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Leading the News

Energy

Irma Cuts Power to 6.4 Million, Shuts Ports, Imperils Crops

Hurricane Irma has knocked out power to at least 6.4 million customers, paralyzed tanker traffic, shuttered gasoline stations and suppressed demand for natural gas. As the storm headed up Florida's west coast, it also threatened more than \$1 billion worth of crops.

Stormwater

Irma's Environmental Toll Could Be Less Than Harvey's

The environmental toll from Hurricane Irma in Florida may not be as harsh as the problems caused by Hurricane Harvey in Texas, according to scientists and water utility officials.

News

Climate Regulation

EU Is Said to Draft Measures to Brexit-Proof Carbon Market

The European Union is preparing to make its emissions-trading system immune to a supply turmoil that may happen if Brexit talks fail and the U.K. leaves the world's largest carbon market.

Coal Mining

Arch Coal Closer to Expanding Mine in Colorado Roadless Area

Arch Coal is one step closer to expanding its coal mine in a roadless area of western Colorado following a U.S. Forest Service draft decision.

Energy

China Fossil Fuel Deadline Shifts Focus to Electric Car Race

China will set a deadline for automakers to end sales of fossil-fuel-powered vehicles, becoming the biggest market to do so in a move that will accelerate the push into the electric car market led by companies including BYD Co. and BAIC Motor Corp.

International Climate

Poland Sets Expiry Date on Its Love for Coal as EU Limits Beckon

After decades of trying to persuade the rest of Europe that coal was vital for the region's energy security, Poland is showing the first signs of admitting that it might have been wrong.

Motor Vehicles

China Set to Unveil Cap-and-Trade Auto Emission, Mileage Rules

China will soon unveil a mandatory cap-and-trade credit program for electric cars, starting the countdown for automakers to be in compliance with stricter rules on emissions and fuel economy, according to the country's state-backed auto association.

Motor Vehicles

Fuel Efficiency Standards Rule Delay Leads Five States to Sue

California has joined New York and three other states in a lawsuit against the Trump administration over vehicle fuel efficiency regulations.

Motor Vehicles

VW CEO Vows to Offer Electric Version of All Models by 2030

Volkswagen AG Chief Executive Officer Matthias Mueller announced sweeping plans to build electric versions of all models in the group's lineup as the world's largest automaker accelerates the shift away from combustion engines and tries to draw a line under the emissions-cheating scandal.

Pipeline Safety

CSX Veteran Tapped to Head Pipeline Safety Agency

A freight rail veteran who's backed by the gas and pipeline industry, yet relatively unknown to safety advocates, is President Donald Trump's choice to head the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration.

Renewable Energy

Energy Storage Permits Would Get Easier With California Bill

Local permitting of the energy storage systems California needs to help meet its clean energy goals should get easier under a bill headed to the desk of Gov. Jerry Brown (D).

Renewable Energy

Offshore Wind Costs Fall Below New Nuclear Plants in U.K.

The cost of generating electricity from offshore wind farms fell sharply in the U.K. to below the price the next nuclear reactors will charge, making the form of clean energy one of the cheapest ways to supply the grid.

Toxic Substances

Abandoned Kerr-McGee Oil Well Fouled Water, Suit Says

Kerr-McGee Oil & Gas Onshore LP failed to take proper steps to clean up a crude oil leak at an abandoned Colorado oil well, according to a complaint filed Sept. 8 in the District of Colorado (Murray v. Kerr-McGee Oil & Gas Onshore, LP, D. Colo., No. 17-cv-02174, filed 9/8/17).

Toxic Torts

Water Suit Against Flint Belongs in State Court

Residents of Flint, Mich., may pursue class claims against state actors stemming from the contamination of the city's water supply in state court, the Sixth Circuit affirmed Sept. 11 (*Mays v. City of Flint*, 2017 BL 318091, 6th Cir., No. 16-2484, 9/11/17).

Skiers Lose to Snowmobilers in Parking Lot Suit

The National Forest Service didn't violate federal law in approving a parking lot designed for snowmobilers, the Ninth Circuit ruled Sept. 8 (*Wild Wilderness v. Allen*, 2017 BL 316263, 9th Cir., No. 14-35505, 9/8/17).

U.S. Solar Bracing for First Decline as Rooftop Demand Slumps

The U.S. is poised to experience its first annual decline in solar-panel installations, as a drop in rooftop demand slows growth in the world's second-biggest market.

Practitioner Insights

Water Resources

Practitioner Insights: EPA, Corps to Narrow Scope of Clean Water Act

On June 27, 2017, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (ACE) published a proposed rule in the Federal Register announcing a two-step process to review and revise the regulatory definition of “waters of the United States.” In the first step, the agencies propose to rescind the 2015 definition of “waters of the United States”—which is currently codified in the federal regulations—and to recodify the pre-2015

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