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Leading the News

Climate Change

Trump's Paris Withdrawal Leaves U.S. Isolated on World Stage

Heads of state from 19 of the world's largest economies isolated U.S. President Donald Trump for withdrawing from the Paris climate accord and said their disapproval would not abate in the years to come.

Pesticides

Herbicide Makers Say They'll Work With Missouri After Dicamba Ban

The Missouri Department of Agriculture said it hopes to be able to lift its ban on the herbicide dicamba as early as this week, a restriction it ordered after complaints that use of the weed killer by some farmers was damaging crops in adjacent fields.

Water Pollution

House Tries to Speed Up Water Rule Rollback by Waiving Procedure

Speeding up the rollback of the Obama-era Clean Water Rule by circumventing the normal rulemaking process is the goal of a provision in the energy and water spending bill the House Appropriations Committee will consider July 12.

News

Chemicals

Advocates Could Sue EPA, Companies Over Solvent Data

Environmental advocates are threatening lawsuits against seven chemical makers and the EPA to improve information about a solvent the agency could regulate.

Chemicals

EPA Issues First Chemical Controls Under Amended Law

The EPA released its first batch of 29 rules setting controls on using new chemicals under the amended chemicals law.

EPA

Environmentalists Tell EPA: Do Not Delay Methane Rule

Oil and gas companies should comply with the EPA's methane limits even as the agency reconsiders the rule, environmentalists said at a July 10 hearing in Washington.

Energy

Correction

An article, "Release—Finally—of Appliance Efficiency Standards Applauded," incorrectly identified an April 3 notice of intent to sue as a lawsuit. The online version has been corrected.

Energy

Former FERC Commissioner Honorable Joins Reed Smith

Global law firm Reed Smith LLP jumpstarted its new Federal Energy Regulatory Commission team with the addition of former Commissioner Colette Honorable.

Energy

France's Utility May Have to Shut 17 Nuclear Reactors

Electricite de France SA, the state-controlled operator of 58 nuclear reactors, may have to shut as many as 17 to fulfill government plans to reduce the share of atomic power in France's electricity output to 50 percent by 2025, Ecology Minister Nicolas Hulot said.

Energy

Ohio EPA Urges Suit Against Energy Transfer for Pipe Cleanup

Ohio EPA is taking the unusual step of urging the state to sue a pipeline construction company that allegedly spilled two million gallons of drilling mud and is ignoring the agency's directives.

Food

General Mills Must Face Groups' Suit Over Glyphosate Residue

General Mills, Inc. must face, for now, a suit alleging it deceptively touts Nature Valley granola products as "100 percent Natural Whole Grain Oats" when they contain detectable levels of the weed-killer chemical glyphosate (Organic Consumers Ass'n v. General Mills, Inc., D.C. Super. Ct., No. CA 6309, 7/6/17).

Formaldehyde

Lumber Liquidators Class Complaint Survives Dismissal Bid

A would-be class action against Lumber Liquidators Inc. largely survived a bid by the company to dismiss fraudulent concealment and breach of warranty claims July 7 (In re Lumber Liquidators Chinese-Manufactured Flooring Durability Mktg. & Sales Practice Litig., 2017 BL 235267, E.D. Va., No. 16-md-2743, 7/7/17).

Motor Vehicles

VW's Porsche Brand Probed as Diesel Fraud Scandal Spreads

Volkswagen AG's Porsche brand faces a formal probe by German prosecutors as the diesel-emissions scandal spreads to VW's iconic sports-car maker.

Pesticides

EPA Pesticide Fee Reserve Growing: Inspector General

The EPA is sitting on a growing reserve of pesticide company fee money, according to the agency's inspector general.

REACH

EU Chemicals Agency Tags Environmental Contaminant Ban

The European Chemicals Agency added a substance used in soft plastics to a list of hazardous chemicals that could be prioritized for phaseout under the European Union's REACH regulation.

Regulatory Policy

'Disingenuous' to Deregulate on Appropriations Bills: Analyst

The House Appropriations Committee has been reporting out bills that would deregulate as well as fund the federal government, but one long-time budget analyst said such a strategy is intended only to get the spending bills through the House, after which the regulatory riders will most likely fall away.

Regulatory Policy

Rao Confirmed Easily as Trump's Regulatory Chief

Neomi Rao was confirmed easily by the Senate July 10, in a bipartisan 54-41 vote, to be President Donald Trump's chief regulatory officer and leader of the administration's efforts to deregulate and streamline rules.

Renewable Energy

Shell Plans to Spend \$1 Billion a Year on Clean Energy by 2020

Royal Dutch Shell Plc plans to spend as much as \$1 billion a year on its New Energies division as the transition toward renewable power and electric cars accelerates.

Renewable Energy

Wall Street Sours on \$9 Billion Mechanism for Green Projects

Wall Street investors have gone cold on one of the main mechanisms banks invented to fund the green-energy revolution.

Toxic Substances

EU to Amend Rules for Import, Export of Hazardous Chemicals

A European Commission initiative published July 7 would amend a European Union regulation that sets out rules for companies importing and exporting hazardous chemicals to include 11 new chemicals that the bloc recently restricted or banned.

Water Pollution

Correction

The June 6 articles, "Ex-NASA Official, Lobbyist Joins EPA's Water Office," and "Petroleum Institute Lawyer Picked for EPA Legal Counsel" mischaracterized the lobbying activities of Lee Forsgren, EPA's new deputy assistant administrator for the EPA Office of Water. He did not lobby for pipeline projects, but his firm HBW Resources did. He lobbied for the Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida until the end of 2016. The online versions of the stories have been ...

Water Pollution

Delaying EPA Power Plant Discharge Limits Sparks Debate

Power plants want the EPA to delay their deadline for meeting new discharge limits on toxics in wastewater, saying they need more time to plan, construct, and test controls.

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