

To: Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
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Subject: The Morning Headlines from InsideEPA.com -- June 21, 2017

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

June 21, 2017

Latest News

ORD's New Deputy Expected To Lead Office's Overhaul, BOSC Selections

Richard Yamada, the new deputy chief of EPA's Office of Research and Development (ORD), is expected to play a key role overhauling the office and selecting new members for its Board of Scientific Counselors (BOSC), the panel that reviews ORD's research agenda, as he is expected to be the office's political leader until a permanent assistant administrator is nominated and confirmed, sources say.

Suit Poses Early Test For Enforcing Mandates Of EPA's Ash Disposal Rule

A new lawsuit filed by environmentalists against Duke Energy poses an early test of groups' ability to enforce the provisions of the Obama EPA's first-time Resource Conservation & Recovery Act (RCRA) coal ash disposal rule, even as the agency readies guidance for deferring to states on how to craft permits that will satisfy the rule.

Duke Defends Challenge To Environmentalists' 'Baseless' CWA Ash Claims

Duke Energy is defending its federal district court suit that aims to preempt environmentalists' litigation claiming that one of the company's power plants is contaminating waters protected by the Clean Water Act (CWA) through improper handling of coal ash, claiming the environmentalists' suit relies on "baseless accusations."

Critics Of Potential TCE Ban Fault EPA Cancer Risk, Seek New Data Review

Critics of EPA's proposed ban on certain uses of trichloroethylene (TCE) are faulting the Obama administration's conclusion that TCE causes human cancers and are calling on the Trump administration to assess new data from worker studies released since EPA's 2011 Integrated Risk Information System (IRIS) review of the chemical.

Facing Broad Concern, DOJ Plans New Guidance To Address SEP Policy

The Justice Department (DOJ) is preparing to issue new guidance addressing popular supplemental environmental projects (SEPs), which regulators often require

in enforcement settlements, in the face of broad calls from former enforcement officials and others who are urging DOJ to limit application of Attorney General Jeff Sessions' policy that bars settlement payments to third parties, such as those in some SEPs.

Trump's Infrastructure Plan Unlikely To Streamline, Bolster Water Projects

President Donald Trump's principles for bolstering infrastructure including transportation and water infrastructure projects are unlikely to succeed in his goals of streamlining or increasing the number of projects, an industry attorney says, due to proposed funding cuts to EPA and other agencies and Democrats' opposition to permit streamlining.

Daily Feed

CASAC appears likely to back EPA's SO2 science assessment

EPA's Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee had minimal changes to recommend for EPA's assessment of the latest science on sulfur dioxide air pollution.

EPA seeks more than 1,200 staff for 'early out' program

EPA says it expect updates by “likely sometime in July” on agency positions that will be eligible for such early departure offers.

Rep. Gibbs reintroduces bill to limit EPA's CWA veto authority

The House bill aims to limit the amount of time EPA would have to veto some Clean Water Act dredge-and-fill permits issued by the Army Corps of Engineers.

House lawmakers urge EPA to retain California vehicle waiver

The lawmakers “acknowledge” Pruitt's recent comments signaling he does not plan to review California's current waiver but register disappointment at the administration's decision to rescind an Obama EPA determination to retain existing limits for model years 2022-2025.

EPA cancels BOSC for rest of 2017

From today's Ewire: The agency seeks to reconstitute the panel that reviews its research agenda. Plus, Lake Erie impairment listing and Exxon backs a carbon tax plan.

Texas urged to bolster fracking research

Texas-based researchers call for additional research into fracking's “potential negative impacts,” as drilling ramps up in the Permian Basin.

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