

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

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

November 1, 2017

Latest News

Pruitt Prepares To Axe Current Science Advisers, Driving 'Purge' Charge

EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt is applying his new policy barring science advisors from receiving agency grants retroactively to current advisors, a move that will force some to either give up their grants or step down from the panels on which they serve, opening the door to Pruitt making additional appointments and intensifying criticisms that the he is seeking to “purge” independent advisors.

EPA May Float Data Notice To Aid Revisions To Oil & Gas Methane Rule

As the Trump administration prepares to unveil a long-expected measure to pause provisions in the Obama EPA's oil and gas methane rule for two years, sources say the agency may also release a notice of data availability (NODA) that will help to build a record to support any future substantive revisions to the standards.

EPA Sees GHG Cuts From Oil & Gas Settlements But Declines To Quantify

EPA officials say they expect that settlement agreements announced Oct. 31 with oil company Exxon Mobil and oil and gas producer PCD Energy requiring cuts in volatile organic compound (VOC) emissions will have a “co-benefit” of reducing sector greenhouse gases, though agency officials are declining to quantify the exact benefit.

Former EPA Staff Say Budget Cuts Will Hinder 'Meaningless' Strategic Plan

Former EPA officials are criticizing the Trump administration's draft plan outlining the agency's broad priorities for 2018 through 2022 as an “almost meaningless” document, and saying that proposed budget cuts will hinder EPA's ability to even achieve the plan's vague goals let alone adequately protect public health and the environment.

Environmentalists Say EPA Policies Boost Suit Seeking CWA Ash Controls

Environmentalists are invoking past EPA policies to boost their lawsuit claim that the Clean Water Act (CWA) limits coal ash pollution that travels through groundwater to protected surface waters, in order to win judicial deference for that position and

arguing that such a decision would be hard for the Trump administration to avoid.

Pruitt Order Bars EPA Grant Recipients From Advisory Roles

Pruitt's directive reverses years of agency practice and is prompting fears that EPA will lose access to some top scientists in their fields.

Sparking Fears, EPA Drops Use Of Orders To Control Some 'New' Chemicals

EPA has dropped its use of enforcement orders to limit some 'new' chemicals' uses that it had previously applied as a bridge before issuing a rule governing those uses, but the move is sparking concerns from environmentalists who fear it will speed chemical approvals and end a backlog of reviews but make short shrift of public health concerns.

Daily Feed

EPA denies petition seeking ozone transport zone expansion

The Trump EPA is finalizing an Obama-era proposal to reject a petition seeking to expand the number of states covered by the Ozone Transport Commission, which are subject to stricter ozone air pollution controls.

Rep. Smith slams GAO's warning on climate costs

The House science committee chairman says that GAO's recent warning that the government is not doing enough to address climate change relied on a study was not been peer reviewed and is politically motivated.

International shipping group inches toward GHG agreement

The International Maritime Organization continues to make progress toward a global deal on reducing greenhouse gases from shipping, amid uncertainty over the Trump administration's position.

Ewire: Will Pruitt keep oil and gas methane rule?

In today's Ewire: A senior EPA official notes the "very extensive record" supporting Obama-era methane limits on new oil and gas equipment, suggesting the agency might retain some level of regulation.

LCV targets 10th Circuit nominee over drilling decision

Environmentalists are urging the Senate to oppose confirming Allison Eid to be a federal circuit judge, but point to only one environmental ruling as a reason why.

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