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Leading the News

Climate Regulation

De Blasio Eyes Greenhouse Gas Cuts from City's Buildings

Greenhouse gas emissions from thousands of buildings in New York City would have to be sharply reduced under a plan by Mayor Bill de Blasio (D) targeting the city's top source of heat trapping emissions.

Coal-Fired Power Plants

Coal Refuse Industry Hopes for Help From Congress

Power companies that generate energy from decades-old waste piles they clean up would get a lifeline under a bill House Republicans have started moving forward.

Coastal Zones

Harvey Surge and Few Wetlands Puts Migrating Birds in Tough Spot

Hurricane Harvey not only destroyed towns and flooded homes but also laid waste to precious bird sanctuaries that dot the Texas coast during birds' fall migration.

News

Air Pollution

Petition to EPA Is Path to Expand L.A. Ozone Region: Judges

Los Angeles-area air quality regulators who want to change the way they comply with federal ozone pollution standards may need to persuade the California Air Resources Board to petition the EPA on their behalf, federal appeals court judges suggested Sept. 14.

Biodiversity

Brazil to Protect 10% of Coastal Areas Under Blue Initiative

A new program will help Brazil comply with the United Nations Convention on Biodiversity and expand protection of its coastal and maritime areas from the current 1.5 percent to 10 percent by 2027, its Environment Ministry said.

Boards of Directors

Any Board Ignoring Sustainability Not Doing Its Job, Report Says

When agribusiness Bunge Ltd. bought a stake in a palm oil processor this week, sustainable sourcing was one of the topics that came up in boardroom discussions about the \$946 million deal.

Chemicals

California Passes Chemical Disclosure Bill With Industry Support

SC Johnson, Procter & Gamble, Unilever, and other manufacturers of air fresheners, detergents, and other household items would have to disclose potentially harmful ingredients in their products under a bill passed by California lawmakers.

Chemicals

PPG: Look to China for Chemical Solutions to Pollution Problems

China's 2015 tax on paints and coatings containing volatile organic compounds immediately opened market opportunities for PPG, Chief Technology Officer David Bem recently told Bloomberg BNA.

Chemicals

Talks Fail in Bid to Cut Time Reporting Chemicals in Wastes

Industries wanting to limit the time and money they spend reporting chemicals in recycled wastes have more work ahead of them after a committee formed to brainstorm ideas collapsed.

Climate Change

Monster Storms Change Coastlines, Not Minds on Climate Change

Back-to-back hurricanes fueled by warm Atlantic waters may have altered the coasts of Texas and Florida, but there's no indication they are shifting the politics of climate change.

Climate Policy

Carbon Capture Bill Gains Steam But Still Needs Republicans

A bill to boost carbon capture incentives would seem to have the right ingredients to hit the Senate floor: It's backed by both the oil and gas industry and environmentalists and is led by an unlikely alliance of Democratic climate hawks and Republican climate policy critics.

Coal-Fired Power Plants

EPA to Reconsider Obama-Era Coal Ash Regulations

The EPA said it will reconsider "substantive provisions" of a final rule regulating electric power plants' coal combustion residuals as hazardous waste.

Congress

House Clears EPA Funding Bill Full of Poison Pills for Senate

A funding bill passed by the House Sept. 14 offers a more modest cut to environmental programs than sought by the Trump administration but is so laden with poison pill amendments that it will be little more than a starting point for negotiations with Senate Democrats.

Energy

Arizona Regulator to Head Energy Department Government Affairs

Doug Little, the former chairman of Arizona's public utility commission, was appointed to lead the Energy Department's intergovernmental and external affairs work.

Energy

Federal Energy Regulatory Chairman Changes Tune on Coal

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Chairman Neil Chatterjee seemed to back away from previous pro-coal comments today in his first public testimony since taking office in August.

Ozone Depletion

Fastenal Canada Fined \$218K for Import, Sale of Ozone Depleters

Major industrial supply firm Fastenal Canada Ltd. will pay C\$265,000 (\$217,000) in fines for importing and selling in Canada aerosol products containing ozone-depleting substances.

Renewable Energy

Germany's Energy Transition Creates Costly Problems With Grid

Bolstering Germany's renewable output and expanding its electricity grid will be among Chancellor Angela Merkel's priorities if she prevails in upcoming federal elections.

Water Pollution

Judges Weigh Objections to EPA Approach on Cooling Water Intakes

Federal appeals court judges sought to determine why industry and environmental groups object to the EPA's consultation with other agencies about species protection from cooling water intakes.

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