

To: Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
From: InsideEPA.com
Sent: Wed 12/6/2017 11:50:14 AM
Subject: The Morning Headlines from InsideEPA.com -- December 6, 2017

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

December 6, 2017

Latest News

EPA Enforcement Letter May Signal Weaker Oversight Of States' Programs

Former EPA employees fear that a recent Region 7 letter to Missouri saying agency officials will reduce oversight of the state's enforcement efforts could signal a broader administration push to weaken oversight of states with delegated authority on environmental programs, including enforcement and reviews of state-issued federal permits.

EPA Claims Broad Discretion To Reject Suits Targeting State NPDES Powers

EPA is defending its decision to work with Alabama on improving the state's Clean Water Act (CWA) permitting program rather than revoking the state's authority to issue discharge permits as environmentalists had sought, arguing the CWA provides broad discretion in how to respond to such petitions and that requiring automatic withdrawal proceedings is contrary to cooperative federalism.

API Touts Voluntary Methane Reduction Effort But Hedges On EPA Rules

The oil and gas sector's main trade association, the American Petroleum Institute (API), is touting its new voluntary program for members to reduce emissions of the potent greenhouse gas methane from onshore production facilities, though officials are hedging on the role of EPA rules on the issue, which the Trump administration is seeking to roll back.

District Court Rejects Refiner's Suit Aiming To Shift RFS 'Obligation' Point

A federal district court in Texas has rejected refiner Valero's suit aiming to force EPA to shift the renewable fuel standard's (RFS) "point of obligation" compliance mandate from refiners to fuel blenders, saying the court cannot compel the agency to assess the change by a "date certain" -- a decision other courts weighing similar suits might adopt.

Staff Urge Changes To Risk Assessment Division In OPPT Reorganization

Staff in EPA's toxics office, which senior officials are reorganizing to better implement

the reformed Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA), are urging managers to also reorganize the Risk Assessment Division (RAD) as part of the effort, saying any failure to tap the RAD for overhaul would hobble TSCA implementation.

Daily Feed

[AAPCA's Woods joins EPA as air office deputy](#)

Clint Woods will leave the state air group to join EPA as a deputy to air chief William Wehrum.

[Environmentalists' ELG suit transferred to Trump judge](#)

The decision to transfer the case to a newly confirmed district judge could potentially delay a ruling on whether to dismiss environmentalists' lawsuit.

[FOIA suits seek Pruitt's schedule, speeches](#)

Environmentalists and the *New York Times* file separate suits seeking information about Pruitt's meetings and his speeches.

[POTWs urge high court to enforce CWA 'blending' ruling](#)

The Wet Weather Partnership says EPA has effectively ignored an appellate ruling that barred it from banning wastewater “blending” through Clean Water Act permits.

[Ewire: API launches voluntary methane reduction program](#)

In today's Ewire: Nearly all member companies with onshore operations are set to join the American Petroleum Institute's voluntary methane program. Plus: DOJ courts climate scientists.

[Environmentalists' suit aims to compel ozone designations](#)

Environmentalists are seeking to force EPA to issue all ozone area designations for its 2015 standard, ahead of likely similar suits from states.

[ALEC slated to vote on divisive measure urging EPA to scrap GHG finding](#)

The group of conservative state legislators is facing an internal “civil war” over the draft resolution, which is backed by hard-line conservatives even as some industry groups shy away from it.

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