

To: Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
From: Bloomberg BNA Environment & Energy
Sent: Thur 11/2/2017 11:07:39 AM
Subject: First Move: Hurricanes on House's Agenda • EPA Avoiding Lab Rats • New York's Carbon-Tax Talk

What you need to know to start your day.

Hurricanes on House's Agenda • EPA Avoiding Lab Rats • New York's Carbon-Tax Talk

By [Chuck McCutcheon](#)

The EPA's new point person for Puerto Rico will be among the officials talking to Congress today about what lessons can be gleaned from the response to this season's hurricanes.

Pete Lopez, who recently became administrator for the agency region that includes Puerto Rico, is among the witnesses set to testify at a House committee dealing with infrastructure.

Another panelist at the committee's hearing will be Texas Republican Rep. Michael McCaul, who heads the House's homeland security panel. McCaul's committee was supposed to hold its own hurricane-related hearing this week, but abruptly canceled it amid disputes with Democrats over an appearance by the mayor of San Juan, who has sharply criticized the Trump administration's disaster response. [David Schultz](#) is covering.

Military personnel distribute water for residents in Barranquitas, Puerto Rico.
Ricardo Arduengo/AFP/Getty Images

The House Energy and Commerce's energy panel is holding a separate hearing on how to shore up energy infrastructure against hurricanes. That panel will hear from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Energy Department in addition to representatives from Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. [Rebecca Kern](#) is following.

Congress required EPA last year to move away from chemical safety tests using rats, mice, and other lab subjects. Today the EPA will float its ideas at an all-day workshop on reducing the ways those animals end up in tests while ensuring the tests still provide useful information.

The agency's eventual goal is to move towards tests that can potentially help predict whether a chemical could harm people. Newer kinds of tests can use human cells, and computer models can base their calculations on data about how chemicals move through and out of the body. That data could make the results

more directly applicable to people—but many uncertainties remain. [Pat Rizzuto](#) is tracking.

Backers of a carbon tax in New York state have tried—and failed—for years to get a measure into law. But they see some new signs for hope. [Gerald Silverman](#) explains in a story being published later this morning.

Other Stories We're Covering

- The House's long-awaited tax bill was supposed to be released yesterday, but lawmakers now promise it will come out today. [Alan Kovski](#) is tracking the energy provisions.
- Energy Secretary Rick Perry and Maria Cantwell, the top Democrat on the Senate's energy committee, will discuss their respective energy priorities at a breakfast today. [Rebecca Kern](#) is following.
- Cantwell will then join her colleagues on the energy panel to question an array of Interior Department, Alaska, and other officials about the Republican proposal to drill for oil in a portion of Alaska's Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. [Alan Kovski](#) is watching.
- Mainstream climate scientists and skeptics don't see eye-to-eye on much, but appear to agree: The EPA should not be the home for a climate "red team, blue team" science debate that Administrator Scott Pruitt has been touting. [Abby Smith](#) is monitoring.

Quote of the Day

"We are trying to see if these herbs are relevant for Vietnam."
—Shenbagam Manthiram, Tata Power Co. Ltd.'s chief representative in Vietnam, [discussing](#) how grasses and other plants could serve as a cooling environment for solar panels.

Today's Events

- **10 a.m. • Climate** • World Resources Institute [unveils](#) free climate-data platform in webinar.
- **10 a.m. • Water** • House Natural Resources' water panel [examines](#) three water-related bills.
- **All Day • Ocean Health** • NASA and World Resources Institute [hold](#) conference on how satellite data can be used for ocean health and fisheries applications.
- **All Day • Women and Energy** • Environmental Law Institute [offers](#) symposium on women in the energy and infrastructure fields.

Around the Web

- To [call attention](#) to water pollution, a Canadian angler put up a photo on

- Facebook of a fish he caught with plastic wrapped around its middle.
- Coal producer Armstrong Energy, which operates five Kentucky mines, files for bankruptcy protection.
 - Both Democratic and Republican House committee leaders want answers on FEMA's role involving the recently canceled electricity contract between Whitefish Energy and Puerto Rico's electric power authority.
 - The EPA has reached agreement with a New Jersey company over unregistered and misbranded pesticides.

For all of today's Bloomberg Environment headlines, visit [Environment & Energy Report](#)

1801 South Bell Street, Arlington, VA 22202
Copyright 2017 The Bureau of National Affairs, Inc

Manage Your Subscriptions

Unsubscribe

Web Version

Contact Us

Privacy Policy

Terms of Service