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Daily Environment Report

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Leading the News

Air Pollution

EPA Coal Jobs Analysis Halted in Blow to Murray Energy

The EPA doesn't have to complete a time-consuming, resource-intensive analysis of how air pollution regulations impact jobs after a federal appeals court nullified a lower court's ruling requiring the report.

Energy

Nuclear Group Lauds Trump Call to Study Industry Challenges

The nuclear industry's advocacy arm is welcoming President Donald Trump's call for a comprehensive study of the industry's challenges, saying it hopes such efforts can revitalize Westinghouse Electric Co. and other companies.

Energy

Trump Vows to Unleash Nation's 'Vast Energy Wealth'

President Donald Trump said he is lifting an Obama-era policy that curtailed the financing of coal-fired power plants overseas, as he seeks to reorient the U.S. government away from fighting climate change and toward American "energy dominance."

News

Chemicals

Correction

The June 28 story, "Chemical Makers Can Ask, Pay for Part of EPA Risk Analysis," incorrectly said the EPA had decided chemical manufacturers could pay for only part of a chemical risk evaluation they request. The agency's June 22 final risk evaluation does not discuss the fees chemical manufacturers would pay when they ask the agency to evaluate

some—but not all—chemical uses. The story also should have clarified that the amended Toxic Substances Control Act caps ...

Chemicals

EPA Backs Off Planned Mandates in Chemical Inventory Rule

Chemical makers, importers and processors will find it easier to submit lists of chemicals in commerce to EPA due to more flexibility the agency built into a recent regulation, industry officials said.

Chemicals

Solvent's Ozone Effects Raised as EPA Starts Analysis

The EPA could face more pressure to regulate a common solvent's uses if environmental advocates convince the agency to evaluate its effect on the ozone layer.

Climate Policy

British Bank Official Worried Investors Not Eyeing Climate Risk

Bank of England Governor Mark Carney said he's concerned investors aren't doing enough to assess threats that global warming will have on assets they purchase.

Climate Policy

Germany Sends \$11.4 Million to Aid Brazil Climate Adaptation

Brazil will use half of an \$11.4 million donation from Germany to carry out a national climate adaptation plan, a Brazilian environmental official told Bloomberg BNA.

Climate Policy

U.K. Told to Reassess Building Design As Heat Waves Multiply

Britain must reassess the way it designs buildings to cope with a warming climate, stepping away from huge expanses of glass and beyond air conditioning that consumes too much energy, a panel advising the government said.

Coal-Fired Power Plants

Coal's Latest Woe: Even a Clean Coal Plant Won't Burn It

First came the bad weather and construction slowdowns. Then the slide in natural gas prices. Equipment got clogged and then leaks sprung. Design flaws surfaced.

Energy

Broad Senate Energy Bill Revived While House Moves Piecemeal

A sprawling energy bill aimed at expediting liquefied natural gas exports, safeguarding the electricity grid, and improving building efficiency is now on a glide path to Senate floor consideration.

Energy

Democratic Senate Staffer Tapped as Federal Energy Regulator

A Democratic Senate staff member tapped to fill a vacancy at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission could bring years of energy expertise, colleagues say.

Energy

Senate Republicans Seek to Expedite Nuclear Tax Credit Bill

Senate Republicans are seeking permission for expedited vote on legislation that would extend a tax credit for new nuclear reactors, according to notice obtained by Bloomberg.

Energy

Trump Budget May Slow Advent of Carbon-Free Nuclear Fusion

In the rolling hills of East Tennessee, a team of scientists and engineers is working to create a sun on Earth. They're at Oak Ridge National Laboratory, once an integral part of the Manhattan Project's experiments with nuclear fission. More than 70 years later, these 100-odd researchers are focused on nuclear fusion, the other side of that atomic coin. They say they and their counterparts in the European Union, Russia, and China are less than a decade away from a successful demo of ...

Hexavalent Chromium

\$10M Honeywell Toxic Dust Settlement Survives Challenge

Honeywell's \$10 million settlement with New Jersey home owners who allege their property values were diminished by toxic dust from a pair of Jersey City chemical plants survived a challenge in the Third Circuit (*Halley v. Honeywell Intl. Inc.*, 3d Cir., No. 16-2712, 6/29/17).

International Issues

Merkel Takes on Trump and Brexit in Combative G-20 Preview

German Chancellor Angela Merkel championed Europe, dismissed Brexit and said efforts to fight climate change are irreversible in a combative speech ahead of the Group of 20 summit that's shaping up to be a confrontation over the direction of global policy.

Oil & Gas

Interior to Step Up Pace of Oil, Gas Leasing on Federal Land

The Trump administration will hold oil and gas lease sales more often on federal lands and prioritize promising areas for leasing, a high-level Interior Department official told House lawmakers June 29.

Pesticides

EPA to Reject California's Bid for Marijuana Pesticides

EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt says he will reject California's request to allow a company to sell pesticides for cannabis plants because marijuana cultivation is illegal under federal law.

Pesticides

Pesticide Registration Bill Heads to Senate Floor

The Senate Agriculture Committee approved a pesticide registration bill June 29 with a shorter lifespan than an earlier version.

Petroleum

Shell Oil Can't Skirt Condo Owners' Petroleum Nuisance Claims

Shell Oil Co. will once again face previously dismissed nuisance claims for contamination at a California property it once owned, a California appeals court ruled in an unpublished opinion (*Estuary Owners Ass'n v. Shell Oil Co.*, 2017 BL 223400, Cal. Ct. App., 1st Dist., A145516, unpublished 6/28/17).

Radioactive Waste

Correction

A story published in the June 29 issue, "House Strikes Compromise on Yucca, Interim Nuclear Storage," has been corrected to say a House bill on nuclear waste storage, which the House Energy and Commerce Committee approved June 28, would push the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to finalize a decision on the Yucca Mountain permanent nuclear waste repository within 30 months of enactment. The legislation also would authorize Energy Department funding for just one interim facility ...

Renewable Energy

Germany Opens Door for Landlords to Produce Power

A bill that encourages landlords to install in-house solar panels on the rooftops of apartment buildings and expand renewable energy systems in urban areas passed June 29 in the Bundestag, Germany's lower house of Parliament.

Renewable Energy

Major Win for State Renewable Efforts May End Up Back in Court

A major decision by a federal appeals court in favor of Connecticut's renewable energy program may not be the final say on the matter, the company that filed the suit says.

Sustainability

Tower Blaze Delivers Blow to Niche of the Green Energy Industry

The fire that killed at least 79 people in a residential tower in London earlier this month has delivered a blow to an often overlooked section of the green industry that's crucial to delivering energy efficiency.

Toxic Chemicals

Whistle-blowing Kasowitz Firm Seeks Billions From Chemical Giants (Corrected)

A hard-charging New York law firm was conducting discovery in personal injury litigation against a number of chemical and other companies in Alabama several years ago when it came across some interesting data.

Vehicle Fuels

Three Bosch Managers Targeted as German Diesel Probe Expands

A German probe into whether Robert Bosch GmbH helped Volkswagen AG cheat on emissions tests intensified as Stuttgart prosecutors said they were focusing on three managers at the car-parts maker.

Water Infrastructure

Advocates Sue to Block California Water Project

Federal scientists should redo biological studies for a proposed California water infrastructure project, fishing and environmental groups said June 29.

Water Pollution

EPA Too Lax on NYC Water Pollution Plan: Green Groups

The EPA was too lax in approving a plan to clean up sewage and other pollution fouling the rivers and other waterways in and around New York City, a coalition of environmental groups said in a lawsuit.

Practitioner Insights

Hazardous Waste

Practitioner Insights: Hazardous Waste Reforms Not in Trump's Sights

During the past few months, federal environmental rules that the Trump administration wants to reconsider for possible rescission have made headlines. The March 28 executive order directing the dismantling of the many-faceted Obama administration climate change legacy is the most noteworthy example. There have been many others, including stream protection rules, methane control at new oil and gas facilities, etc.

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