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## **Daily Environment Report**

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### Leading the News

#### *Air Pollution*

##### **Millions Breathing Dirty Air as California Wine Country Burns**

The most destructive wildfires in California's history have exposed more than 7 million people in the San Francisco region to unhealthy levels of air pollution with 1 million facing air quality that the EPA would deem extremely unhealthy.

#### *Drinking Water*

##### **CDC Sounds Alarm on Chemical Contamination in Drinking Water**

A top environmental official at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said the scientific community is just beginning to grasp the scope of how much drinking water could be contaminated with a potentially toxic class of industrial chemicals.

#### *EPA*

##### **Scientists Getting EPA Grants Can't Advise Agency, Pruitt Says**

Scientists who have received EPA grants to the "tune of literally tens of millions of dollars" won't be allowed to serve on the agency's advisory boards, Administrator Scott Pruitt announced Oct. 17.

#### *Pesticides*

##### **Developing World Still Struggling With Obsolete Pesticides**

The cotton fields of sub-Saharan Africa hold a deadly secret—thousands of tons of obsolete pesticides are buried out of sight but slowly taking a toxic toll on the region's people and environment.

### News

### ***Agriculture***

#### **Conservation Program Would Get Boost Under Senate Bill**

The existing Regional Conservation Partnership Program would receive more funds and flexible resources to expand projects under a bipartisan bill introduced by members of the Senate Agriculture Committee.

### ***Agriculture***

#### **Next Farm Bill May Include Revamp of Sodsaver Provisions**

A federal program designed to protect native grasslands may be added to the 2018 farm bill. It would expand to all 50 states and close what supporters characterize as a loophole in the existing statute giving farmers a crop insurance incentive to break native sod.

### ***Biofuels***

#### **EPA Nominee's Committee Vote Postponed Amid Biofuel Dispute**

Corn-state Republican senators who yield power over the EPA's nominees are raising concerns about the White House's pick to lead the agency's air office amid a dispute with Administrator Scott Pruitt over biofuels policy, prompting a delay in a scheduled committee vote.

### ***Chemical Safety Board***

#### **Safety Board Makes Case for ExxonMobil Refinery Blast Records**

Should the U.S. Chemical Safety Board have access to ExxonMobil Corp. records related to a risky near-miss incident at the company's one-time Torrance, Calif., refinery?

### ***Disclosure***

#### **Most Companies' Financial Reports Don't Mention Climate Risks**

Almost three-quarters of companies worldwide don't include in annual financial reports the risks that climate change could pose to their business, according to new research from KPMG International.

### ***Energy***

#### **Australian Prime Minister's Clean Energy Plan Draws Criticism**

Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull calls his new energy policy a "game changer," but his plan is drawing criticism from environmentalists and some industries and faces an uphill battle.

### ***Energy***

#### **Democrats Urge Energy Regulator to Reject Pro-Coal Proposal**

Sen. Maria Cantwell (D-Wash.) is pressing the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to reject an Energy Department proposal aimed at propping up coal and nuclear plants in certain competitive energy markets, saying it's ultimately bad for consumers.

### ***Energy***

#### **Energy Regulator Wants Faster Review of Gas Pipelines**

The head of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission wants to speed up federal review needed to build natural gas pipeline, but said he disagrees with another commissioner's suggestion to rely less on existing pipeline contracts.

### ***Energy***

#### **Sacramento Nudges People to Use Less Electricity at Peak Hours**

Electric utilities have a problem with peak demand. They need to build enough power plants to keep the lights on and the air conditioning running on the hottest days, even if many of those plants operate only a few days a year. Sacramento Municipal Utility District in

California calculated that it could build 44 percent fewer “peaking” plants if it could cut peak usage by charging more for power during periods of high demand. The problem for the utility was that most customers ...

### ***Energy***

#### **Scana Gets SEC Subpoena After Canceled Nuclear Project**

Scana Corp., already the target of federal and state investigations, said it received a subpoena from the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission in connection with an abandoned nuclear power project.

### ***Infrastructure***

#### **Senate Republicans Seek to Offer Input on Infrastructure Package**

Senate Commerce Committee Republicans hope an Oct. 18 meeting with the White House infrastructure team will provide clarity and allow senators to offer input on a funding package, the committee chairman told Bloomberg Government Oct. 17.

### ***Insurance***

#### **Flood Insurance Program May Be Reauthorized in Third Supplemental**

The National Flood Insurance Program may be reauthorized in a third disaster aid supplemental, Sen. Mike Crapo (R-Idaho), Senate Banking Committee chairman, told reporters Oct. 17.

### ***Mergers and Acquisitions***

#### **GE to Pay for Setback in Divesting Water Assets**

General Electric Co., as part of its deal to merge with Baker Hughes Inc., must pay the U.S. government up to \$12,000 a day beginning Jan. 1 for the delay in offloading its water and process technologies business.

### ***Motor Vehicles***

#### **Bosch May Not Derail VW Dealers’ \$4 Billion Defeat Device Suit**

A federal judge was skeptical of Robert Bosch GmbH's arguments that it shouldn't have to face racketeering and corruption claims by more than 600 Volkswagen AG dealerships over its role in the emissions-cheating scandal.

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

#### **Colorado Tightens Pipeline Testing Rules After Fatal Explosion**

A fatal explosion caused by a severed Anadarko Petroleum Co. natural gas flow line is driving tighter requirements to test oil and gas pipelines in Colorado.

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

#### **Indian Energy Policy Advocate Tapped for Interior Post**

An Inupiat Alaska native from Arctic oil country will be nominated to be assistant secretary of the Interior for Indian affairs.

### ***Pesticides***

#### **With Brazil Ban Looming, Carbofuran Maker Shifts to Alternative Pesticides**

The U.S. maker of the insecticide Furadan says it had been expecting its product would be banned in Brazil even before that country announced a six-month phaseout.

### ***Sustainability***

#### **PODCAST: Will Corporations Save Us From Climate Change?**

It's pretty clear that, under the Trump administration, regulating greenhouse gas emissions is no longer a priority for the federal government.

***Water Infrastructure***

**Flint Must Choose Long-Term Water Source, Court Orders**

**A federal court in Michigan ordered the City of Flint to choose a long-term water source in the next seven days, likely meaning the city will remain on Detroit-area water.**

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