Crackdown on air pollution stalls under Trump’s EPA

By Michael Hoffman
Chicago Tribune

During a stop in East Chicago three times ago, Scott Pruitt vowed that cleaning up the low-in-coming, predominantly African-American, and Latino community would be a priority ahead of the US Environmental Protection Agency. But as construction spurs the summer digging up dozens of coal-fired plants in Chicago near abandoned industrial sites in the northwest Indiana, the EPA has failed to crack down in communities that havelmomentary closures and changes to their daily lives.

New EPA inspections have documented hundreds of violations of federal air pollution standards at the Indiana Harbor Coke Co.-Cubase, an East Chicago coke plant cited 6 times since 2010, but watchdog group said on file legislation.

Interest grows in police programs that place drug users in treatment

By Joe Kimbell
Chicago Tribune

Two years have passed since the police Department of Evanston, Ill., began a bold experiment in the face of a spiraling heroin epidemic: Instead of arresting drug users, it would send them into treatment. Since then, the program has expanded into surrounding counties and placed 200 people into rehab. Police Chief Dennis Lawless said an informal review of their program showed that nearly half had success in treatment — with the rest of the violations of federal air pollution standards at the Indiana Harbor Coke Co. (IHC), a major source of air pollution in East Chicago, and 200 miles from a new report that requires local government to follow up on air quality issues and to work with the state for 10 years and beyond. The new laws were expected to take effect on March 1, 2018

Russia sanctions bill gains steam

Trump had to be open to legislation directed at Moscow

By Richard Lardner Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The White House indicated Friday that President Donald Trump was receptive to a measure that would give the House and Senate to pass three sanctions against Russian entities as part of the new law. The legislation is now for its seventh year and has been passed by the Senate and House.

Offering help instead of handcuffs

Interest grows in police programs that place drug users in treatment

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Immigrant-smuggling suspected after 9 die in sweltering B-wheeler

CAPITOL HILL — A man who appeared to be smuggling at least 10 migrants in a sweltering trailer train (and possibly a 12th) was arrested after the death of at least 9 migrants on Sunday in what they described as an immigrant-smuggling operation in the Imperial Valley.

By Ethnic cleansing is the concept of a group of people being forced to leave or be killed due to their ethnicity. It is often associated with war or conflict, but can also occur in other contexts such as political or social unrest. The concept of ethnic cleansing is often linked to the idea of national identity, where certain groups are perceived as a threat to a country’s political stability or economic interests. This can lead to the displacement of entire communities, as seen in the case of the Serbs in Kosovo.

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Multiple citations no enforcement

East Chicago coke plant

Environmental Protection Agency has cited Indiana Harbor Coke Co. six times since 2008 for pollution of the Chicago River, charging the company with permitting an ingredient in steel. Court losses have a good chance of finding the EPA's enforcement actions, according to EPA attorneys.

The agency is refining on the failures that led to its previous, more aggressive enforcement of East Chicago's policies. The EPA estimates that the Plant's violations in 2010 were the result of pollution

The citations are:

1. May 2010: For bypassing pollution controls, emitting high levels of sulfur dioxide and particulate matter, as well as carbon monoxide.

2. September 2010: For 19 violations over 12 days of exceeding the 550 ppm sulfur dioxide limit, including a number of the EPA's key enforcement actions, the agency is considering filing lawsuits.

3. April 2012: For exceeding the 129 ppm lead standard, including a number of point sources across the country. The agency is considering filing lawsuits.

4. December 2012: For 2009 violations during four weeks of testing in October and November.

5. February 2013: For exceeding the 129 ppm lead standard, including a number of point sources across the country. The agency is considering filing lawsuits.

6. June 2013: For multiple violations in which the refinery failed to provide its own tests to prevent toxic gases from leaking into the air.

Chicago 2020

The City of Chicago is working to cut the EPA's budget by $200 million in the coming year as it faces new government directives and new budget cuts. The City is considering a number of cost-cutting measures, including layoffs and other personnel reductions.

The EPA has been advised by President Donald Trump to scale back its efforts to reduce air pollution. Meanwhile, Mayor Rahm Emanuel has proposed a plan to cut the EPA's budget by $50 million, or about 30%, in the coming year.

The City of Chicago is considering a number of cost-cutting measures, including layoffs and other personnel reductions.