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Energy and Climate Report

August 08, 2017 - Number 152

News

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

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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