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Energy and Climate Report

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News

Budget

Appropriations Bill Advances With Cuts for EPA, Interior

A spending bill with cuts for environmental and public lands agencies was approved July 12 by a House subcommittee, over Democratic objections that the cuts were too big.

Budget

Energy Innovation Agency Told to Work on Despite Budget Cuts

The Energy Department's program to invest in innovative energy technologies should keep working even though it's in line for elimination, a House appropriator said.

Climate Policy

Australian States Seek Zero Carbon Emissions Absent Federal Plan

Another Australian state has committed to net-zero greenhouse emissions by 2050, meaning most of the country's economy now operates under that goal despite the absence of a federal policy.

Climate Policy

EU, the Number 20 in G-20, Finds Its Voice as U.S. Waffles

At global summits, national leaders like Donald Trump, Vladimir Putin, Xi Jinping, or Angela Merkel typically get the bulk of the attention. During last week's Group of 20 meeting in Hamburg, a more faceless entity—the European Union—took the lead, especially on trade and climate change.

EPA

Senate Environment Panel Approves EPA Enforcement Nominee

A Senate committee narrowly approved the nomination of Susan Parker Bodine to serve as EPA's assistant administrator for the Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance.

Energy

Bill to Boost Carbon Capture Tax Credit Resurfaces in Senate

The recent collapse of high-profile carbon capture project at Mississippi's Kemper plant isn't deterring Senate lawmakers from pushing forward with a new policy to provide an incentive for that technology.

Energy

Nuclear Regulatory Commission Nominees Clear Senate Panel

Two nominees for the Nuclear Regulatory Commission cleared the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee June 29.

Energy

Trump Picks Banker, Executive as Energy Undersecretaries

President Donald Trump's pick to be the Energy Department's third-ranking official is an energy attorney and executive at an energy company in which billionaire Warren Buffett's Berkshire Hathaway Inc. has a controlling stake.

Fuel Efficiency

Australia Drive for Stricter Fuel Efficiency Angers Automakers

The Australian government is considering a fuel efficiency standard for new light vehicles that has angered the association representing companies including Toyota, Volkswagen and Ford, but pleased climate advocacy groups.

Natural Resources

Utah's National Monument Stance Sends Trade Show to Colorado

Utah's perceived hostile stance against federal public lands designation spurred The North Face, Patagonia, REI and other outdoors recreation companies to urge a retailer association to move three major trade shows from Salt Lake City to Denver, an officer for The North Face told Bloomberg BNA.

Oil & Gas

Billion-Barrel Mexican Find Could Spur Rush on Next Oil Auctions

A billion-barrel crude discovery in Mexico could be just the lure the country badly needs to boost investment from oil majors as it lacks the wherewithal to reverse years of sagging output.

Renewable Energy

Solar Power Gets \$46 Million Boost From Energy Department

The Energy Department awarded \$46.2 million in research grants to improve solar energy technologies and reduce costs to 3 cents per kilowatt-hour by 2030.

Vehicle Fuels

Markup on Ethanol Boost Could Come Before August Recess

A committee vote on legislation to boost ethanol sales could take place before the August recess, a spokeswoman for Sen. Chuck Grassley (R-Iowa), the chief ethanol proponent in the Senate, told Bloomberg BNA.

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