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Leading the News

Superfund

Pruitt to Tap Private Sector to Hasten Superfund Cleanups

EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt is embracing public-private partnerships and setting aggressive agency deadlines to move languishing Superfund site cleanups forward.

News

Biofuels

Biofuel Subsidies Axed in New House Legislation

Biofuel subsidy programs at the Agriculture Department would be axed in a bill set for introduction in the House.

Budget

Government Shutdown Odds Grow With Border Wall Funding Bill

By Erik Wasson and Roxana Tiron: House Republicans this week are increasing the possibility of a government shutdown in October by moving forward with a \$788 billion spending bill that complies with President Donald Trump's demands to boost the military, reduce clean-energy programs and fund a wall on the U.S.-Mexico border.

Canada

Canada Business Warns Trudeau on Rising Costs, Regulations

Canada's climate-change plan and other government measures are heaping costs on businesses and pushing them to a breaking point, the Chamber of Commerce says in a warning to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau.

Compliance Programs

VW's Liaison to U.S. Regulators Is Preparing Guilty Plea

A Volkswagen AG compliance executive charged in the company's emissions-cheating scandal is preparing to plead guilty.

Contribution

Houston Caterer Can't Foil Superfund Disposal Claim

A Houston catering company remains on the hook for a Superfund contribution claim over contamination at an oil recovery facility, the Southern District of Texas ruled (USOR Site PRP Grp. v. A&M Contractors, Inc., 2017 BL 254960, S.D. Tex., No. 14-CV-2441, 7/21/17).

Disclosure

Most Companies Still Struggle With Source of Conflict Minerals

Companies trying to make sure minerals in computer chips, jewelry, and other products don't fuel conflict in Africa still struggle with identifying their source.

Drinking Water

Saint-Gobain to Fund \$20 Million Water Line in Vermont

Saint-Gobain Performance Plastics Corp. will fund a \$20 million water line extension for approximately 200 Vermont homes, settling claims that a shuttered factory leached a chemical into area wells.

Emissions Trading

California Regulators Next Up With Cap and Trade Bill Signed

California regulators now need to set new carbon dioxide emissions limits for the coming years after Gov. Jerry Brown (D) signed into law legislation renewing the state's greenhouse gas emissions cap-and-trade program another 10 years.

Energy

Connecticut Keeps Nuclear Subsidy Debate Alive with State Review

Connecticut's governor ordered a study into the "economic viability" of the state's sole nuclear power plant after legislators failed to pass legislation intended to shore up its profitability.

Energy

Dead Bodies Piling Up as Mexico's Stolen-Fuel Market Booms

Buying stolen gasoline in the central Mexican state of Puebla is easy. Pull off the main highway into a busy parking lot, and the black marketeers are waiting in pickup trucks loaded with jerrycans. They'll siphon the fuel into your tank—boasting as they do that unlike a lot of the country's regular gas stations, they don't cheat customers.

Energy

Energy Restrictions Pass House as Part of New Sanctions Bill

U.S. companies may face new restrictions on participating in global energy projects with Russian investment as part of the passage of a broad sanctions package in the House July 25.

Energy

Rick Perry Punked into Fake Interview with Russian 'Jerky Boys'

Energy Secretary Rick Perry thought he was talking about cyberhacking and a biofuel breakthrough in a call with Ukraine Prime Minister Volodymyr Hroisman. Alas, the 22-minute phone call was actually conducted with Russian pranksters.

Mergers and Acquisitions

DuPont Gets Boost From Farmers With Dow Merger Set to Close

DuPont Co.'s agriculture operations gave a boost to second-quarter earnings, buoying prospects for the company's largest business ahead of the planned completion next month of the historic \$75 billion merger with Dow Chemical Co.

Natural Gas

Appalachian States Look Past Coal, Ask Trump to Aid Natural Gas

Having lost tens of thousands of coal mining jobs to the rise in natural gas, several states have decided if you can't beat them, join them.

Oil & Gas

America's Biggest Oil Port Looks to Be Hub for Shale Exports

The biggest U.S. oil-import hub wants to grab a piece of surging North American crude exports.

Oil & Gas

Petronas Drops Plan to Build \$27 Billion Canada LNG Terminal

Malaysia's Petroliaam Nasional Bhd abandoned its long-stalled plans to build a \$27 billion liquefied natural gas export terminal on Canada's west coast, citing changes in market conditions.

Pesticides

Democrats Seek Another Bipartisan Push on Toxics to Ban Pesticide

Democratic lawmakers are hoping to re-establish last year's bipartisan push in Congress for chemical oversight reform to ban a common agricultural insecticide, as action to restrict the bug killer stalls in the Trump administration's EPA.

Pesticides

Scientists Say They Were Left Out of Pesticide Drift Research

Farmers could have had better information on handling a new herbicide linked to widespread crop damage in the South and Midwest, but Monsanto Co. limited the scope of research on the pesticide, according to a pair of agricultural scientists.

Renewable Energy

SunEdison Sets Bankruptcy Exit with Nothing for Shareholders

SunEdison Inc. won final approval for a bankruptcy plan that will leave what was once the world's largest renewable-energy firm as a shell of its former self, with nothing for shareholders whose investment had been worth about \$10 billion.

Superfund

Chemical Solvent's Risks Drive Small Firms to Innovate

New concerns about the potential health effects of a common chemical solvent are spurring monitoring innovations—and in the process letting small environmental consulting firms compete with industry giants.

Taxes

Little Change in Rates Expected as China Implements Green Tax

Tax rates aren't likely to see much change as China moves to fully implement its Environmental Protection Tax Law, which will go into effect Jan. 1, 2018. Major changes are not expected at first in the amount of taxes companies will have to pay for emissions compared to a previous fee-based system, analysts said, although the exact rates have not been released.

Special Report

Coal-Fired Power Plants

Hopes Rest on Private Firms for Legacy Coal Cleanup

The defining landmark in Hazleton, Pa., when John Quigley was growing up in the 1960s was a giant pile of black, crumbly coal waste that had been there for as long as anyone could remember. Taller than a 20-story building, the heap covered an area the size of four football fields and even had its own name: the Jeansville Coal Bank.

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