

To: Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
From: InsideEPA.com
Sent: Fri 9/15/2017 11:13:57 AM
Subject: The Morning Headlines from InsideEPA.com -- September 15, 2017

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

September 15, 2017

Latest News

TSCA Reporting Rule Negotiations Collapse, Forcing EPA To Begin Again

Even before a final meeting slated for October, a negotiated rulemaking panel convened to inform a future EPA rule to reduce reporting burdens for certain chemicals' uses has broken down after members agreed they would not reach a required consensus recommendation.

Judges Doubt EPA's Defense In Ozone NAAQS Rule 'Backsliding' Fight

A three-judge panel of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit at Sept. 14 oral argument appeared skeptical of EPA's defense for fighting environmentalists' claim that its rule for how states should implement the 2008 ozone standard unlawfully allows "backsliding," or weakening of existing air pollution controls.

EPA Grants Ash Rule Reconsideration, Seeks Delay For Suits Over Policy

EPA is formally granting utilities' request to reconsider parts of the Obama-era Resource Conservation & Recovery Act (RCRA) coal ash rule and will soon ask a federal appeals court to delay oral argument schedule for next month in consolidated lawsuits filed by environmentalists and the power sector over the same regulatory provisions.

CCS Backers Cite Finances As Main Hurdle, Despite GOP Fears About NSR

Several supporters of carbon capture and storage (CCS) technologies told Congress that the predominant hurdle to greater deployment of the greenhouse gas controls is high up-front installation costs, though Republican senators are seeking to play up EPA's new source review (NSR) air permitting regulations as another key problem.

Pruitt Faces Challenges Replacing Departing CASAC, SAB Members

With appointments for numerous EPA science advisors expiring at the end of the month, Administrator Scott Pruitt faces challenges selecting new members to the agency's Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee (CASAC) and Science Advisory

Board (SAB), selections that could intensify criticism over the administration's scientific views.

Congress' Intent Bars CWA Permits For Groundwater, VEPCO Appeal Says

A power company is urging a federal appeals court to overturn a district court ruling extending Clean Water Act (CWA) permit mandates to some groundwater releases, warning the decision violates Congress' intent in crafting the water law and could unduly expand the law's reach -- at odds with a Supreme Court opinion on the issue.

D.C. Circuit To Hear Oral Argument In Long-Running Suit Over Boiler MACT

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit will hear oral argument Sept. 15 in one of the last remaining lawsuits over EPA's boiler maximum achievable control technology (MACT) air toxics rule, focusing on the issue of whether the agency erred in using carbon monoxide (CO) to set emissions limits in the rule.

Daily Feed

Groups ask IG to investigate EPA's grants review appointee

The groups say delegating responsibility for grants to an official in EPA's public affairs office raises "serious concerns about the integrity of the grantmaking process."

Senators seek details on EPA staff cuts, reorganization efforts

Six Senate Democrats ask EPA chief Scott Pruitt for a host of documents to "evaluate the impact of the ongoing and planned personnel cuts."

Bodine's interim role at EPA sparks Senate battle

We will "not consent to any time agreement to process Bodine's nomination until she responds fully" to our letter, two Democratic senators say.

House approves FY18 spending bill with EPA cuts, policy riders

An array of program cuts and riders in the bill is sparking blowback from environmental groups as well as Democrats who are suggesting the package has little chance of becoming law.

Quote-Unquote: Does climate change impact hurricanes?

Plus: the latest on the administration's deregulatory moves and support for extending 'environmental rights' push.

Ewire: Senate gears up to consider slate of EPA nominees

A Senate panel schedules a confirmation hearing on four EPA nominees while two

Democrats block floor consideration of another.

New York 'environmental rights' bill sparks industry fears

Industry lawyers say the amendment could be broadly interpreted to authorize citizen suits against private companies, but an existing constitutional provision may alter its ultimate impact.

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

Telephone: 703-416-8500 or 1-800-424-9068

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