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Leading the News

Climate Regulation

Northeast States Hit the Brakes on Carbon Emissions From Cars

Cars and trucks are the next target of Northeastern states, as they look beyond power plants to address climate change.

EPA

Trump's EPA Swears Off Settling Lawsuits with Environmentalists

The Trump administration moved Oct. 16 to curb settlements with environmentalists, instead vowing to fight cases designed to force the Environmental Protection Agency to take action.

Oil & Gas

New York Objects to Energy Regulator's OK of Millennium Pipeline

Millennium Pipeline Co.'s proposed 7.8-mile natural gas line in New York hit another bump in the road today when the state asked the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to stay its approval of a waiver for the project and rehear the case.

News

Chemicals

California Requires Disclosure of Cleaning Product Chemicals

California edged out New York in becoming the first state to require manufacturers to disclose potentially harmful chemicals in air fresheners, detergents, and other cleaning products. Democratic Gov. Jerry Brown signed the Cleaning Product Right to Know Act of 2017 (S.B. 258) Oct. 15, giving Procter & Gamble, Unilever, SC Johnson, The Clorox Company, and other companies until Jan. 1, 2020, to post the chemical ingredients in their consumer products online. The ingredients must be ...

Chemicals

Safety Board Mulls Retreat From Call for Oil Rig Worker Councils

U.S. Chemical Safety Board members are reconsidering a recommendation that federal authorities develop regulations to boost worker participation in safety oversight at offshore oil platforms.

Climate Change

Asian Development Bank to Double Pacific Nations' Climate Loans

The Asian Development Bank plans to double financing for climate projects among Pacific developing nations to more than \$500 million by 2020.

Energy

Energy Company CEOs Criticize Grid Resiliency Proposal

The Energy Department's proposal aimed at propping up coal and nuclear plants in certain wholesale energy markets is "an answer in search of a question," John Di Stasio, president of the Large Public Power Council, said, joining a broad array of opposition.

Energy

Energy Regulator Wants New Look at Pipeline Approval Policy

The lone Democratic member of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission wants FERC to re-assesses how it approves new natural gas pipeline projects in light of growing environmental concerns presented to the commission.

Forests

Greenpeace Fells Logger's Suit Over 'Forest Destroyer' Tag

Greenpeace International won the first round against a Canadian logging company that blamed name-calling by the environmental group for driving away its customers.

Mining

Swedish Miner LKAB Pilots Ground Testing for Mine Stability

Swedish mining company Luossavaara-Kiirunavaara AB is reviewing the findings from a four-month trial to determine if fracking-like techniques can help prevent seismic vibrations that cause the ground to sink.

Oil & Gas

Arctic Oil Promise Keeps Norway's Disappointed Wildcatters Going

It's been a bad year for oil explorers in Norway's Arctic: a record campaign in the Barents Sea yielded little; the most exciting well in years proved to be a flop; and Norwegians grew increasingly skeptical about the industry that made them rich.

Oil & Gas

Louisiana Oil Platform Blast Leaves One Missing, Seven Injured

One worker was missing and seven were injured after an explosion late Oct. 15 on an oil platform in Louisiana's Lake Pontchartrain.

Oil & Gas

Slowing Demand Growth to Push Big Oil from Cars to Chemicals

Global oil demand growth will slow to a crawl and gasoline use will peak within the next decade, prompting the world's biggest energy companies to accelerate the shift to natural gas and chemicals, according to consultant Wood Mackenzie Ltd.

Oil & Gas

U.K. North Sea Oil Faces Quickening Decline If No Brexit Deal

The U.K. oil and gas industry faces a faster decline if Prime Minister Theresa May fails to agree to a trade deal with the European Union, as restrictions on the movement of workers and equipment would increase costs.

Oil Spills

Gulf of Mexico Oil Spill May Be Largest Since Deepwater Horizon

An oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico last week may be the largest in the U.S. since the 2010 blowout at BP Plc's Macondo well that sank the Deepwater Horizon rig.

Pesticides

Brazil Bans Carbofuran Pesticide, Citing Unacceptable Health Risk

Brazil's National Health Surveillance Agency banned the use of carbofuran, a toxic pesticide sold under the Furadan brand.

Renewable Energy

As Puerto Rico Talks Solar, More Fossil-Fuel Power's Starting Up

While Puerto Rico's governor talks about using solar panels and batteries to rebuild a grid destroyed by Hurricane Maria, the island's importing more fossil fuel-powered generators to get the lights back on.

Water Pollution

EPA Says Higher Radiation Levels Pose 'No Harmful Health Effect'

In the event of a dirty bomb or a nuclear meltdown, emergency responders can safely tolerate radiation levels equivalent to thousands of chest X-rays, the Environmental Protection Agency said in new guidelines that ease off on established safety levels.

Practitioner Insights

Water Pollution

Practitioner Insights: Courts Weigh Scope of Clean Water Act

There is a tug of war underway over the scope of the Clean Water Act: While the Trump administration attempts to narrow the reach of the act through regulatory action, some states and citizen suit actions continue to take an expansive view of the act.

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