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Environment & Energy

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Highlights

Leading the News

EPA Wants to Reconsider Coal Ash Cleanup Rules

By *Sylvia Carignan*

The EPA is taking a second look at its requirements for monitoring and cleaning up coal ash sites, in addition to other provisions of an agency rule currently under court review.

EPA Floats Proposal to Push Back Water Rule to 2020

By *Amena H. Saiyid*

A proposed delay of a regulation defining the reach of the Clean Water Act would help avoid confusion among home builders, contractors, and miners, according to the Trump administration.

Third Republican Senator Casts Doubt on EPA's Chemical Pick

By *Tiffany Stecker*

A third Republican senator expressed concerns with the Trump administration's selection of Michael Dourson to lead EPA's chemicals office, potentially imperiling the nomination unless at least one Democrat crosses party lines.

U.S. Vows to Stay Engaged on Climate, Progress

Expected in Bonn

By *Dean Scott*

The U.S. still intends to pull out of the Paris climate pact but will "remain engaged" in international negotiations—including climate talks, its top climate diplomat told other nations on the eve of the close of a two-week U.N. climate summit in Bonn.

Cut U.S. Climate Pledge But Only as Hail Mary, Obama Envoy Says

By *Dean Scott*

The Obama administration's top climate negotiator said Nov. 16 he would back the U.S. weakening its international greenhouse gas reductions pledge—but only as a last-ditch effort to keep President Donald Trump from completely withdrawing from the 2015 Paris deal.

Defense Bill Backing Contaminant Study Sails Through Senate

By *Pat Rizzuto*

A spending blueprint that would support \$7 million for a national study examining a group of chemicals increasingly detected in drinking water supplies across the nation passed the Senate Nov. 16.

Today's News

Defunct EPA Program Best Way to Clear Air, Power Plants Say

By *Jennifer Lu*

The power industry wants to use a defunct emissions trading program in place of pollution controls at individual power plants to limit air pollution contributing to visibility problems in parks and wilderness areas.

Energy Policy Wish List Could be Democrats' Roadmap

By *Alan Kovski*

A 283-page Democratic energy policy bill introduced Nov. 16 may have no chance in the current Congress, but it lays down a series of markers for possible action if Democrats win a future majority of House and Senate seats.

Michigan Forgives \$20 Million of Flint's Water Debt

By *Alex Ebert*

The Michigan Department of Treasury forgave an additional \$20 million of Flint's debt for water infrastructure, bringing the city's total amount of state and federal aid to more than \$390 million.

400 Business Could Fall Under New Bay Area Air Pollutants Rule

By *Carolyn Whetzel*

Oil refineries, sewage treatment plants, power plants, and metal plating operations are among the nearly 400 San Francisco Bay Area facilities facing a tough new rule to reduce emissions of toxic air pollutants.

Food Waste Risks Being Tossed Aside in Germany's

Coalition Talks

By Jabeen Bhatti

Plans to curtail the waste of 18 million tons of food annually in Germany—and stem the greenhouse gas emissions connected to the production and transfer of such waste—are falling by the wayside during talks on a preliminary coalition agreement for the country's new government.

Millennium Pipeline Fight Led by New York Moves to Court

By *Gerald B. Silverman*

New York's bid to halt the Millennium natural gas pipeline returns to a federal court after the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission denied the state's request to rehear challenges to the project.

Better Company Information Feeds Sustainability Investing Trend

By Ali Qassim

Investors who prioritize sustainability over high returns are finding it easier to park their money accordingly, given better access to company information, panelists at a London conference said.

Court Awards Spain \$1.85 Billion for Prestige Oil Tanker Spill

By Brett Allan King

A Spanish court awarded Spain more than \$1.85 billion in damages for the 2002 Prestige oil tanker spill, one of the country's worst environmental disasters, naming the ship's captain, shipping company, insurer, and the International Oil Pollution Compensation Funds responsible for payment.

Energy Regulator Doubles Down on Interim Plan to Bail Out Coal

By Rebecca Kern

A short-term plan to compensate at-risk coal and nuclear plants would lead to minimal costs to consumers, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Chairman Neil Chatterjee said.

Mystery Group Backs Fossil-Fuel Companies Fighting Divestment

By Benjamin Elgin and Zachary Mider

Grass-roots lobbying—the creation of groups of ordinary citizens to advocate for causes—has been around for decades. But when corporations hide their involvement or recruit members indifferent to the issue, tactics known as astroturfing, it can provide an appearance of public support that doesn't actually exist.

How Much Is Great Barrier Reef Worth? \$43 Billion, Economists Say

By Michael Heath and Chris Bourke

As mankind puts the world's largest living structure at risk, economists have come up with a new solution: put a price tag on it.



Utilities Press Tax-Writers to Save Advance Refunding Bonds

By *Allyson Versprille*

Lobbyists for public ly owned utilities are fighting to preserve advance refunding bonds—repealed in both the House and Senate tax reform proposals—to prevent the loss of billions in savings.

China, Canada, 17 Other Countries Promise Biofuel Target

By *Jessica Shankleman*

Nineteen countries, including China and Brazil, intend to cut pollution by increasing the target for energy derived from crops.

Norway's \$1 Trillion Fund Wants Out of Oil and Gas Stocks

By *Sveinung Sleire*

The \$1 trillion fund that Norway has amassed pumping oil and gas over the past two decades wants out of petroleum stocks.

Ivory Coast May Legalize Cocoa Farming in Some Protected Forests

By *Olivier Monnier and Baudelaire Mieu*

Ivory Coast, the world's top cocoa producer, plans to legalize farming on almost 5 million acres of protected reserves to help balance the rebuilding of forests with output of its most important export.

Former Paper Mill Owners Lose Bid to Exit Superfund Case

By *Steven M. Sellers*

The former owners of an Ohio paper mill aren't entitled to dismissal of Superfund claims on the theory that they are "dead and buried" companies over which the court has no jurisdiction, the Southern District of Ohio ruled Nov. 15.

Apple Tops Ranking of Corporate Work to Clean Up Minerals Supply

By *Andrea Vittorio*

Apple Inc. topped a human rights group's Nov. 16 ranking of corporate efforts to clean up sourcing for minerals that can directly or indirectly finance conflict in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

U.K. Chemicals at Risk from Brexit-Driven Investment Cuts

By *Andrew Noel*

The U.K.'s \$50 billion chemicals industry is at risk of withering away if Brexit isn't handled properly, according to an industry expert.

New Leader of EPA New England Office a Critic of Trump Budget

By *David Schultz, Amena H. Saiyid, and Sylvia Carignan*

The new head of the EPA's New England office has been a vocal critic of the Trump administration's cuts to the agency's budget.

Houston Startup Envisions Chinese Chemicals Made from U.S. Ethane

By *Jack Kaskey*

A Houston startup is betting it can help create a market for U.S. ethane in the Chinese petrochemical industry.

The U.S. Flooded One of Houston's Richest Neighborhoods to Save Everyone Else

By *Shannon Sims*

"Next contestant, come on down."

VW Teams with Chinese Partners in \$12 Billion Electric-Car Push

By *Yan Zhang*

Volkswagen AG will invest more than 10 billion euros (\$12 billion) with its partners to make and develop a range of new-energy vehicles in China as carmakers step up investments in low-emission models in the world's biggest auto market.

Trump Climate Exit Panned in Bonn but Cheered in Lordstown, Ohio

By *Ari Natter*

Kevin Scott took a swig of his Pabst Blue Ribbon and professed his love for the environment. Inspired by a boyhood hunting and fishing, the 46-year-old Ohio autoworker earned a degree in environmental policy.

Wednesday Night Wrapup

California's Famed Cancer Warnings Imperiled by Lobbyist Push

By *Lauren Coleman-Lochner*

Corporate lobbyists, aiming to seize on the Trump administration's deregulation drive, are pushing to override state laws on ingredient-disclosure rules and warning labels, including landmark California legislation on potential cancer risks.

As India Endures Blanket of Smog, China's Battle Offers Lessons

By Anindya Upadhyay and Jessica Shankleman

As New Delhi suffers through a surge in the most harmful type of smog—a toxic stew that makes India's capital one of the most polluted in the world—Beijing offers lessons in how another troubled city made progress clearing the air.

Chinese Solar Manufacturer Longi Mulls U.S. Factory as Tariffs Loom

By Brian Eckhouse

Longi Green Energy Technology Co., a Chinese solar manufacturer, is considering opening a U.S. factory, a decision that may hinge upon the looming threat of import tariffs.

Statoil Plans to Step Up Exploration After Driving Down Costs

By Mikael Holter

Statoil ASA plans to step up drilling in Norway for a second consecutive year, according to company officials.

Petrobras Chief Rushing to Deliver as Election Season Nears

By Sabrina Valle and Peter Millard

The leader of Petrobras, Brazil's state-controlled energy company, is rushing to finish his work before an unpredictable presidential campaign makes it harder to sell assets and complete a key compensation deal with Brazil's government.



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