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**Subject:** Aug. 09 -- Daily Environment Report



## **Daily Environment Report**

August 09, 2017 - Number 152

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### Leading the News

#### *Climate Regulation*

##### Judges Give EPA Alternatives to Revive Chemical Coolants Ban

The same judges who struck down the EPA's ban on refrigerants that are also potent greenhouse gases may have outlined a path forward for the agency should it want to try again.

#### *Climate Science*

##### Trump's UN Diplomat: White House Won't Hinder Climate Study

The Trump administration is unlikely to interfere in a broad climate study focusing on how rising sea level, increasing temperatures, and other factors are already affecting the U.S., the president's United Nations ambassador said.

#### *Enforcement*

##### China Waging 'Unprecedented' Pollution Crackdown

Large state-owned businesses, local governments and thousands of small private enterprises have been implicated in an unusually public pollution crackdown in China in recent months.

### News

#### *Air Pollution*

##### VW Offers Incentives In Germany for Trade In of Dirty Diesels

Volkswagen AG's namesake brand and its upscale sister marque Audi are offering as much as 10,000 euros (\$11,800) per car in incentives in Germany to trade in older diesel models for new ones that spew out fewer emissions as political pressure to fight pollution intensifies ahead of general elections.

**China**

China Importing Less Coal Amid New Import Rules

China's coal imports in July declined to the lowest in more than a year as a new import rule may have delayed some shipments.

**China**

China Nails Down New Environmental Guidelines for Construction

China's State Council has amended regulations on construction projects' requirements for the first time since 1998, a move it hopes will spur more environmental protection.

**China**

Gas Sellers Sidestep China State Giants to Ride Demand Surge

China's independent energy firms are seeking to circumvent its state-backed giants as they cash in on swelling natural gas use, buoyed by President Xi Jinping's drive for cleaner fuels and nimbler companies.

**Climate Change**

Commonwealth Bank of Australia Shareholders Sue Over Climate Risk

An Aug. 8 lawsuit in Australia against one of the country's largest banks alleging it failed to adequately disclose climate change risks is being seen as a wake-up call for other global financial institutions.

**Coal Mining**

Trump's Push to Clear Hurdle for Coal Won't Spur More Mining

A Trump administration effort to clear a hurdle thought to impede coal production on federal land almost certainly won't mean companies will mine more coal, analysts said.

**Energy**

Egypt Moves to End State Monopoly of Natural Gas Market

Egypt is opening the door to private participation in its natural gas sector, moving to end the state's monopoly as it pushes ahead with reforms meant to encourage investment and revive the economy.

**Energy**

Keystone XL's Path Up for Grabs as Nebraska Commission Weighs In

The future of TransCanada Corp.'s Keystone XL pipeline could hinge on whether a Nebraska commission believes the project is in the public's interest or is a private land grab as property owners claim.

**Energy**

Tax Breaks Powered Wind Energy Growth in 2016

Wind energy installations in the U.S. continued to grow in 2016 thanks in part to a tax credit for new projects, the Energy Department said in a trio of Aug. 8 reports.

**Enforcement**

Sessions Raises Possibility of Reopening Pollution Settlements

Attorney General Jeff Sessions is calling for a list of all criminal and civil settlements reached by the EPA and other agencies during the past 10 years that include payments to third parties in lawsuits after he banned the practice in June.

**Groundwater**

Groundwater Cleanup Could Overwhelm Pentagon Budget

The \$2 billion the Pentagon may need to clean up contaminated groundwater near military bases could blow a hole in the Defense Department's remediation budget, an official said.

#### ***Motor Vehicles***

##### **European Oil Producer Considers Bet on Electric Car Boom**

The boss of Europe's second-largest oil and gas producer is considering whether to double down on its \$1.1 billion purchase of battery maker Saft by betting on an electric-car boom.

#### ***Pesticides***

##### **House Oversight Committee Advances Cancer Institute Probe**

House Oversight and Government Reform Chairman Trey Gowdy (R-S.C.) is pushing further an investigation into U.S. funding of an international institution criticized for labeling a widely used herbicide as carcinogenic.

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

##### **Nuclear Regulator Moves to Restart Yucca Mountain Review**

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission ordered staff to gather information tied to a review of the Energy Department's proposal to build a high-level radioactive waste repository at Nevada's Yucca Mountain.

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

##### **Warren Buffett Likes Solar, But Not the Price Tag**

Warren Buffett has called global warming a "major problem" and put his company's money where his mouth is, spending billions to develop solar and wind power, yet he's no hero to some renewable energy proponents.

#### ***Vehicle Fuels***

##### **Oklahoma's \$100 Electric Car Fee Draws Challenge by Sierra Club**

Oklahoma's bid to help close a budget shortfall with a new \$100 fee on electric vehicles drew a court challenge from the Sierra Club, which argues the state didn't follow the correct procedures for enacting a tax or properly measure the benefits of having those cars on the road.

#### ***Water Infrastructure***

##### **San Diego to Tap Wastewater for New Water Supply**

San Diego's proposed \$3 billion water recycling project could provide a third of the city's water supply and help it avoid costly improvements to a coastal wastewater treatment plant.

#### ***Water Pollution***

##### **Water Rule Analysis Broader Than Critics Contend, EPA Says**

The EPA's economic analysis of the Obama-era Clean Water Rule relied on permitting data from years after the economic recession ended, the agency said countering accusations its analysis was limited to when the downturn occurred.

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Daily Environment Report for EPA

**To:** Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]  
**From:** POLITICO  
**Sent:** Fri 8/18/2017 4:21:14 PM  
**Subject:** BREAKING NEWS: Pelosi endorses censure of Trump over Charlottesville response

House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi on Friday endorsed a call to censure President Donald Trump for his response to last weekend's violent white supremacist march in Charlottesville, Va.

"The President's repulsive defense of white supremacists demands that Congress act to defend our American values," she said in endorsing a censure resolution introduced by several House Democrats.

"Every day, the President gives us further evidence of why such a censure is necessary," she said.

Read more: <http://www.politico.com/story/2017/08/18/pelosi-endorses-censure-of-trump-over-charlottesville-response-241784>

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