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## **Daily Environment Report**

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### Leading the News

#### *Pesticides*

##### Scotts Miracle-Gro Leads Pack in Cutting Bee-Harming Pesticides

Scotts Miracle-Gro Co. made an unusual move last year when the company announced it would remove a class of insecticides linked to bee deaths from its Ortho brand of home and garden products by 2021.

### News

#### *Biodiversity*

##### Soy and the Cerrado: Exports, Ecology Collide in Brazil's Savanna

Soybean cultivation cutting deep into the Cerrado is turning Brazil's vast wooded savanna into farmland, a transformation so swift that endemic species are being pushed to extinction and even the country's water supply could be affected, scientists and environmental groups warn.

#### *Biofuels*

##### Trump Foiling Bid to Shun Unwanted Ethanol Spat with Brazil

President Donald Trump's America First rhetoric is doing no favors for U.S. ethanol producers, who are hoping to avoid a trade fight with fuel buyers in Brazil.

#### *Chemicals*

##### Clearing EPA's New Chemicals 'Backlog' Cheered by Industry

The EPA says it eliminated the backlog of new chemicals it's reviewing, drawing praise from an industry that would still like to see the agency do more to ensure chemical innovations reach the marketplace.

### ***Chemicals***

#### **Monsanto Wins Stay in San Francisco Bay Area PCB Claims**

Public nuisance claims that three California cities filed against Monsanto Co. over PCB contamination in San Francisco Bay are on hold—for now.

### ***Climate Policy***

#### **Merkel Climate Goal in Doubt with Greenhouse Gases on the Rise**

More than 12 straight months of rising greenhouse gas pollution in Germany are casting doubt on whether Chancellor Angela Merkel's government can meet climate targets.

### ***Endangered Species***

#### **Interior Department Calls for Changes in Sage Grouse Conservation Plans**

Federal policy on the greater sage grouse in 11 states has much room for changes, including modification of guidelines on oil and gas leasing as well as reconsideration of the strictest protections aimed especially at mining, according to an Interior Department report released Aug. 7.

### ***Energy***

#### **Big Oil's Dream of \$65B Hidden Off Norway Is Fading Away**

Norway's oil industry has been salivating for years over the Arctic Lofoten islands, which could hold billions of barrels of crude. It will likely have to keep dreaming.

### ***Energy***

#### **Electric Car Boom Drives Rush to Australia's Lithium Hub**

A scramble by the lithium market's biggest players to tie up supply of the high-tech metal is gathering pace in the 170-year-old heartland of Australia's \$90 billion mining industry.

### ***Invasive Species***

#### **Asian Carp Plan Wouldn't Shut Down Lake Michigan Shipping**

The Army Corps of Engineers wouldn't shut down a crucial shipping channel between the Mississippi River and Lake Michigan as part of a draft plan to halt the spread of an invasive fish species.

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

#### **Obscure New Mexico Shale Source Means Big Results for BP**

As U.S. gas drillers pay up for prime assets in Texas and Pennsylvania, BP PLC may have just found a gem in a largely ignored New Mexico source.

### ***Perchlorate***

#### **SQM North America Must Defend Again in Pomona Water Suit**

SQM North America Corp. must again defend water contamination claims by the city of Pomona, Calif., the Ninth Circuit ruled (*City of Pomona v. SQM North America Corp.*, 9th Cir., No. 15-cv-56062, 8/7/17).

### ***Pipeline Safety***

#### **Pipeline Safety Agency Hires Deputy Administrator**

The Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration has a new deputy administrator.

### ***Process Safety***

#### **California's Most Protective Oil Refinery Rules Will Cost Millions**

California oil refinery operators including Chevron Corp., Andeavor Inc., and Valero, could spend about \$58 million during the next year to comply with the state's new refinery safety rules, the state says.

### ***Regulatory Policy***

#### **Democrats Probing Regulatory Overhaul Task Forces**

Top Democrats on House Oversight and Judiciary committees are seeking a full list of names and detailed information by Aug. 25 about task forces set up in each federal agency that are charged with recommending rules for repeal, replacement or modification.

### ***Renewable Energy***

#### **U.K. Clears \$5.5 Billion Offshore Wind Farm for Scottish Power**

The U.K. government gave the green light to ScottishPower Renewables Ltd. to build a 1.2-gigawatt wind farm off the coast of Norfolk that may cost as much as \$5.5 billion.

### ***Toxic Substances***

#### **Orange County Water District's State Superfund Claims Revived**

The Water District of Orange County, Calif., may pursue state Superfund claims against a host of companies for ground water contamination, a California appeals court ruled (*Orange Cty. Water Dist. v. Sabic Innovative Plastics US, LLC*, 2017 BL 272719, Cal. Ct. App., 4th Dist., No. D070553, 8/4/17).

### **CORRECTION**

The story, "Pasadena Liable for Water Treatment Site Contamination," published August 4, originally misidentified Pasadena, Texas, as Pasadena, Calif., in the first paragraph. The online version has been updated.

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