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**From:** Bloomberg BNA  
**Sent:** Thur 6/29/2017 12:02:16 AM  
**Subject:** June 28 -- Energy and Climate Report



## **Energy and Climate Report**

June 28, 2017 - Number 124

### News

#### *Coal Mining*

##### Looking for a Coal Job? Better Work on Those Playstation Skills

While on the campaign trail in West Virginia last year, Donald Trump donned a hardhat and pantomimed digging coal with a shovel. The coal miners in the audience would soon be back to work, he promised: "Get ready, because you are going to be working your asses off."

#### *Coal-Fired Power Plants*

##### Southern Stops Work on the Coal Part of 'Clean Coal' Power Plant

U.S. utility owner Southern Co. has dropped the coal part of what was planned to be a first-of-its-kind "clean coal" plant.

#### *Delaware Law*

##### Spectra Energy Can't Shake Investor Suit Over Pipeline Deals

A Spectra Energy Partners LP investor can move forward with a lawsuit challenging a pipeline transaction between the master limited partnership and its parent, the Delaware Chancery Court ruled June 27 (*Morris v. Spectra Energy Partners (DE) GP LP*, 2017 BL 221004, Del. Ch., No. 12110-VCG, 6/27/17).

#### *Emissions Trading*

##### California Supreme Court Declines Review of Carbon Auction Case

California business groups lost their last chance to convince a court that the state's carbon cap-and-trade allowance auction is an illegal tax.

#### *Energy*

##### China Is About to Bury Elon Musk in Batteries

As Elon Musk races to finish building the world's biggest battery factory in the Nevada desert, China is poised to leave him in the dust.

#### *Energy*

##### House Panel's Spending Bill Cuts Energy Research Program

Rep. Mike Simpson (R-Idaho) said that while he likes the Energy Department's ARPA-E program, which provides early stage investment in innovative energy technologies, his Energy and Water Subcommittee's fiscal 2018 appropriations bill would cut it "because of limited resources."

#### *Energy*

##### Trump Said to Announce Nuclear Review, Coal Exports to Ukraine

President Donald Trump will announce a broad review of U.S. nuclear regulations and the

start of coal exports to Ukraine in a speech June 29.

#### ***Enforcement***

##### **Justice Department Environment Pick Downplays BP Defense Work**

Past work defending BP PLC after the Deepwater Horizon oil spill and personal opposition to the EPA's climate change efforts would have no bearing on running the Justice Department's environmental office, President Donald Trump's nominee said.

#### ***Environmental Reviews***

##### **PennEast Gas Line Hits Snag as New Jersey Closes Application**

The PennEast pipeline, a \$1 billion project that would link America's biggest shale gas basin to major eastern markets, suffered a setback in New Jersey when the state halted a key environmental review.

#### ***Oil & Gas***

##### **Discoveries Boost Hopes for Alaska Oil Output**

Oil discoveries on the North Slope of Alaska during the past few years have increased hopes for the economy of the region and the state.

#### ***Oil & Gas***

##### **Pipeline Pinch Adds to Oil-Sands Woes as Keystone Wait Drags**

Call it the pipeline pinch, or maybe the Keystone quagmire.

#### ***Radioactive Waste***

##### **House Strikes Compromise on Yucca, Interim Nuclear Storage**

A bipartisan measure to pressure a long-awaited decision on permanent nuclear waste storage, while also paving the way for private interim facilities, will move to the House floor following the Energy and Commerce Committee's approval June 28.

#### ***Regulatory Policy***

##### **Senate Takes Up Nomination of Rao, Trump's Regulatory Chief**

The Senate formally began considering the nomination of Neomi Rao to be President Donald Trump's chief regulatory officer but delayed a final vote until June 29.

#### ***Renewable Energy***

##### **China State Grid Chairman Says Clean Energy Will Create Jobs**

Thousands of renewable energy plants will create jobs as the world switches to clean power from coal, according to the chairman of the State Grid Corp. of China.

#### ***Renewable Energy***

##### **Green Energy Investing Meets Crowd Funding in African Venture**

Gullspang Invest led a group of investors providing 6 million euros (\$6.8 million) to Trine Finance Ltd., a company that spurs off-grid solar power in emerging markets including Africa by tapping crowd funding in the U.K. and other advanced economies.

#### ***Transportation***

##### **Delay of Transportation Emissions Data Rule Stirs Democrats' Ire**

Two top transportation Democrats in the House and Senate criticized the Transportation Department's move to indefinitely delay a requirement that states track greenhouse gas emissions from the nation's highways.

#### ***Unfair Practices***

##### **Japan to Take 'Strict Action' Against LNG Antitrust Violations**

Japan's Fair Trade Commission said existing liquefied natural gas contracts that include resale restrictions may violate antitrust laws and sellers shouldn't include the clauses in new deals.

***Vehicle Fuels***

**California Weighs Making Electric Cars Cheaper Right Off the Lot**

The federal tax credit for electric car purchases has an end in sight, but California doesn't want demand for the zero-emissions vehicles to meet the same fate.

***Vehicle Fuels***

**Germany Counters Diesel's Dirty Image with National Task Force**

Germany is seeking to counter concerns over the harmful emissions from diesel vehicles by bringing together government and auto-industry experts to devise ways to clean up the technology, which supports thousands of jobs in the country.

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