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Leading the News

Air Pollution

EPA Opts for Pollution Trading Over Emissions Controls in Texas

Eight Texas coal-fired power plants can join an air pollution trading program instead of installing expensive new sulfur dioxide controls, the EPA said as part of a rule aimed to improve visibility in the state.

Climate Regulation

Utilities Coalesce Around Plan for New Carbon Dioxide Standards

Ameren Corp. and Entergy are among the utilities urging the EPA to rewrite its carbon dioxide pollution standards for power plants rather than scrapping the rule outright as the Trump administration repeatedly has suggested.

Energy

Energy Grid Rule Moving Fast, Despite Industry Pushback

A proposal that could prop up failing coal and nuclear plants was put on fast forward by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, despite concerns among renewable energy, natural gas and oil trade industries that it will greatly distort the wholesale energy markets.

News

Air Pollution

Correction

A Sept. 29 story, "EPA Silent as Ozone Decision Deadline Looms, States Say," incorrectly said that states submitted their ozone control plans to the EPA along with their recommendations for ozone nonattainment areas. Those plans are due in 2020-2021. The online version has been corrected.

Air Pollution

Missed Ozone Deadline Draws Threat of Lawsuit Against EPA

Environmental groups notified the EPA Oct. 3 that they would sue over a missed deadline for the agency to decide which areas in the U.S. exceed updated ground-level ozone standards set in 2015.

Climate Policy

Fortum's Bid for Uniper Stake Seen Spurred by Carbon Reform

Fortum Oyj's bid for a stake in German utility Uniper SE is partly a bet that the European Union will finally succeed in fixing its environmental policy.

Climate Policy

New York City Climate Plan Calls for Efficient Buildings, Electric Cars

New building standards and more electric vehicle fast chargers are part of New York City's new three-year plan to meet Paris Agreement greenhouse gas reductions—even if the country as a whole does not.

Hazardous Waste

Exxon Mobil, CSX to Receive Cleanup Money for Baltimore Site

Exxon Mobil Corp., Black & Decker Inc., and CSX Transportation, Inc. are among the companies that will receive roughly \$20 million to perform restoration work at a contaminated Baltimore site.

Hydraulic Fracturing

Scotland's Fracking Ban Cheers Public, Distresses Investors

Public opposition prompted Scotland to re-up its ban on hydraulic fracturing, effectively blocking energy firms from tapping the U.K.'s northernmost country's shale for oil and gas.

Mining

Backers of Good Samaritan Coal Mine Cleanup Bill Look to Senate

A group of conservationists and coal-state lawmakers is hoping for Senate passage for a bill that would let “good Samaritans” clean up old mine sites without fear of legal liability.

Mining

Peru's Dream of Usurping Copper King Chile Faces Roadblocks

The biggest obstacle to Peru's dream of some day supplanting Chile as the world's biggest copper producer may be Peru itself.

Mining

Trump's EPA Asks Drillers, Miners for Advice on Regulating Them

President Donald Trump's Environmental Protection Agency is asking miners, oil drillers and manufacturers to collaborate with the government on how to regulate their industries.

Natural Gas

These Suburbanites May Have No Fracking Choice

When Bill Young peers out the window of his \$700,000 home in Broomfield, Colo., he drinks in a panoramic view of the Rocky Mountains. Starting next year, he may also glimpse one of the 99 drilling rigs that Extraction Oil & Gas Inc. wants to use to get at the oil beneath his home.

Oil & Gas

Left Behind by the Shale Boom, Oklahoma Oilmen Fight to Survive

Not every oilman is gaining from the U.S. shale boom. Just ask Joe Warren.

Pesticides

Electronic System to Boost EPA's Lagging Pesticide Import Checks

The EPA is only inspecting a fraction of a percent of pesticide shipments sent to U.S. ports, a new agency report finds.

Regulatory Policy

Deregulation Spurs GDP Growth, White House Economists Say

Deregulation will stimulate the growth of gross domestic product in the U.S., the White House Council of Economic Advisers concluded in a report released Oct. 2, though several public-interest groups are dubious.

Renewable Energy

Trump Isn't Acting on Verbal Attacks Against Wind, Dong Says

President Donald Trump's threats against wind energy have so far proven empty, according to an industry giant that expects to grow in the U.S.

Toxic Substances

EPA Chemical Analysis Reforms on Target, Advisers, Utility, Say

The EPA's initial plans to examine chemicals used as fertilizers will appropriately examine a range of health problems the nutrients may cause, says Bill Stowe, the head of an Iowa water utility.

Toxic Substances

Global Summit Warns Against Mercury Use in Small-Scale Mining

The first global meeting of countries devoted to stamping out mercury in the environment ended with incremental progress, but left unanswered questions about how to tackle one of the largest contributors to global mercury poisoning—artisanal and small-scale gold mining.

Trade Policy

Reconsider Waste Import Ban, U.S. Urges China

China's move to ban certain kinds of solid waste by the end of 2017 could increase uncertainty for the multibillion dollar U.S. waste industry, Trump administration officials said during an Oct. 3 World Trade Organization meeting.

Trade Policy

Suniva Seeks 'Buy American' Mandate for Federal Solar Purchases

The U.S. government should purchase power from only American-made solar panels at military bases or in other projects, solar manufacturer Suniva Inc. told a trade panel, adding a new wrinkle to its bid for protection from imports.

Water Infrastructure

Improved Desalination Technology Seeks to Quench World's Thirst

Desalination, long rebuffed as a costly energy guzzler with a heavy carbon footprint, could become a cheaper, cleaner, more energy-efficient solution to the global water crisis—provided initial cost barriers can be overcome.

Water Pollution

Costly Coal Ash Cleanup Order at Gallatin Spurs TVA Appeal

The estimated \$2 billion it could cost the Tennessee Valley Authority to dig up and move coal ash from its Gallatin, Tenn., site, as required by a federal court, has prompted the power authority to challenge a court order.

Practitioner Insights

Energy

Practitioner Insights: Leading by Example—Energy Reporting in Italy

The European Commission's 2012 Energy Efficiency Directive failed to deliver on its bold vision. This is evident even as its 2020 due date remains more than two years away.

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