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Leading the News

Air Pollution

Texas Coal Plants May Not Be Saved by Scaled Back Visibility Rules

The EPA is giving Texas a chance to rework a proposed multibillion-dollar air pollution regulation for utilities, but that likely won't be enough to save some coal-fired power plants from shutting down, energy analysts told Bloomberg BNA.

Energy

New Biofuel Exemption Prospects Spur Oil Giant Concern

An era of relaxed biofuel blending requirements may be dawning for small oil refineries nationwide following a watershed court decision and new congressional direction for regulators.

General Policy

Week Ahead: 'Garbage Juice,' Snow Leopards, EPA Modeling Debated

"Garbage juice" in North Carolina, the snow leopard's role in addressing climate change, and an EPA panel's scrutiny of regulation models are among the topics at energy and environment events during the week of Aug. 28.

News

Coal Mining

Coal Study Halted But Other Science Projects Go On

The Interior Department halted a National Academy of Sciences study of coal mining and health links in what the agency said was a broader stoppage of certain grant projects, but at least three other studies with the same funding criteria remain ongoing, a spokeswoman for the scientific advisory group told Bloomberg BNA.

Duty to Indemnify

Taos Ski Resort Can't Recoup Cleanup Costs From Insurer

A Taos, N.M., ski resort that operates on land leased from the federal government can't recover from its insurer for cleaning up contamination on the property, the Tenth Circuit ruled (*Taos Ski Valley, Inc. v. Nova Cas. Co.*, 10th Cir., No. 16-cv-2118, 8/25/17).

Energy

Duke Asks to Cancel Planned South Carolina Nuclear Reactors

Duke Energy Corp. asked to cancel its planned nuclear plant in South Carolina, citing the bankruptcy of reactor manufacturer Westinghouse Electric Co.

Mining

Canada Making Progress on Central Arctic's First Deep-Water Port

Canada's Nunavut territory is taking early steps toward building the first deep-water port in the Central Arctic, located at the mid-point of the Northwest Passage.

Oil & Gas

Oil and Gas Industry Would Welcome Interior Agencies to Colorado

The oil and gas industry in Colorado would welcome the relocation of three Interior Department agencies into the state, an industry representative told Bloomberg BNA.

Renewable Energy

Shell Joins Solar Push in Coal Country of World's Top Exporter

Royal Dutch Shell Plc is investigating a solar power project in an Australian region better known for its fossil fuels, particularly coal.

Sustainability

Paper Waste Spurs Testing of Low-Cost Carbon Fiber for Products

When you think about the materials that go into making cars, you don't generally consider the plants growing in your backyard. But that's the direction industry is headed.

WTO Week Ahead

U.S. Takes on Chinese Farm Quotas; New Life for Green Goods Pact?

Summer vacation is nearly over, and officials at the World Trade Organization's dispute panel will be back in the saddle by the end of the week.

Water Pollution

After 40 Years, Shared Water Pollution Permits Still Puzzle States

Several states want to issue water pollution permits that for decades have been controlled by the federal government, but a recent report highlights how they're being hindered by confusion over costs and even which waters are eligible for state oversight.

Water Pollution

Los Angeles Sewage Sludge Fight Ends in Settlement

Los Angeles can continue shipping its treated sewage sludge to a farm it owns in Kern County, following the settlement of a long-running legal battle over the land application of biosolids.

Water Pollution

New Zealand Moves Up Microbeads Ban, Expands Scope

New Zealand plans to ban plastic microbeads in a broader range of products and tighten the deadline so the ban will go into effect in May 2018.

Water Pollution

Water Pollution Testing Rule Increases State Compliance Options

The EPA issued new testing guidelines for testing effluent levels in water, which will provide states with more options for complying with federal pollution regulations.

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