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Leading the News

Congress

House Votes to Bar Methane Rule, Carbon Cost in EPA Funding Bill

The EPA would be barred from enforcing limits on methane gas emitted by fossil fuel operations and from considering in its regulations the costs to society of carbon emissions under amendments the House passed Sept. 13.

Endangered Species

Expanded Gun Rights on Federal Land Approved by House Panel

Hunters and gun enthusiasts would face fewer restrictions on using their weapons on federal land under a broad legislative package the House Natural Resources Committee approved Sept. 13, despite unanimous Democratic opposition.

Water Pollution

Power Plants Get Two-Year Reprieve for Parts of Wastewater Rule

Power plants won't have to meet new limits until 2020 on toxic wastewater that comes from using air pollution control systems and transporting bottom furnace ash, the EPA announced Sept. 13.

News

Biotechnology

Dow Soybeans Opposed in EU; Monsanto Corn Wins in Italy

The European Union could stop importing Dow AgroSciences' genetically-modified soybean products because it encourages greater use of hazardous herbicides in non-EU countries, the European Parliament said Sept. 13.

Climate Change

Net Zero Plan for Carbon Sink Emissions Moves Ahead in EU

European Union governments and landowners would have to make sure that net greenhouse gas emissions from forests and other carbon sinks remain at or below zero through 2030, under a draft regulation European Parliament approved Sept. 13.

Climate Change

UN Says Hurricane Irma Shows Trump Needs to Re-Engage on Climate

President Donald Trump or his successor will likely re-engage with the global fight against climate change because of the weight of scientific evidence, the head of the United Nations Environment Program said.

Emissions Trading

Carbon Rally Hits Brick Wall as Lawmakers Wrestle Glut Fix

After the biggest jump this year, European carbon price gains are unlikely to stick.

Emissions Trading

Long Flights' Emissions Exemption Approved in European Parliament

The European Union's exemption on emissions trading for intercontinental flights to and from the EU should continue through to the end of 2020, according to a draft regulation European Parliament lawmakers approved Sept. 13.

Energy

Energy Laboratory Awards Provide \$20 Million for Technology Transfer

Nearly \$20 million awarded across 12 national energy laboratories aims to spur commercialization partnerships with businesses as part of an Energy Department technology transfer effort.

Enforcement

Encana Subsidiary Fined for Oil, Gas Spill on Colorado Game Ranch

An Encana Corp. subsidiary agreed to pay a \$225,000 fine for spilling oil and gas waste on a game ranch in western Colorado.

Enforcement

Prison Sentence Upheld for 3,000 Containers of Paint in Yard

An Idaho man convicted of storing thousands of paint containers in his yard without a required hazardous waste permit won't get a new trial, a federal appeals court ruled Sept. 13 (United States v. Spatig, 9th Cir., No. 15-cv-30322, 9/13/17).

Insurance

Hurricanes Highlight Failure to Enforce Flood Insurance Rules

As the floodwaters of Hurricanes Harvey and Irma recede, they may reveal more than moldy drywall and fetid trash. They could lay bare the federal government's failure to police a basic tenet of its own disaster policy: that properties with -government-backed mortgages in risky areas carry flood insurance. The government has known for decades that homeowners in flood zones often don't have the insurance they should. Just two years ago, the Federal Emergency Management Agency ...

Renewable Energy

Ab Inbev Buys Enough Wind Power to Brew 20 Billion Beers

Anheuser-Busch InBev NV, the world's largest brewer, agreed to buy 152.5 megawatts from a wind farm Enel SpA is building in Oklahoma. That's enough power to make 20 billion 12-ounce (355-milliliter) bottles of beers a year.

Renewable Energy

China Plans to Expand Ethanol Use in Vehicles Nationwide by 2020

China plans to expand the use of ethanol gasoline for vehicles nationwide by 2020 from only 11 provinces now to improve the environment and accelerate reform in the agricultural sector.

Water Pollution

Cities Swimming in Raw Sewage as Hurricanes Overwhelm Systems

Hurricane Harvey took aim at one of the nation's most industrial regions, releasing a stream of toxic pollutants from chemical plants, refineries and Superfund sites in Texas. But when its bigger sister Irma slammed into Florida, environmental alarms rang over a different kind of discharge: raw sewage.

Practitioner Insights

Energy

Practitioner Insights: ACER and Cross-Border Harmonization

How do you realize the goal of a single EU-wide energy market work when the transmission networks within each member state and their interconnections are owned by dozens of operators that are regulated by 28 separate national regulatory authorities (NRAs)? And how do you accommodate new energy-generation patterns or cross-border power flows while dealing with the physical constraints that existing transmission infrastructure imposes?

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