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Leading the News

Chemicals

Chemical Companies See More Risk Than Reward in Brexit

Chemical companies in the U.K. are skeptical about abandoning European Union regulations, including the landmark REACH regulation, as British Prime Minister Theresa May prepares to deliver a big Brexit speech in Italy Sept. 22.

Hydraulic Fracturing

Obama Fracking Rule Restored Temporarily as Court Halts Case

The Obama administration's 2015 rule governing hydraulic fracturing on federal and tribal lands was temporarily reinstated today when a federal appeals court dismissed a bloc of states' lawsuit challenging the regulations.

News

Air Pollution

Almost 1 Million Pounds in Emissions Released in Valero Fire

A Valero Energy Corp. refinery fire in Texas released almost 1 million pounds in emissions, just as the region is tackling chemical leaks caused by Hurricane Harvey.

Climate Change

CORRECTION

The story, "Yale's Carbon-Neutral Goals May Be Costly, Leave Students Cold," that ran in the Sept. 18 report misidentified one of the university's schools. The correct name is the School of Forestry and Environmental Studies. The online version has been corrected.

Climate Change

Developing Nations to Get South Korea's Help on Climate Plans

South Korea's green technology industries could find business opportunities open up in developing countries like Mongolia or Laos if a government-nonprofit cooperation plan takes hold.

Climate Policy

Trump's HUD Keeps Climate-Smart Rebuilding Guide Under Wraps

Just a few months before a pair of blockbuster hurricanes hit Florida and Texas, the Trump administration received detailed guidelines from consultants for factoring climate change into how federal aid is spent.

Drinking Water

Nestlé Makes Billions Bottling Water It Pays Nearly Nothing For

In rural Mecosta County, Mich., sits a near-windowless facility with a footprint about the size of Buckingham Palace. It's just one of Nestlé's roughly 100 bottled water factories in 34 countries around the world. Inside, workers wear hairnets, hard hats, goggles, gloves, and earplugs. Ten production lines snake through the space, funneling local spring water into 8-ounce to 2.5-gallon containers; most of the lines run 24/7, each pumping out 500 to 1,200 bottles per minute. ...

Energy

Active Energy to Build Novel Biomass Plants in Southeast Asia

Jessica Shankleman: Active Energy Plc. said it will build eight plants in southeast Asia to make a novel form of biomass that could replace coal without the need for technological upgrades.

Energy

Chinese Truckers Play Savior to Energy Giants Fearing LNG Glut

Energy giants that invested hundreds of billions of dollars to liquefy natural gas have an unlikely hero to thank for boosting demand and keeping their market out of a price-killing glut: the Chinese truck driver.

Energy

How Merkel's Green Energy Policy Has Fueled Demand for Coal

By 2030, the eastern German town of Poedelwitz will likely be razed to get at the rich veins of coal beneath its half-timbered houses. The reason: Chancellor Angela Merkel's effort to steer Germany toward greener energy, which has unexpectedly meant booming demand for dirty coal. While Merkel aims to wean the country from nuclear power and boost renewable energy, the shift has been slow—Germany's 140-plus coal-fired plants last year supplied 40 percent of the country's ...

Energy

Nuclear Scientists Head to China to Test Experimental Reactors

China is becoming the testing ground for a new breed of nuclear power stations designed to be safer and cheaper, as scientists from the U.S. and other Western nations find it difficult to raise enough money to build experimental plants at home.

Energy

Scana Says U.S. Attorney Probing Canceled Nuclear Project

Scana Corp., which had sought to recover \$4.9 billion from customers for its canceled V.C. Summer nuclear power project in South Carolina, received a federal subpoena for documents related to the plant.

Motor Vehicles

Mercedes Plots Tesla Attack with \$1 Billion U.S. Electric Push

Daimler AG plans to spend \$1 billion to start production of Mercedes-Benz electric vehicles at its Alabama factory, setting the world's largest luxury-car maker up to battle with battery-car specialist Tesla Inc. on its home turf.

Renewable Energy

'No Taboos': German Energy Giant Backs Electric Cars, Solar

German green energy company Innogy SE plans to tap electric vehicles, solar power, and fiber networks to expand its grid and retail power businesses.

Renewable Energy

Bigger Renewable Energy Buy Rule Considered in Massachusetts

Massachusetts lawmakers are considering ramping up the state's clean energy rules to require utilities to purchase more renewable energy sooner.

Renewable Energy

Elon Musk's Solar Partnership Doesn't Look So Crazy Now

Elon Musk took a lot of heat last year when his Tesla Inc. bought solar-panel installer SolarCity for \$2 billion. The synergies between his two companies didn't seem immediately obvious, among other issues, critics said.

Renewable Energy

Here's Why Mitsui Mining Is Excited for Next-Gen Battery Storage

When it comes to batteries, the future may be solid.

Superfund

Superfund Cleanups Slowed by Decades-Long EPA Practices

The EPA administrator is vowing to change a longtime Superfund program practice blamed for slowing or in some cases stopping cleanup work at some hazardous waste sites.

Trade Policy

U.S. Tariffs on Solar Imports May Hinge on Free-Trade Deals

U.S. free-trade deals with South Korea, Mexico, and others may soften the impact of tariffs on imported solar panels should Suniva Inc. convince the government that it was hobbled by foreign competition.

Transportation

Pay to Raise Highways or Drive Underwater, Californians Told

Low-lying roads in the San Francisco Bay Area must be elevated to stay above rising waters from climate change, officials say. To help pay for it, they intend to tap into the region's history of willingness to approve transportation funding measures at the ballot box, hoping motorists say OK to hefty tolls.

Water Pollution

Barrier at Gold King Will Prevent Another Release, EPA Says

Large, sudden wastewater spills at southwestern Colorado's Gold King Mine—such as the 3-million-gallon leak in August 2015—will be prevented by a new barrier and valve the EPA is installing, federal officials told Bloomberg BNA.

Practitioner Insights

Chemicals

Practitioner Insights: Should Firms Ask for Chemical Risk Reviews?

As a general rule, chemical manufacturers (and their counsel) avoid actions that will encourage or increase regulatory scrutiny of their products or operations. Regulatory scrutiny generally is bad for business, since it exposes companies to risk of reputational injury, fines and injunctive actions, competitive disadvantage, and general market uncertainty.

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