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Leading the News

Climate Regulation

Transportation Officials Move to Scrap Obama Climate Rule

The Trump administration is working to roll back another Obama-era climate regulation—this time a provision that would require state transportation planners to account for greenhouse gas emissions.

Water Pollution

Cities Pitch Affordability, Innovation in Curbing Sewer Overflows

When it rains, it flows—a nasty soup of stormwater and sewage spilling into local streams. Controlling these sewer system overflows costs a lot of money and can require tricky engineering: some cases require the construction of large storage tunnels burrowing hundreds of feet underground. Many cities want more time to clean up the problem, and they're getting it. Washington, D.C., is among the cities that have taken advantage of the EPA's integrated planning policy, which ...

News

Agriculture

Brazil to Tap Green Bonds, Fueling Agricultural Expansion

Brazil plans to tap green bonds to finance a significant expansion of agricultural exports.

Appropriations

House GOP Planning for Hurricane Aid Vote in Week of Oct. 9

House Republican leaders plan to quickly pass a \$29 billion hurricane relief package the week of Oct. 9, lawmakers said.

Climate Regulation

Trump Said to Begin Repeal of Obama Power Plant Emission Cuts

The Trump administration will propose repealing former President Barack Obama's signature plan for combating climate change by asserting that its expansive approach to addressing carbon emissions exceeds legal limits, according to a person familiar with the deliberations.

Coal-Fired Power Plants

Perry's Coal Proposal Seen Unlikely to Reverse Historic Decline

U.S. Energy Secretary Rick Perry's plan to reward coal-fired power plants that keep large stockpiles of fuel won't be enough to reverse the industry's long-term decline, analysts say.

Contribution

Feds Must Chip In on Superfund Cleanup Tab, 9th Circuit Says

The federal government shouldn't have been let off the hook for hazardous waste cleanup costs at a California aeronautical manufacturing plant, the Ninth Circuit ruled Oct. 4 (TDY Holdings, LLC v. United States, 9th Cir., No. 15-56483, 10/4/17).

EPA

EPA Chemical Office Pick Demurs Questions of Recusal on Past Work

EPA chemicals office nominee Michael Dourson defended his consulting for chemical, tobacco, and oil industries Oct. 4 as Democrats and environmentalists challenged him to recuse himself from certain decisions on chemicals he worked on.

Energy

Army of Women Tackles Electricity Thieves in Indian Slums

India's power companies have a problem largely responsible for \$10 billion a year in losses. Slum dwellers steal electricity and refuse to pay their bills. But company officials often can't go in without being chased by mobs—and sometimes beaten, tied up, urinated on, even murdered.

Energy

Electricity, Fossil Fuel Energy Nominees Head to Senate Floor

Energy Department nominees to lead the electricity and fossil fuel offices are headed for full Senate consideration after favorable votes by the Energy and Natural Resources Committee on Oct. 4.

Energy

Japan Regulator Clears Restart of World's Largest Nuclear Plant

Tokyo Electric Power Co. Holdings Inc. moved a step closer to resuming operations of the world's biggest nuclear facility after Japan's atomic regulator gave its tacit approval, delivering a much-needed boost for a company still strapped with the cost to clean up its wrecked Fukushima plant.

Energy

Nuclear Regulatory Panel Nominees Caught in Partisan Senate Spat

The nomination of a Democrat to continue on the Nuclear Regulatory Commission has become caught in a partisan disagreement over whether his nomination should be combined with those of two Republican nominees awaiting Senate action.

Energy

Theresa May's U.K. Energy Price Cap Signals Wafer Thin Margins

Britain's utilities are the new political punching bag after Theresa May proposed a price cap

to insulate customers from higher prices.

Enforcement

Mining Giant Sherritt Fined \$840,000 for Coal Mine Effluent Leak

Sherritt International Corp., a major nickel miner, faces a C\$1.05 million (\$840,000) fine for leaking up to 500,000 liters (132,000 gallons) of contaminated wastewater into nearby streams inhabited by an at-risk fish species.

Motor Vehicles

Western Governors Envision Electric Vehicle Corridor

Governors in seven Western states hope to coordinate an electric vehicle charging network that connects their major thoroughfares—and possibly boosts some the presence of some states in the electric vehicle industry.

Natural Resources

Energy Royalty Advisory Panel Starts Charting New Rules

A royalty policy committee that includes major oil companies will develop new Interior Department regulations on payments companies make for energy development on federal and tribal lands, an Interior official said at the committee's first meeting Oct. 4.

Oil & Gas

Here's the Hot Canadian Oil Play You Probably Never Heard About

There's a land grab quietly taking place in a little-known corner of the Canadian oil sands.

Oil & Gas

Interior Wants to Freeze Obama-era Methane Limits

The Interior Department wants to temporarily stop enforcing an Obama-era rule that limited methane emissions from oil and gas drillers operating on federal lands.

Oil & Gas

Private Oil Made a Big Find in Mexico, Now State Oil Wants a Cut

When private drillers struck oil off Mexico's coast this year, they didn't anticipate sharing it with the state oil company. It looks like they'll have to.

Pesticides

Draft EU Endocrine Disruptor Pesticide Ban Exterminated

Germany's Bayer AG, Dow AgroSciences, Syngenta and other chemical companies are breathing a sigh of relief after the European Parliament vetoed a draft EU regulation Oct. 4 that could have banned up to 70 pesticides with endocrine disrupting properties.

Pipeline Safety

Pipeline Safety Agency Nominee Wins Senate Panel's Approval

A Senate committee approved Howard "Skip" Elliott as head of the Pipeline and Hazardous Safety Materials Administration Oct. 4, sending his nomination to the full Senate.

Real Property

Trans-Pecos Pipeline Will Proceed for Now

A Texas property owner whose land was taken by a natural gas utility can't stop its pipeline project for now, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit ruled Oct. 3 (*Boerschig v. Trans-Pecos Pipeline, LLC*, 2017 BL 354426, 5th Cir., No. 16-50931, 10/3/17).

Renewable Energy

Dawn of Solar Age Declared as Sun Power Beats All Others

Solar power blossomed faster than for any other fuel for the first time in 2016, the International Energy Agency said in a report suggesting the technology will dominate renewables in the years ahead.

Renewable Energy

Storms Spur \$22 Billion Investment in Battery-Backed Grids

Growing demand for more resilient power supplies will spur \$22.3 billion of global investment in battery-backed local energy systems over the next decade, according to Navigant Research.

Toxic Substances

EPA Not Liable for Property Damage During Superfund Cleanup

An Alabama industrial park owner can't pursue claims against the federal government for damage to its property that occurred during a Superfund cleanup, the Northern District of Alabama ruled (*Gadsden Indus. Park, LLC v. United States*, N.D. Ala., No. 15-cv-0956, 10/3/17).

Toxic Substances

Saint-Gobain to Pay \$20M for Vermont Water Chemical Contamination

Saint-Gobain Performance Plastics will pay an estimated \$20 million to pipe clean municipal water to Vermont residents impacted by chemical contamination of their private drinking water wells in a settlement approved by a state superior court Oct. 3.

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