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**Subject:** The Morning Headlines from InsideEPA.com -- August 8, 2017

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

August 8, 2017

### **Latest News**

#### **Sessions Orders Review Of Third-Party Payments Going Back 10 Years**

Attorney General (AG) Jeff Sessions is requiring the Justice Department (DOJ) to compile a list of all settlements between EPA and other agencies and defendants that include a payment to a non-government organization (NGO) third party going back a decade, potentially expanding retroactive application of his policy barring such payments.

#### **DOJ Vows Strict Scrutiny Of EPA Settlements, But NRDC Sees No Change**

AUSTIN, TX -- A senior Justice Department (DOJ) official is vowing to aggressively defend EPA and other agencies' rules rather than "going directly to a settlement" and reiterating Reagan-era guidance to ensure that settlements comply with DOJ policies, sending a message that the Trump administration will not enter so-called "sue-and-settlement" agreements with environmentalists.

#### **EPA Diverts Staff To Implement Revised TSCA Reviews For 'New' Chemicals**

EPA is diverting full-time equivalent (FTE) staff to help implement an updated process to streamline risk reviews for "new" chemicals as required by the overhauled Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA), outlining a set of "operating principles" for the effort and vowing to release draft documents this fall offering further details.

#### **Oil & Gas Official Fears Months Of Uncertainty Regarding Methane NSPS**

AUSTIN, TX -- A top oil and gas sector official is raising the specter of months of compliance uncertainty regarding EPA's methane standards for new drilling equipment, saying that the agency has not explained how it will enforce major aspects of the rule after a court rejected its effort to pause those provisions and ordered officials to implement them.

#### **EPA Seeks To Expand TSCA Advisory Panel For Broader Representation**

The Trump EPA is seeking to add members representing various stakeholders to an advisory panel created by the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) reform law

enacted last year, and is looking to candidates previously nominated but not selected to grow the size of Science Advisory Committee on Chemicals (SACC).

## **Daily Feed**

### Our most read: implications of the ozone reversal, narrow CPP replacement

Plus: coming coal-ash decisions, House FY-18 report may test agency resolve, longtime official exits EPA.

### California: CARB adopts GHG cap-and-trade rules for post-2020 program

Gov. Brown expresses hope to link the Golden State's program to Oregon, Washington and possibly East Coast states.

### NRDC sues EPA over Nancy Beck FOIA documents

NRDC is asking a federal court to compel EPA to turn over documents showing whether Nancy Beck has recused herself from a host of toxics rulemaking.

### Ewire: Pruitt urged to reconsider Gold King review

Pruitt urged to expand review of previously denied Gold King damages payments.

### Utilities join litigation over EPA's power plant ELG delay

A group representing power plants has successfully intervened to defend EPA against environmentalists' claims that the agency acted unlawfully in staying the 2015 Clean Water Act effluent rule for the sector.

*Read all the latest EPA news, analysis and documents* →

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