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## **Daily Environment Report**

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### Leading the News

#### *Budget*

##### House Seeks EPA Budget Cut, But Not As Much As Trump Wants

House appropriators proposed a modest cut for environmental and public lands agencies in their spending bill for fiscal year 2018, reducing funding to \$31.4 billion from the \$32.37 billion for current spending levels. That funding level is \$4.3 billion above what was included in President Donald Trump's budget request.

#### *Climate Policy*

##### Colorado Vows Carbon Cuts in Support of Paris Climate Deal

Colorado vowed to slash statewide greenhouse gas emissions by a quarter from 2005 levels by 2025 as Gov. John Hickenlooper (D) announced plans to join a multi-state alliance to meet the goals of the international Paris climate change agreement.

### News

#### *Biotechnology*

##### Dow Soybean Draws Objection From EU Environment Panel

The European Parliament environment committee July 11 signaled to EU regulators that they shouldn't authorize use of a Dow AgroSciences genetically modified soybean.

#### *Budget*

##### House Appropriators Reject Call to Shutter Chemical Safety Board

The U.S. Chemical Safety Board, targeted for elimination in the White House's budget request earlier this year, would continue operating under a funding proposal released July 11 by a House subcommittee.

### ***Chemical Security***

#### **EPA, Industry Back Chemical Security Rule Delay**

EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt acted appropriately when he moved to delay new chemical plant security rules, agency attorneys and industry groups said in court filings July 10.

### ***Climate Change***

#### **Banks Heed Carney's Call to Tackle Risks of Climate Change**

Eleven major banks including Barclays Plc, Citigroup Inc. and UBS AG said they'll seek ways to address the financial risks of global warming, after Bank of England Governor Mark Carney urged investors to act on the threat.

### ***Climate Regulation***

#### **EU Panel Backs 'Stop-the-Clock' Emissions Exemption for Airlines**

Long-haul flights that arrive in or leave European Union airports would continue to be exempted from a requirement to participate in the bloc's greenhouse gas emissions trading system, under a legislative proposal backed by the European Parliament's environment committee July 11.

### ***Emissions Trading***

#### **California Reaches Deal to Extend Climate Trading Program**

Large California industries would be shielded from local greenhouse gas regulations, but would need to curb emissions of other harmful air pollutants under bills to reauthorize the state's carbon trading program.

### ***Emissions Trading***

#### **EU May Be Required to Keep Carbon Sink Emissions At, Below Zero**

European Union countries would be required to keep combined greenhouse gas emissions from carbon sinks, such as forests, at or below zero from 2021 to 2030, under a plan approved July 11 by the European Parliament's environment committee.

### ***Energy***

#### **Tesla's Australian Battery Fix Comes at 'Big Price,' Analyst Says**

Billionaire Elon Musk's plan to install a giant battery to help fix a power crisis in South Australia will come at a "big price" with installation costing 60 percent more than alternative open cycle gas plants, according to Wood Mackenzie Ltd.

### ***Energy***

#### **Trump Taps Business Executives for Energy Undersecretary Jobs**

President Donald Trump announced his intent July 11 to nominate executives at J.P. Morgan and Berkshire Hathaway Energy for two Energy Department undersecretary posts.

### ***Enforcement***

#### **U.S. Wants Man Convicted in Illegal Dump Case to Pay \$3.7M**

An upstate New York man convicted in 2013 of allowing his property to be used as an illegal dump for hazardous construction debris should be ordered to pay \$3.7 million to reimburse the EPA for cleaning up the site, the Justice Department said.

### ***Fuel Efficiency***

#### **Carmaker Fines for Fuel Economy Shortfalls Under Review by U.S.**

The Trump administration is considering easing steeper fines proposed by Obama-era regulators for automakers that don't meet tougher fuel economy standards, a move that would give a break largely to luxury brands like Jaguar, BMW and Porsche that have paid the highest penalties in the past.

### **Maritime Affairs**

#### **Ships Get More Time to Combat Invasive Marine Organisms**

The world's 40,000 merchant shipowners and operators have been granted two extra years—until 2024—to prepare for new rules on how to treat ballast water to prevent invasions of aquatic species, the International Maritime Organization said July 11.

### **Mining**

#### **Alaska Gold Mine Project Inches Forward**

The Trump administration took the next step July 11 toward allowing a massive gold, copper, and molybdenum mine to be built in Alaska.

### **Motor Vehicles**

#### **China Likely to Extend Tax Break on Electric Cars, Auto Group Says**

China is likely to extend a purchase-tax exemption on electric cars to promote the vehicles, whose sales have outpaced broader industrywide deliveries, according to the state-backed auto association.

### **Motor Vehicles**

#### **London's Iconic Black Cabs Go Electric; Bound for Amsterdam**

Hundreds of London's black cabs will start appearing on the roads of Amsterdam next year, powered by batteries instead of diesel fuel, marking the first international sale for Geely Automobile Holdings Ltd.'s new electric taxi.

### **PCBs**

#### **Monsanto's PCB Superfund Countersuit Tossed Again**

Monsanto Co. can't pursue Superfund cost recovery counterclaims against Spokane, Wash., over PCB river contamination, the Eastern District of Washington ruled July 10 (*City of Spokane v. Monsanto Co.*, 2017 BL 236833, E.D. Wash., No. 15-cv-00201, 7/10/17).

### **Pesticides**

#### **Environmentalists Urge EPA to Test All Pesticide Ingredients**

The EPA must assess environmental and health effects for all pesticide ingredients, not just the active ingredients that kill pests, the Center for Food Safety argued in a July 10 petition to the agency.

### **Risk Assessment**

#### **EPA Chemical Risk Reviews Demand New Rigor Under Amended Law**

EPA scientists are grappling with meticulous new methods imposed by the nation's primary chemicals law for reviewing risks, a senior agency official said.

## **Practitioner Insights**

### **Chemicals**

#### **Practitioner Insights: EPA's New Chemical Delays Causing Ripple Effect**

By Robert F. Helminiak: Experts agree the Frank R. Lautenberg Chemical Safety for the 21st Century Act (LCSA), the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) reform bill enacted last June, is an improvement over the old TSCA of 1976. It clearly strengthened it. However, the new law has created a major disruption to supply chains due to the backlog of pre-manufacture

notices (PMNs), and innovation is starting to suffer. Society of Chemical Manufacturers and Affiliates (SOCMA) member companies are ...

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