

To: Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
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Subject: The Morning Headlines from InsideEPA.com -- September 1, 2017

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

September 1, 2017

Latest News

Environmentalists Say Texas Facility Fire Backs Need For Obama RMP Rule

Environmentalists say the fire at a Texas chemical facility caused by Hurricane Harvey backs the need for the Obama-era rule strengthening EPA's facility accident prevention program with new requirements for hazard analysis and streamlined release of facility data, though an industry source says the existing rule is adequate.

EPA May Face Bigger Hurricane Burden From Smaller, Unregulated Facilities

EPA has mobilized emergency response program personnel to coordinate with other government agencies to respond to damage from Hurricane Harvey across southeast Texas, including shoring up Superfund sites and assessing industrial facilities, but one industry source believes the larger burden for the agency will be managing toxic releases from smaller, unregulated facilities.

Harvey's Toll May Complicate Administration's Push For EPA Budget Cuts

Hurricane Harvey's environmental and human toll could complicate efforts by the Trump administration and Republican lawmakers to cut EPA's budget just as the House nears floor consideration of legislation that would trim the agency's budget and likely hundreds of senior agency staffers are poised for imminent exit under planned early departure programs, Hill aides and former EPA officials say.

SAB Faces Bias Concerns Over Biomass Panel Chair's Work For Industry

A member of EPA's Science Advisory Board (SAB) is raising concerns that EPA allowed University of Illinois professor Madhu Khanna to chair the board's panel seeking to advise the agency on how to estimate carbon emissions from biomass, despite her paid work for an industry group that promotes the fuel as a carbon-neutral energy source.

Industries Fight 'Wild West' Of Uneven EPA Adherence To Court Decisions

Groups representing major industry sectors are urging a federal appeals court to scrap an Obama-era rule that allows EPA to opt against applying one federal

appellate court's ruling on Clean Air Act (CAA) issues in another circuit, with industry warning that the rule creates a legal “wild, wild west” spurring major uncertainty for companies.

Judge Scraps Stay Of Royalty Rule, Boosting Suits Over EPA, DOI Rules

A federal judge has backed states' and environmentalists' claim that the Trump administration cannot use the Administrative Procedure Act (APA) to delay an Obama-era rule boosting royalty rates for fossil fuel extraction on federal land that has already taken effect, potentially boosting other suits targeting similar delays of methane emissions from some oil and gas sites and EPA limits on power plant effluent.

Daily Feed

Waxman favors vehicle rules over ethanol for curbing GHGs

A better mechanism to reduce GHGs than corn ethanol would be to force automakers “to meet their commitments to rapidly increase fuel efficiency” as agreed under a sweeping deal between auto companies and the Obama administration, the former Democratic lawmaker says.

Bodine's interim EPA post prompts criticism

The enforcement nominee will begin work before the Senate votes on her nomination, a common practice in past administrations but one which environmentalists say violates the “spirit” of a recent Supreme Court ruling.

Five states press ATSDR for national health study on PFCs

Five state health departments are urging the federal government to launch a national study on the health effects of exposure to perfluorinated chemicals in drinking water.

Ewire: EPA downplays possible toxic risks from Arkema fire

EPA says “there are no concentrations of concern for toxic materials reported at this time.”

ExxonMobil appeals \$20 million citizen suit penalty

Environmentalists say the district court ruling imposing a massive penalty for Exxon's alleged Clean Air Act violations is an important test of Clean Air Act citizen suits.

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