

To: Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
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Daily Environment Report

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Leading the News

Chemicals

Chemical Industry to Trump: Don't Kill the NAFTA Golden Goose

The overriding objective of negotiations resuming this weekend to overhaul the North American Free Trade Agreement should be to "do no harm," American Chemistry Council Director of Global Affairs Greg Skelton told Bloomberg BNA.

Climate Change

Are Hurricanes Winds of Change for Insurers' Climate Risk?

The insurance industry faces a dilemma when it comes to climate change: fundamentally, companies understand the risk natural disasters intensified by climate change can pose, but they see relatively little risk to their business in the near future.

Climate Policy

Storm Resiliency Enters Senate Debate on Flood Insurance

Senate Democrats who have been largely shying away from any debate about the role of climate change in worsening recent storms that hit Texas, Florida, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands say they're ready to raise climate influence and the need for resilient infrastructure in an upcoming debate over reauthorizing the federal flood insurance program.

News

Air Pollution

Diesel Becomes Campaign Issue for Merkel in German Elections

Germans head the polls Sept. 24, and an unexpected issue has wedged itself into the campaign along with the usual themes of jobs and refugees: diesel.

Climate Policy

Trump Climate Confusion Is the New Brexit, Top UN Official Says

When U.K. Prime Minister Theresa May criticized President Donald Trump for taking the U.S. out of the landmark Paris climate change deal this week, she might as well have been talking about another kind of exit closer to home.

Climate Regulation

California Sets Demands for Talking Emissions Targets with Trump

California could be willing to re-open discussions on its greenhouse gas limits for cars and trucks for 2025—so long as automakers and the Trump administration embrace the significantly tougher targets it's contemplating for later years.

Coal-Fired Power Plants

Threats to Sue Duke Energy Shelved If Utility Hands Over Data

Recent lawsuit threats against Duke Energy will be dropped if the utility follows through on promises to provide additional information about coal ash hazards, the lawyer for an environmental group told Bloomberg BNA.

Dumping

International Trade Commission Votes to Tax U.S. Solar Imports

The U.S. International Trade Commission concluded that a flood of cheap, foreign solar panels is hurting U.S. manufacturers, teeing up an opportunity for President Donald Trump to impose tariffs and import quotas.

Duty to Indemnify

London Underwriters Can't Derail Amtrak's Cleanup Claims

London Market Insurers failed to shake Amtrak's claims to recoup hazardous waste cleanup costs at a maintenance and storage facility in Queens, N.Y. (Certain Underwriters at Lloyd's v. Nat'l R.R. Passenger Corp., 2017 BL 334453, E.D.N.Y., No. 14-CV-4717, 9/21/17).

Emissions Trading

California, Quebec, Ontario Ink Deal to Join Carbon Markets

California, Quebec, and Ontario cemented plans Sept. 22 to launch North America's largest carbon allowance market next year.

Energy

A \$21 Billion Failed Nuclear Project is Still Haunting Scana

Scana Corp. may have dropped a \$21 billion plan to build a nuclear power plant in South Carolina, but washing its hands of the project altogether won't be so easy.

Energy

Lack of IRS Solar Tax Credit Guidance Clouds New Projects

Solar energy developers hoping to break ground on large-scale projects want the IRS to define new-construction requirements for a renewable energy tax incentive.

Enforcement

SolarCity to Pay \$29.5M After Inflating Recovery Act Claims

SolarCity will pay \$29.5 million to resolve allegations that it submitted inflated claims for itself and affiliated investment funds for grants under the Obama administration's stimulus plan, the Justice Department said Sept. 22

Hazardous Waste

EPA's Hazardous Waste Reporting System on Track

States and hazardous waste handlers say they are looking forward to ditching paper tracking documents as the EPA prepares a new electronic tracking system, which it will test-release this winter.

Hydraulic Fracturing

CORRECTION

A story published Sept. 21, "Obama Fracking Rule Restored Temporarily as Court Halts Case," misstated what intervening environmental advocacy groups sought. They wanted the district court's ruling to be vacated, not the rule as originally reported. The online version has been corrected.

Motor Vehicles

How Electric Cars Can Create the Biggest Disruption Since iPhone

It's 10 years since Apple Inc. unleashed a surge of innovation that upended the mobile phone industry. Electric cars, with a little help from ride-hailing and self-driving technology, could be about to pull the same trick on Big Oil.

Natural Gas

Twice-Rejected LNG Exporter Gives Project Another Shot

The developer of a liquefied natural gas export terminal in Oregon that has already twice been denied permits by U.S. regulators is giving it another shot.

Pesticides

Seasonal Ban on Popular Weedkiller Proposed in Arkansas

Arkansas is proposing a six-month ban on the use of a new type of weedkiller manufactured by Monsanto Co. and BASF Corp., hoping to resolve complaints that the pesticide is damaging thousands of acres of soybean crops.

Renewable Energy

Italy's Enel Group Starts Latin America's Two Largest Solar Parks

Latin America's two largest solar parks, which can provide enough power to meet the annual demand of more than half a million homes, are now online in Brazil.

Renewable Energy

The Most Expensive Teslas and the Policy 'Paradox' Behind Them

Fun fact: A poster child of green energy policies has cemented its place in Europe as the most expensive place to own a Tesla.

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