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Leading the News

Energy

Sinclair Oil Notches Win in Biofuel Mandate Exemption Battle

Sinclair Oil Corp. may no longer be required to fully comply with the EPA's biofuel blending mandate at two oil refineries in Wyoming, following a court decision to reverse a previous agency ruling.

Superfund

Liability Relief Central to Superfund Site Reuse, Investors Say

Liability concerns may scare off investors interested in renovating Superfund sites, which could hobble the EPA's new effort to woo third parties to clean up the properties.

Water Pollution

EPA to Rewrite Toxic Wastewater Limits Rule, No Deadline Set

American Electric Power, the nation's largest electric utility, hopes the EPA will delay all compliance deadlines for toxic wastewater limits on power plants in the wake of the agency's decision to rewrite limits for certain wastestreams.

News

Civil Infrastructure

Trump Said to Be Signing Order to Speed Up Public-Works Permits

President Donald Trump plans to sign an executive order August 15 designed to streamline the approval process for building roads, bridges and other infrastructure by establishing "one federal decision" for major projects and setting a two-year goal for permitting.

Climate Change

Trump to Speed Up Public-Works Permits, Drop Climate Order

President Donald Trump announced an executive order Aug. 15 that's designed to streamline the approval process for building roads, bridges and other infrastructure by establishing "one federal decision" for major projects and setting a two-year goal for permitting.

Contribution

Asarco Superfund Ruling May Fuel Cases

The fallout from a recent novel Superfund ruling for the Ninth Circuit will mean more litigation, environmental lawyers tell Bloomberg BNA (Asarco, LLC v. Atl. Richfield, 9th Cir., No. 14-35723, 8/10/17).

Energy

Authorization for Freeport LNG Export Facility Upheld by Court

A federal appeals court upheld the Energy Department's authorization of a Freeport LNG Development L.P., liquefied natural gas export facility in Texas, rejecting the Sierra Club's assertion that the department didn't go far enough to assess the indirect environmental impacts of the project.

Energy

Energy Information Administration Acting Head to Depart

Howard Gruenspecht, the acting administrator of the Energy Information Administration, is leaving the post at the end of August, he told staff in an email Aug. 15.

Energy

Nuclear Power's Woes Imperil U.S. National Security, Moniz Says

The decline of the U.S. nuclear-power industry puts America's security at risk, according to a report being released Aug. 15 by former Energy Secretary Ernest Moniz that calls for greater federal investment.

Energy

Scana Pulls Request to Abandon Nukes to Allow for State Reviews

Scana Corp., the U.S. utility owner that halted construction last month on a nuclear power plant in South Carolina after its price tag ballooned to more than \$20 billion, has withdrawn its petition to officially abandon the project to allow state officials to review its decision.

Energy

Southern Wins Early Review of Nuclear Reactor Cost Overruns

Southern Co. may have a better idea of how much of an estimated \$25 billion nuclear power project it will be allowed to charge Georgia customers before a reactor is even online.

Enforcement

California Farmer Settles Closely Watched Wetlands Case

A California farmer will pay \$1.1 million to resolve a long-running Clean Water Act lawsuit over protected wetlands, federal prosecutors announced Aug. 15.

Enforcement

Exxon Mobil's \$2.6M Fine for Ruptured Pipeline Tossed

Exxon Mobil will get a break on a \$2.6 million fine levied against it for a 2013 pipeline spill in Arkansas.

Fuel Efficiency

Profitable Pickup Trucks, SUVs May Get Break in Trump Review

A move under consideration by the Trump administration could ease tough fuel-efficiency

standards set to take effect in 2021 on pickups, SUVs and other light trucks, the bulwark of U.S. auto industry sales and profits.

Renewable Energy

Brazil's Solar Expected to Grow With State's New Regulation

A new solar energy regulation in Brazil's Sao Paulo state is expected to encourage more small and large-scale solar systems to be built and help those under construction come online more quickly.

Sustainability

Big Oil Follows Silicon Valley into Backing Green Energy Firms

Major oil companies are joining Silicon Valley in backing energy-technology start-ups, a signal that those with the deepest pockets in the industry are casting around for a new strategy.

Trade Policy

Solar Groups Square Off Over Trade Safeguards

U.S. manufacturers of solar cells and modules squared off with foreign governments, state officials, and other companies Aug. 15 over whether foreign imports are killing U.S. solar manufacturing.

Vehicle Fuels

How Elon Musk and Cheap Oil Doomed Push for Another Car Fuel

The idea was nothing short of revolutionary: convert the nation's millions of trucks, buses and other commercial vehicles to run on natural gas instead of gasoline and diesel.

Water Resources

Arizona, Nevada Won't See Water Cutbacks in 2017

Arizona and Nevada won't have to cope with cutbacks to water supplies after an Aug. 15 federal forecast predicted increased storage at the Lake Mead reservoir.

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