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## **Daily Environment Report**

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### Leading the News

#### *Pesticides*

##### Monsanto's Foes Are Branching Out

Call it the anti-Roundup dream team. A coalition of attorneys, invigorated by their lawsuit representing cancer victims against Monsanto Co., is tackling the world's most popular weedkiller on multiple fronts. They are veteran environmental attorney and political scion Robert F. Kennedy, Jr.; Aimee Wagstaff of Andrus Wagstaff LP in Lakewood, Colo.; Michael Miller of the Miller Firm LLC in Orange, Va.; Michael Baum and Brent Wisner of Baum Hedlund Aristei Goldman PC in Los Angeles; and ...

#### *Water Infrastructure*

##### California Mounts Lobbying Blitz for EPA Water Loans

The Golden State is making a strong lobbying push to try to win new federal loans for water infrastructure projects, according to data and documents reviewed by Bloomberg BNA.

#### *Water Pollution*

##### EPA Starts Water Rule Repeal, Fulfills Trump Campaign Pledge

EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt June 27 initiated the repeal of an Obama-era water jurisdiction regulation by issuing a proposal that would reinstate prior policies on what waters are subject to federal protections, the agency announced.

### News

#### *Air Pollution*

##### EPA Nitrogen Dioxide Air Standards Up For White House Review

The EPA's review of its nitrogen dioxide air pollution standards is nearly complete with the agency sending its proposal for how to proceed to the White House Office of Management

and Budget.

### ***Budget***

#### **House Appropriators Move to Eliminate Funding for ARPA-E**

The Energy Department's Advanced Research Projects Agency—Energy (ARPA-E) would have its funding eliminated in spending legislation released June 27 by Republicans on the House Appropriations committee.

### ***Chemicals***

#### **Chemical Makers Can Ask, Pay for Part of EPA Risk Analysis**

Chemical manufacturers can request and foot the bill for the EPA to review the risks of some chemical uses without triggering an obligation to cover the cost of a more comprehensive examination, a senior agency official said.

### ***Climate Policy***

#### **Germany Prepares Fund to Encourage Pension-Pot Climate Spending**

Germany's environment ministry is to start its first fund aimed at reducing the risk of financing clean-energy projects in emerging nations.

### ***Coal Mining***

#### **\$1 Billion Mine Cleanup Bill Moves to Full House**

A bill that would speed the delivery of \$1 billion to states grappling with old, unreclaimed mine sites passed a House committee June 27.

### ***Coal-Fired Power Plants***

#### **Navajo Vote to Extend Large Coal-Fired Power Plant's Lease**

The massive coal-fired Navajo Generating Station can continue to operate through 2019 after the Navajo Nation Council approved legislation allowing it more time to shut down.

### ***Congress***

#### **EPA Prying Into Witness Testimony Merits Probe: Democrats**

House Science Committee Democrats are calling for an investigation into potential inappropriate interference from EPA into an agency science adviser's testimony before Congress.

### ***Drinking Water***

#### **New Lead Rule a Heavy Lift for EPA Water Regulators**

The EPA's drinking water regulators are trying to solve the difficult problem of how much lead in tap water is too much.

### ***Energy***

#### **Energy Regulator to Retire June 30, Leaving One Commissioner**

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's Colette Honorable said her last day will be June 30, leaving the independent agency with one remaining member and four vacancies.

### ***Energy***

#### **Energy Secretary Supports Nuclear, but Funding Cut Proposed**

Energy Secretary Rick Perry called domestic nuclear energy development a "game changer" at the start of White House "Energy Week," but the department's proposed budget would cut funding for its nuclear office.

### ***Energy***

#### **Perry Seeks Energy Pact with Mexico, Canada as NAFTA Talks Near**

The U.S. has a unique opportunity to develop a “North American energy strategy” with Canada and Mexico, Energy Secretary Rick Perry said, striking a conciliatory tone with the other members of the North American Free Trade Agreement.

### ***Energy***

#### **Perry: Renewables Affect Grid Reliability; FERC Member Refutes**

Energy Secretary Rick Perry said previous policies benefiting renewable resources threaten baseload resources and lead to a less reliable electric grid, but Federal Energy Regulatory Commissioner Colette Honorable refuted his claim.

### ***Energy***

#### **Pumped Hydropower Storage Bill Passes House**

A bill designed to eliminate regulatory uncertainty in hydropower storage at federal reservoirs passed the House June 27.

### ***Energy***

#### **Westinghouse Dealt Setback in Bid to Recover \$2 Billion**

Westinghouse Electric Co. was dealt a setback in its bid to recover \$2 billion from Chicago Bridge & Iron Co. NV stemming from cost overruns at unfinished nuclear reactors in South Carolina and Georgia.

### ***Hydraulic Fracturing***

#### **Interior May Restore Pre-2015 Federal Fracking Regulations**

The Interior Department appears poised to rescind its 2015 rule on hydraulic fracturing outright, after which it may simply revert to the pre-existing status quo on federal regulations for fracking on federal and Indian lands.

### ***Mississippi***

#### **Injunction Nixed for Pollution Claims Against Oil Driller**

A Mississippi landowner isn't entitled to an injunction to stop alleged contamination from oil and gas production activities on his property, the Southern District of Mississippi ruled (Miller v. Miss. Res., LLC, S.D. Miss., No. 17-cv-00041, 6/26/17).

### ***Radioactive Waste***

#### **Adviser Promoted as Acting Head of Nuclear Waste Cleanup Office**

James Owendoff was named as acting head of the Energy Department's Office of Environmental Management, which is responsible for the cleanup of waste from the government's nuclear weapons program.

### ***Shareholder Proposals***

#### **Energy Giants May Be Bowing to Investor Sway on Climate Stance**

Energy companies may be more willing to give in to investor demand for disclosure on climate change after a record show of support for environmental issues this proxy season.

### ***Tax Policy***

#### **Pass and Go: Four Non-Tax Reform Bills That Could Move This Year**

Top House Republicans have vowed repeatedly to make sweeping tax reform a reality this year—but that effort won't be the only chance to see tax action.

### ***Water Pollution***

#### **EU Asks for Input to Reduce Release of Microplastics Into Oceans**

The European Commission said microplastics, or pieces of plastic less than 5 millimeters in diameter, are accumulating in oceans, where they can cause “disproportionately high”

damage because they absorb natural toxins and pile up in the food chain.

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