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Leading the News

Climate Change

How Climate Change Can Get You Sued

The climate is changing and are so are the legal risks it will pose.

Mining

Hardrock Miners Want to Trade Royalties for Faster Permits

Hardrock mining companies are considering breaking with almost 150 years of history, saying they're willing to start paying federal royalties on the minerals they extract in exchange for faster environmental permitting.

News

Air Pollution

China's Air Pollution Crackdown Could Close 176K Businesses

Up to 176,000 businesses in the Beijing, Tianjin and Hebei province could be forced to shut down because of air pollution violations if they do not address the problems by the end of September, the Chinese government says.

Biofuels

Trump Is Selling Out the Midwest, Biofuel Industry Says

As a presidential candidate, Donald Trump spent a lot of time currying the favor of the ethanol industry, barnstorming its rural Midwest base and repeatedly expressing his support for biofuels made from corn and soybeans. He was rewarded in November: Of the 184 counties with an ethanol plant in the U.S., 95 percent voted for Trump, according to data compiled by the Renewable Fuels Association. As president, Trump has continued to pledge that he'll protect the Renewable Fuel Standard, ...

Brownfields

Minnesota Brownfields Get \$4.6 Million in Redevelopment Funds

A Minneapolis industrial site polluted with petroleum and other contaminants will receive the largest chunk of \$4.6 million in grants from a Minnesota agency seeking to clean up and redevelop non-Superfund sites.

Chemical Safety Board

Causes of ExxonMobil Explosion Detailed in Coming Report

The cause of a November 2016 explosion at an ExxonMobil refinery in Baton Rouge, La. will be revealed in a U.S. Chemical Safety Board report to be released in the next month, according to Vanessa Sutherland, the board's chair.

Chemicals

Products With Flame Retardants in Foam Face San Francisco Ban

Upholstered furniture and children's products treated with chemical retardants could be gone from San Francisco stores if a new local ordinance passes.

Climate Change

Children's Climate Lawsuit Paused Pending Ninth Circuit Review

A novel lawsuit by a group of young people seeking to force the federal government to act on climate change may be in jeopardy after a federal appeals court stepped in to halt the case.

Coal Mining

Environmental Group Widens Suit Over Secrecy on Coal Leasing

An environmental group is widening its legal case against the Trump administration over its allegation that the administration kept secret its bid to reopen the federal coal leasing program.

Coal Mining

Interior's Reclamation Order Open to Legal Challenge

An Oklahoma coal mining company can move forward with its legal challenge to an Interior Department decision without first exhausting all its mandatory remedies, a federal court ruled.

Emissions Trading

Now California Needs to Cap Costs While it Caps Carbon

Now that California has extended its carbon dioxide trading program through 2030 businesses are waiting to see how state regulators plan to keep compliance costs down.

Energy

New York Nuclear Subsidies Upheld by Federal Court

Dynegy Inc., NRG Energy Inc. and certain other power generators have lost their bid in federal court to overturn New York's controversial nuclear subsidies and plan to appeal.

Energy

Petronas Deals Fresh Blow as World Exits Canada's Energy Patch

Petroleum Nasional Bhd.'s decision to back out of a giant gas-export project on Canada's Pacific Coast is the latest hit to the country's energy sector—and to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's plan of balancing energy exports and climate action.

Forests

Brazil Directive Could Fuel Land Grabbing, Deforestation in Amazon

A new government directive will paralyze the creation of new indigenous reserves in Brazil and fuel land-grabbing and deforestation, especially in the Amazon rainforest, environmental and Indian rights groups say.

Import Policy

Brazil Postpones Decision on Imposing Tariffs on Imported Ethanol

Brazil postponed a decision on whether to impose tariffs on ethanol imports, with the country's Chamber of Foreign Trade (Camex) choosing to discuss the matter in 30 days, a spokeswoman at the Ministry of Development, Industry, and Foreign Trade told Bloomberg BNA July 25.

Liabile Parties

City's 'Disregard' of Hazmat Site Leads to Superfund Hit

The City of Fairbanks, Alaska, knew about contamination at a former dry cleaning site as early as 1999 and must share cleanup costs for failing to correct it, the District of Alaska ruled July 25 (*Gavora, Inc. v. City of Fairbanks*, 2017 BL 256894, D. Alaska, No.15-cv-00015, 7/25/17).

Motor Vehicles

Daimler Vows to Fight for Diesel's Survival Amid Disruption

Daimler AG is conducting a thorough investigation into allegations of diesel cheating as the German automaker seeks to burnish the technology's battered reputation amid an onslaught of negative news for an industry reeling from scandals.

Oil & Gas

Fisheries Service Hears Pros, Cons on Atlantic Seismic Surveys

Five oil and gas service companies are awaiting decisions by the National Marine Fisheries Service on their proposals for Atlantic offshore seismic surveys that could harm whales and other marine life.

Regulatory Policy

State AGs Suing Federal Agencies Over Rule Rollbacks

Democratic attorneys general, following the Republican playbook, are banding together to file lawsuits challenging federal agencies as they roll back Obama-era regulations.

Renewable Energy

Bill to Speed Wind, Solar Licensing Clears House Committee

Wind and solar projects on public lands could get quicker federal approval under legislation approved by the House Natural Resources Committee July 26.

Renewable Energy

Israel Boosts Green Energy After Missing 2014 Targets

Israel hopes to boost its solar power industry after its parliament approved tax breaks for companies that manufacture photovoltaic panels and trimmed away bureaucratic hurdles.

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