funding for the voluntary program.

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