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## **Daily Environment Report**

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### Leading the News

#### *Brownfields*

##### Millions in Brownfields Funds Unused, Inspector General Says

Confusion, inconsistency and a lack of direction from the EPA kept investors away from about \$11 million in potential brownfields cleanup funding, according to the agency's inspector general.

#### *Energy*

##### Carbon Cap Proposal Reflects Nine States' Compromise

A proposal to raise the carbon emissions cap for Northeastern electricity generators marks a compromise between states with aggressive climate-change goals, such as Massachusetts and New York, and more conservative states such as Maine and New Hampshire.

### News

#### *Agriculture*

##### Senators Urge President Trump to Withdraw USDA Nomination

The Senate minority leader and a fellow Democrat are urging President Donald Trump to withdraw his nomination of Sam Clovis to be the Agriculture Department's chief scientist.

#### *Air Pollution*

##### China's Air Pollution Worsens in Beijing, 12 Other Cities

Air pollution increased in Beijing and 12 other large cities in the surrounding region in the first half of the year, despite the government's efforts to fight it.

#### *Air Pollution*

##### Correction

The Aug. 17 story, “Saudi Arabia Calls for Pollution Monitors on Industrial Chimneys,” misstated that networked monitoring systems were part of an effort to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. They are intended to reduce air pollution. The story has been corrected.

#### ***Biofuels***

##### **Argentine Biodiesel Left With Nowhere to Go**

Argentina has almost nowhere left to send its biodiesel without facing the wrath of trade fines.

#### ***Climate Change***

##### **Correction**

The Aug. 23 story, “California Auction Raises \$640 Million for Greenhouse Gas Fund,” misstated that the permits were auctioned to curb carbon emissions. The permits allow emissions of carbon dioxides. The story has been corrected.

#### ***Climate Change***

##### **Exxon Duped Public Over Climate Concerns, Harvard Research Says**

Exxon Mobil Corp. spent the last 40 years undermining public concern over climate change, even as its own scientists determined man-made global warming was real and a serious threat, according to Harvard University researchers writing in a peer-reviewed journal.

#### ***Disclosure***

##### **Gold Hardest Conflict Mineral to Tackle, Research Shows**

It's especially hard to clean up the supply chain for gold mined in a country facing one of the world's worst humanitarian crises, federal research released Aug. 23 shows.

#### ***Dumping***

##### **Brazil Slaps Duties on Acetic Ester Imports From U.S., Mexico**

Brazil's Foreign Trade Chamber (Camex), the country's trade policy body, imposed antidumping duties ranging from \$110 to \$688 per metric ton on acetic esters imported from the U.S. and Mexico.

#### ***Energy***

##### **Brazil Power Wizard Takes Center Stage in Surprise Privatization**

It took less than 10 days to decide to privatize Latin America's largest power company.

#### ***Energy***

##### **U.S. to Say Power Markets Must ‘Evolve’ to Value Coal, Nuclear**

The U.S. Energy Department will issue a long-anticipated report late Aug. 23 that will stress the need to “evolve” the nation's power markets so they value resources such as coal and nuclear more, a document obtained by Bloomberg shows.

#### ***Mergers and Acquisitions***

##### **Bayer, Monsanto Poised for EU Antitrust Feedback**

European regulators are expected to take the lead in deciding whether to approve Bayer AG's bid for Monsanto Co., setting the table for antitrust officials around the world also examining the \$66 billion deal.

#### ***Motor Vehicles***

##### **Audi Aims to Put Solar Cells on Car Roofs**

Audi AG is working with Alta Devices Inc. to outfit the rooftops of select models from the German car maker with solar cells.

### ***Oil & Gas***

#### **Oil and Gas Pipeline Plan Falls Short, Colorado Lawmakers Say**

Colorado Democratic state lawmakers say Gov. John Hickenlooper's (D) plan to address underground oil and gas flow lines won't do enough to protect public health and safety, while industry officials maintain they will work with the governor on the proposed changes.

### ***Radioactive Materials***

#### **ARCO, Babcock & Wilcox Power Generation Cleared of Uranium Claims**

ARCO and Babcock & Wilcox Power Generation Group are not liable to more than 70 people who allege radiation from a manufacturing site caused them to develop cancer, the Third Circuit ruled (*McMunn v. Babcock & Wilcox Power Generation Grp. Inc.*, 3d Cir., No. 15-cv-03506, 8/23/17).

### ***Renewable Energy***

#### **Largest Green Bond Fund for Emerging Markets Nears \$2 Billion**

The World Bank's International Finance Corp. and European asset manager Amundi SA are targeting year-end to raise \$2 billion for what is expected to be the world's largest green-bond fund dedicated to emerging markets.

### ***Superfund***

#### **EPA Considers Privatizing Superfund Oversight**

Companies that are cleaning up Superfund sites will see lower oversight costs and faster remediation if the EPA adopts a state licensing program for national use, past agency officials, cleanup professionals, and lawyers say.

### ***Toxic Substances***

#### **Antiseptic Chemical Could Be Declared Toxic by Canada**

Concern for aquatic species prompted Canada to propose declaring as "toxic" chlorhexidine and its salts, which are commonly used as an antiseptic and preservative in drugs, disinfectants, creams, and cosmetics.

### ***Water Infrastructure***

#### **Looming Water Crisis in Puerto Rico, Where Cash Has Run Dry**

A public health crisis is imminent in Puerto Rico as its main provider of water and sewer services has lost the ability to borrow money, a consequence of the island's still unfolding debt problems, a former water official and others familiar with the U.S. commonwealth told Bloomberg BNA.

### ***Water Pollution***

#### **Ruling Muddies the Waters in Power Plant Pollution Case**

The future of a lawsuit over EPA limits on power plant pollution is uncertain after an appeals court ruled that only parts of the suit could move forward, but did not specify which parts.

## **Practitioner Insights**

### ***Hazmat Transport***

#### **Practitioner Insights: Preempting NYC's Hazardous Transport Permits**

The federal Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, which regulates the interstate transport of hazardous materials, recently preempted New York City's local permit

and inspection requirements for vehicles transporting hazardous materials within the city. PHMSA determined that the city's permit requirements were unfair and created unnecessary delays for out-of-town carriers passing through New York. It also found that the city was not properly allocating its ...

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