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Daily Environment Report

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Leading the News

Climate Science

Climate Reports May Slow Trump's Push to Undo Obama-Era Rules

A pair of highly anticipated government studies, one of them due to be released this week, could complicate President Donald Trump's effort to roll back federal climate regulations, according to people on both sides of the debate over global warming.

Mining

Samarco Executives' Homicide Charges Suspended in Brazil Spill

A Brazilian judge suspended and could potentially dismiss homicide charges against 21 officials of Samarco mining company, Vale SA and BHP Billiton Ltd., in connection with the rupture of an iron-ore tailings dam two years ago that killed 19 people.

Regulatory Policy

Wisconsin Enacts First-in-Nation Regulatory Revamp Law

Wisconsin became the first state to enact a regulatory overhaul process touted by corporate interests frustrated with the cost and scope of environmental and workplace safety rules.

News

Biodiversity

Pearl-Diving Licenses Introduced in Bahrain to Protect Heritage

Bahrain introduced a new licensing system for pearl diving beginning Aug. 9 in the oyster-rich waters of the Gulf archipelago.

Enforcement

Poor Erosion Control Costs San Diego \$3.2 Million

San Diego will spend \$3.2 million to restore waterways and fund other water pollution control programs under a settlement with regional regulators.

Motor Vehicles

BMW, Nissan Dangle Electric Car Rebates for San Diego Sales

Automakers are willing to foot a chunk of the bill to get more San Diego-area consumers interested in battery-powered vehicles.

Motor Vehicles

Tesla Talks Autonomous Truck Testing With California, Nevada

Tesla Inc. has met with California and Nevada agencies about testing an autonomous semi truck ahead of Chief Executive Officer Elon Musk's unveiling of the next addition to the electric-car maker's lineup.

Motor Vehicles

VW, Mercedes Diesel Trade-Ins May Lure 1.3 Million Germans

Germany's effort to clean up diesel's dirty image by getting older, more polluting models off the road is likely to spur a rush for trade-in deals from the country's automakers.

Natural Gas

In Eclipse, Natural Gas Sees Its Future as Solar's Backstop

Natural gas is about to get a glimpse of its future role in the U.S. power mix as solar energy's backup.

Natural Gas

Shale Drillers Spend Less, Produce More in Glut-Gorging Push

Shale drillers are greeting the fourth year of a historic oil-market slump in a curious fashion, promising to generate even more price-killing production as 2017 progresses.

Oil & Gas

Gas Sellers Warn Hard-Bargaining Buyers: Market Is Turning

A worldwide glut of natural gas has buyers of the fuel driving hard bargains and pushing for shorter supply contracts. The only problem with that, according to their sellers: The market's about to turn against them.

Radioactive Materials

Mallinckrodt, Cotter Can't Shake Widows' Radioactive Waste Claims

Mallinckrodt Inc. and Cotter Corp. can't shake wrongful death claims filed by the spouses of men allegedly exposed to radioactive waste stored at St. Louis sites, the Eastern District of Missouri ruled (*McClurg v. MI Holdings, Inc.*, E.D. Mo., No. 12-cv-00361, 8/8/17).

Toxic Chemicals

BNSF Sidetracked in Bid for Early Proof in Toxics Case

BNSF Railway Co. isn't entitled to an extraordinary court order requiring pre-discovery proof that a worker's toxic exposure claims are credible, the District of Colorado ruled Aug. 8 (*Marquez v. BNSF Ry.*, 2017 BL 275828, D. Colo., No. 17-cv-01153, 8/8/17).

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