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From: Bloomberg BNA Environment & Energy
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Subject: First Move: Sandy Boosts Carbon-Tax Talk • Murkowski Tackles Cyber • Making Chemical Ban Stick

What you need to know to start your day.

Sandy Boosts Carbon-Tax Talk • Murkowski Tackles Cyber • Making Chemical Ban Stick

By [Chuck McCutcheon](#)

It's been five years since Superstorm Sandy slammed into the East Coast, claiming more than 100 lives, ripping up Jersey Shore boardwalk rides, and leaving hundreds of thousands of New York-area residents without power. Some in the region now want the anniversary to provide a push for fighting climate change.

Environmental and community groups, headed by the organization New York Renews, are using Sandy's anniversary to call for "bold and immediate" actions on climate change. The groups are planning a rally and march—more than 125 organizations have signed on—across the Brooklyn Bridge on Saturday.

Waves break in front of a Seaside Heights, N.J., amusement park wrecked by Superstorm Sandy in October 2012.

Photo by Mario Tama/Getty Images

A few lawmakers in New York's Legislature already have introduced bills to impose a carbon tax, among them a measure to establish a \$35-per-ton levy on all carbon-based fuel. The New York Independent System Operator and the state Public Service Commission also have been working on a plan to incorporate a carbon price into the wholesale price of electricity. [Gerald Silverman](#) will have a story this week.

The head of the Senate's energy committee long has sought to stop cyber attacks on the electricity grid as well as get a broad energy bill into law. She'll work toward both objectives at a hearing today.

Alaska Republican Sen. Lisa Murkowski's committee will listen to testimony from three of the department's national labs—Oak Ridge, Pacific Northwest, and Idaho—as well as cybersecurity technology firms Qubitekk Inc. and New Context Services Inc. They're expected to discuss advanced technologies that could be used to help protect the electric grid and energy infrastructure from cyberattacks. [Rebecca Kern](#) is covering.

PFOA, short for perfluorooctanoic acid, became famous in 1950s when DuPont started using the stuff in the process of making non-stick frying pans. It has found its way into everything from 3M's Scotchgard stain repellent to Gore-Tex clothing and stain resistant carpets—but it's also shown up at high levels in drinking water near factories.

Now efforts to ban the chemical through a global treaty may have hit a setback: a scientific panel has delayed issuing a recommendation for another year.

The decision was viewed as good news for chemical companies and manufacturers, especially large electronics companies such as Intel, Micron, and Samsung. But environmentalists say the delay on PFOA is a clear signal that pressure from manufacturing interests may be influencing the panel's thinking. Look for a story from [Adam Allington](#) later this morning.

Other Stories We're Covering

- Pharmaceutical, ammunition, circuit board, recreational vehicle, and other companies that aren't normally subject to the EPA's commercial chemical rules may have to comply with a mercury reporting [proposal](#) the agency will publish today. [Pat Rizzuto](#) is tracking.
- Mine safety commissioners will discuss today whether the CEO of coal behemoth Murray Energy has to read a statement to miners that they have the right to complain about safety conditions. After Bob Murray told workers at five of his mines that they must bring safety issues to managers' attention before they went to the Mine Safety and Health Administration, the agency cited the company for interfering with miners' rights. Lars-Eric Hedberg is following.
- President Donald Trump's picks to staff the EPA and the nation's nuclear regulator [sailed through](#) a Senate committee, but face a longer road to getting a confirmation vote from the rest of the chamber's members. Delaware Sen. Tom Carper, the Senate environment panel's top Democrat, called EPA chemical office nominee Michael Dourson "one of the most troubling nominees I have ever considered during my time on this committee." [Dean Scott](#) is watching.

Quote of the Day

"I am here because I really feel called to it. My desire each day is to bless the president and the decisions he's making."

—EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt, in an [interview](#) with Bloomberg News

Today's Events

- **12:30 p.m. • Natural Gas** • American Gas Association luncheon [features](#) U.S. Trade and Development Agency's energy sector worldwide team leader.
- **1:30 p.m. • Energy Star** • EPA [offers](#) webinar discussing ways to track and

report facilities' environmental data.

- **All Day • Sustainability • Sustainable business conference wraps up** in Huntington Beach, Calif.

Around the Web

- **Europe's chemicals agency proposes** to restrict hazardous substances in tattoo ink.
- Florida wildlife officials are looking for a dangerous lizard that's 4 to 5 feet long.
- Iroquois Pipeline Operating Company President Jeffrey Bruner is taking over as chairman of the Interstate Natural Gas Association of America's board.
- EPA starts looking for household hazardous waste in areas of fire-ravaged California.
- Environmental groups urge a Virginia water board to reject certifying two pipeline projects over pollution concerns.

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