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Leading the News

Biofuels

Mexico's Ethanol Boost Fuels Cross-Border Environmental Debate

Mexico's decision to nearly double the amount of ethanol permitted in gasoline is pitting two big winners—U.S. corn growers and ethanol producers—against some environmental activists and Mexico's own auto industry.

General Policy

Week Ahead: South Dakota's Rounds Scrutinizes Superfund

Sen. Mike Rounds (R-S.D.), a critic of Superfund's management under President Barack Obama, will assess the Trump administration's progress on the issue Tuesday at a Senate subcommittee hearing—one of a handful of environment and energy events the week of July 31.

Motor Vehicles

Sacramento Scores Big in Volkswagen's Electric Vehicle Deal

California's capital city will get a huge chunk of the initial \$200 million investment Volkswagen must make in the state's zero-emissions vehicle infrastructure.

News

Climate Regulation

States, Industry Seek Rehearing on Methane Lawsuit

A full federal appellate court should reconsider a decision that forced the EPA to implement methane emissions limits for the oil and gas industry that it plans to revise, states and industry groups said.

Cost Recovery

ARCO, DuPont Can't Shake Public Housing Superfund Suit

Atlantic Richfield Co. and E.I. DuPont de Nemours & Co. failed to quash Superfund claims filed by residents of a public housing complex over lead and arsenic contamination, the Northern District of Indiana ruled (*Rolan v. Atl. Richfield Co.*, 2017 BL 260463, N.D. Ind., No. 16-CV-357, 7/26/17).

Drinking

Water Claims Against Flint, Mich. Officials Reinstated

Residents of Flint, Mich. may pursue federal civil rights claims against city officials over the contamination of the drinking water supply, the Sixth Circuit ruled today (*Boler v. Earley, Mays v. Snyder*, 6th Cir., No. 16-1684, 17-1144, 7/28/17).

Energy

TransCanada Still Sees Producer Support for Keystone XL Line

TransCanada Corp. said it still expects commercial support for its controversial Keystone XL oil pipeline, tamping down speculation that it was having trouble finding customers for the long-delayed line.

Enforcement

Former EPA Enforcement Head Joins Chicago Policy Research Lab

Former EPA enforcement chief Cynthia Giles spearheaded the agency's innovations in improving compliance with environmental laws. Now she's carrying on that work in a new job at the Energy and Environment Lab at the University of Chicago.

Fuel Tax

Alaska Governor Signs Oil Tax Bill

Alaska Gov. Bill Walker (I) signed a bill prohibiting oil companies from exchanging tax credits for cash—bringing an end to a perk he and lawmakers say the state could no longer afford while the state wrestles with a \$2.5 billion budget deficit.

Motor Vehicles

Diesel Ban Looms in Hometown of Porsche, Mercedes Over Emissions

German carmakers, fighting for diesel's future, faced a setback after a Stuttgart court ruled in favor of banning the technology in the home city of Mercedes-Benz and Porsche.

Motor Vehicles

Fiat Chrysler Can Resume Sales of Diesel Jeeps, Rams in U.S.

Fiat Chrysler Automobiles NV can once again sell new diesel-powered pickup trucks and sport utility vehicles in the U.S. after environmental regulators approved modifications to its emissions-control software, the company said.

Natural Resources

The U.S. Interior Department Has a New Mission: to Make Money

Under President Donald Trump, the U.S. agency that manages the national park system is tweaking its mission to include a new priority: Generating cash.

Oil & Gas

Funding for Russia Pipeline to EU at Risk With U.S. Sanctions

The financing of Russia's \$11 billion natural gas pipeline through the Baltic Sea could be affected by sanctions that just passed the U.S. Senate, according to one of project's backers.

Renewable Energy

Trump May Have to Boost Biofuel as Court Deals Blow to Oil

The Trump administration may have to reconsider its proposal from earlier this month to curb biofuel use after a U.S. appeals court in Washington ruled that the Environmental Protection Agency doesn't have the authority to cut quotas while citing inadequate domestic supply.

Renewable Energy

Wind Projects in Peril as Indian States Rethink Purchase Pacts

Two Indian states at the forefront of adding renewables to their power mix are backtracking on agreements for at least one gigawatt of wind project and are seeking lower prices, potentially dealing a blow to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's green energy goals.

Water Pollution

Law Backs Appeals Court Water Rule Review, Government Argues

A federal appeals court that reviews EPA-mandated water pollution permits also should have jurisdiction over the underlying regulation that defines which waters receive those protections, the government told the U.S. Supreme Court.

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