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Leading the News

Agriculture

Agriculture Nominee Favors Voluntary Pollution Programs

An advocate of voluntary programs to curb nutrient runoff from farms is President Donald Trump's pick to head the Agriculture Department's work on domestic farming and conservation.

EPA

Democrats May Slow But Not Stop Trump Pick for EPA Water Office

Senate Democrats may delay the confirmation of the Trump administration's pick to lead the EPA's Office of Water in response to a dispute with the agency's leader, Scott Pruitt.

EPA

EPA General Counsel Pick Criticized Agency's Rules

President Donald Trump's pick to be the EPA's top legal counsel is a staunch critic of the Obama-era regulations he could play a crucial role in unraveling.

News

Agriculture

Plastic Film Covering China's Farmland Contaminates Soil

China will expand its agricultural use of environment-damaging plastic film to boost crop production even as the government tries to curb soil pollution, a government scientist said.

Climate Change

New York City Reviews Plans on Flooding After Houston Disaster

New York is reviewing its plans for a massive rainstorm after the flooding that has left parts

of Houston underwater for days.

Climate Policy

Australia's Carbon Offsets Program Under Federal Review

The federal Climate Change Authority launched a review of Australia's carbon offsets scheme just a few months before it's expected to launch its sixth auction for emissions-abatement projects.

Climate Policy

Sweden Plans \$630 Million in Climate Investments Next Year

Sweden's government plans to invest an additional 5 billion kronor (\$630 million) next year to address climate change and help the country eventually reach its goal of becoming free of fossil fuels.

Climate Regulation

Chevron, Encana Prepping for Methane Rule Without EPA Guidance

Major oil and gas companies like Encana and Chevron are working to meet an October deadline to report on their methane emissions despite a lack of guidance from the EPA and fears of legal challenges from environmental groups.

Congress

PODCAST: The Frenzy Begins as Congress Returns

Congress returns from a month-long vacation today and it definitely has its work cut out for it: by the end of this month, it has to fund the government, raise the debt ceiling, reauthorize the FAA and provide disaster relief for victims of Hurricane Harvey.

Duty to Indemnify

Insurer Waited Too Long to Recoup Superfund Costs

North River Insurance is off the hook for Superfund claims against a waste hauler for contamination at several landfills, the District of New Jersey said (*Penn Nat'l Ins. Co. v. Crum & Forster Ins. Co.*, 2017 BL 309506, D.N.J., No. 09-cv-4644, 9/1/17).

Energy

Trump Taps Clean Coal Patent-Holder as Top Fossil Fuel Official

A contractor who holds patents in pollutant reductions for coal and natural gas production has been tapped as the next head of fossil fuels at the Energy Department.

Motor Vehicles

Man Whose Gear Found VW Fraud Says Diesel's Death Overstated

What is the market leader in equipment for measuring automobile emissions to do if the vehicles of the future don't spew exhaust? Japan's Horiba Ltd., whose gear was central in exposing Volkswagen AG's diesel-cheating scandal, believes that day will never come.

Motor Vehicles

Merkel Says Diesel Needed as Bridge Technology to Electric Cars

Chancellor Angela Merkel renewed her pledge to avoid diesel driving bans, arguing the technology will be needed for decades to come to reduce carbon dioxide emissions as automakers develop electric vehicles.

Motor Vehicles

Sweden Plans to Raise Subsidies for Vehicles with Low Emissions

Sweden has proposed increasing subsidies for new light vehicles with low carbon dioxide emissions and raising taxes on high-emission vehicles, in a bid to increase the number of

environmentally friendly cars on the road.

Natural Gas

Wrath of Harvey Lays Bare Mexico's U.S. Natural Gas Addiction

Hurricane Harvey's crushing blow to the U.S. energy industry reveals just how dependent Mexico has become on natural gas from its northern neighbor.

Oil & Gas

India's Top Oil Refiner Seeks Paths to Modi's Cleaner Future

India's top oil refiner is exploring the use of natural gas and electricity to power vehicles as Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government envisions multiple paths toward reducing the country's dependence on petroleum-based fuels.

Regulatory Policy

OMB Asks Agencies for Next Year's Regulatory Plans

Federal agencies must submit by Sept. 18 their plans to regulate and deregulate in the year ahead, although the Office of Management and Budget still hasn't given them their regulatory budgets for fiscal year 2018.

Renewable Energy

Better Than a Battery? Big Energy Backs Hydrogen Power Storage

The secret to switching the global energy system entirely to renewables may lay in the universe's most abundant substance.

Renewable Energy

Energy Demand Prompts Brazil Wind, Solar Power Auctions

An expected increase in demand for renewable energy has prompted Brazil to schedule two auctions in December for future wind, solar, and other types of power.

Toxic Substances

Panhandle Eastern Dodges Pipeline Smoke Claims

Panhandle Eastern Pipeline Co. won dismissal of most civil claims stemming from a 2014 pipeline smoke cloud, but the District of Kansas declined to dismiss another allegation that the company's pipeline operation was abnormally dangerous (*Brown v. Panhandle Eastern Pipeline Co.*, 2017 BL 309228, D. Kan., No. 16-cv-02428, 9/1/17).

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