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## **Daily Environment Report**

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### Leading the News

#### *Air Pollution*

##### **States With Ozone Problems Still Waiting on EPA to Act**

States with significant ozone pollution problems are left hanging after the EPA released its list of regions that meet national air quality standards, but not the problem areas that don't.

#### **EPA**

##### **EPA Air Chief Pick Could See Full Senate Vote This Week**

Senate Democrats may allow the EPA's nominee for air chief to get an up-or-down vote by the end of the week, the Senate environment committee's top Democrat told Bloomberg Environment Nov. 7.

#### *International Climate*

##### **Syria Joining Paris Deal Highlights Climate's Security Effects**

Syria's announcement that the war-torn nation is formally joining the Paris climate pact highlighted concern among the agreement's backers that worsening climate impacts will aggravate global security and weaken U.S. diplomatic clout.

### News

#### *Agriculture*

##### **Trump Administration Drops Call for New WTO Pesticide Standards**

The Trump administration dropped its bid for a World Trade Organization accord to harmonize international pesticide residue standards for food imports.

#### *Air Pollution*

##### **Google Earth Has Cars Sniffing U.S. Cities to Guard Your Health**

As firefighters fought to control deadly wildfires north of San Francisco last month, a small unit of Alphabet Inc.'s Google had a more modest goal. It had employees driving cars around loaded with air-monitoring equipment to measure how badly the smoke was polluting the air.

#### **Asbestos**

##### Wyeth Holdings Wins Reversal of Asbestos Jury Award

Pfizer subsidiary Wyeth Holdings won reversal of a jury award in favor of the widow of a man who allegedly contracted cancer from workplace exposure to asbestos dust from a Wyeth product.

#### **Biofuels**

##### Where Green Incentives Chop Down Palm Trees in Search for Fuel

What started as a way to cut Japan's dependence on imported fossil fuels has led to an expected surge in a different and equally controversial shipment: palm oil.

#### **Books and Records Inspections**

##### Shareholders Sue to Access GM Records on Emissions Compliance

Shareholders are suing General Motors Co. to access documents they say may shed light on whether directors allowed the company to illegally evade emissions standards.

#### **California**

##### Dow AgroSciences Wins Venue Battle in Cancer Warning Case

Claims that Dow AgroSciences LLC failed to warn California residents of a cancer-causing chemical in its soil fumigant will be tried where the alleged violation occurred, not in a county selected by the plaintiff, a California appeals court ruled Nov. 6.

#### **Chemical Safety Board**

##### Exxon Avoids Nearly Half of Safety Board Requests for Torrance Records

Exxon Mobil Corp. will avoid turning over to the U.S. Chemical Safety Board about 45 percent of the board's specific document requests on chemical operations at its former refinery in Torrance, Calif., where an explosion injured two workers in February 2015.

#### **Chemical Testing**

##### 'Safe Harbor' Needed as Chemical Makers Use Fewer Lab Animals

Chemical manufacturers have invested millions to develop new tests that don't rely on laboratory animals, but they need a "safe harbor" to share that data from those tests with the EPA and each other.

#### **Chemicals**

##### Correction

A Nov. 6 article, "North Carolina Senators Decline to Back EPA Nominee Dourson," misstated Scott Faber's role in a coalition of groups opposing the nomination of Michael Dourson. Faber said he is a part of the coalition. The online version has been corrected.

#### **Coal Mining**

##### Wyoming Proposes Self-Bonding Limits for Coal Mine Cleanups

Coal companies operating in Wyoming would be able to self-bond only up to 70 percent of the cost of post-mining reclamation under rules the state proposed.

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

##### Merkel's Green Party Coalition Hopefuls Drop Quick-Fix Coal Call

Germany's Green Party backed down on demands that the nation shutter its coal power plants by 2030, signaling a readiness to compromise as it struggles to become a member of

a new national coalition.

### ***Energy***

#### **France Says Macron's Target to Cut Nuclear Power 'Unrealistic'**

The French government said its objective of reducing nuclear to 50 percent of power generation by 2025 is “unrealistic” because it could endanger energy supplies unless carbon-emitting plants took up the slack.

### ***Energy***

#### **Oil and Gas Development Bill Heads for House Committee Vote**

Legislation that would shift some oil and gas permitting to states and limit the president's ability to bar energy development in some federal waters could sail through a House committee this week.

### ***Energy***

#### **Restoring Electricity Top Priority for Puerto Rico Debt Board**

Restoring electricity to hurricane-ravaged Puerto Rico is the top priority of the congressionally created financial oversight board seeking more control over the territory's bankrupt electricity authority.

### ***Energy***

#### **South Africa's Gigaba Is Said to Meet World Bank on Nuclear Plan**

South Africa's Finance Minister Malusi Gigaba met with representatives of the World Bank last week to discuss financing for development of a nuclear power program in the country, according to two people familiar with the meeting.

### ***Insurance***

#### **Flood Insurance Reauthorization Stalls at House Rules Panel**

House Rules Committee action on a bill to reauthorize the National Flood Insurance Program was postponed Nov. 7 and an aide told Bloomberg Government that the measure is now unlikely to be taken up this week.

### ***International Climate***

#### **What's Behind the UN's Green Climate Fund**

Climate finance is likely to be a hot topic at the United Nations climate talks in Bonn, which started yesterday and run until Nov. 17.

### ***Oil & Gas***

#### **Offshore Safety Chief Wants 'Near-Miss' Reporting From Oil Rigs**

Almost no U.S. oil and gas operators working in federal offshore waters have agreed to report “near misses”—the incidents that do not cause accidents but come close. The director of the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement says he intends to change that.

### ***Oil & Gas***

#### **Williams Partners Wants Clarity on Court's Pipeline Stay**

Williams Partners says a court order that temporarily stays government approval and halts construction of the Atlantic Sunrise natural gas pipeline expansion is putting 8,000 jobs at risk in Pennsylvania.

### ***Pesticides***

#### **Olive Oil, Quinoa Among Repeat Offenders on Pesticide Watch List**

The FDA is looking at more than two dozen imported foods that might warrant “special

attention” from inspectors because they contain pesticide residues in excess of U.S. limits, many of which have drawn agency scrutiny before.

***Renewable Energy***

**GOP Senators Say Wind Tax Credit Is Safe in Their Tax Overhaul**

Republican members of the Senate Finance Committee said they oppose a move by their colleagues in the House of Representatives to scale back the wind production tax credit, which provides subsidies to building wind turbines.

***Renewable Energy***

**U.K. Seeks to Open Seabed for More New Wind Farms**

The U.K.’s Crown Estate, which manages the seabed on behalf of the government, is seeking to lease new areas to energy companies building offshore wind farms.

## Practitioner Insights

***Energy***

**Practitioner Insights: Forward With Solar, Storage in Puerto Rico**

Hurricane Maria hit Puerto Rico with almost inconceivable force: 155-mph winds tore down buildings and ripped apart large swaths of rainforest, while driving rains destroyed roads and breached dams. Parts of the island received more than 3 feet of rain in a single day—more rain than Seattle gets in the average year.

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