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**From:** Bloomberg BNA  
**Sent:** Wed 5/24/2017 1:46:50 AM  
**Subject:** [SPAM] May 24 -- Daily Environment Report



## **Daily Environment Report**

May 24, 2017 - Number 99

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### Leading the News

*EPA*

#### **Budget Calls for 30-Year Low in EPA Staff Levels**

EPA staffing would plummet to its lowest levels since the mid-1980s, according to the Trump administration's proposed fiscal year 2018 budget.

### News

*Air Pollution*

#### **Daimler Raided by Prosecutors in Emission-Manipulation Probe**

Daimler AG offices across Germany were raided as part of a criminal investigation into diesel emission-manipulation allegations.

*Air Pollution*

#### **Senate Takes First Steps in Uphill Battle to Delay Ozone Limits**

Senate Republicans May 23 took what they hope was at least one small step forward in their uphill battle to delay the EPA's revision of its ozone standards to 2025, arguing that 10 years isn't much of a change for an agency that has repeatedly failed to meet a five-year statutory deadline for updating the pollution limits.

*Air Pollution*

#### **U.S. Sues Fiat Chrysler for Diesel Emissions Test Violations**

The U.S. Justice Department sued Fiat Chrysler Automobiles NV over claims its diesel-powered pickups and SUVs were outfitted with illegal software that allowed them to pass laboratory emissions tests (U.S. v Fiat Chrysler Automobiles N.V., E.D. Mich., No. 17-cv-11633, 5/23/17).

***Budget***

**Budget Seeks Shutdown of ‘Duplicative’ Chemical Safety Board**

The Trump administration kept its earlier promise to propose eliminating the U.S. Chemical Safety Board, describing the independent federal agency as “largely duplicative” of other government departments in its proposed budget released May 23, even as the board sent its own request for a small funding increase.

***Budget***

**Civil, Criminal Environmental Enforcement Cut in Trump Budget Plan**

President Donald Trump's proposed budget would reduce the EPA's civil enforcement program by 18 percent, criminal enforcement by 16.5 percent, and the forensics support that makes many of those cases possible by nearly 44 percent.

***Budget***

**Cleanup Research of Contaminated Sites Gets Boost in Trump Plan**

Toxin-eating bacteria and other remediation research projects would get a bump in funding under President Donald Trump's proposed budget, contrasting with agency-wide slashes in research and cleanup spending.

***Budget***

**Climate Spending ‘Crazy Stuff’ Targeted in Trump Budget**

President Donald Trump's first budget request to Congress would cut or eliminate a range of programs designed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, as well those helping communities prepare for more intense flooding or hurricanes expected to result from climate change.

***Budget***

**EPA Requests More Chemicals Staff, Paid in Part by Industry Fee**

The staffing levels and appropriations for the EPA's chemicals office would get a boost under President Trump's fiscal year 2018 budget request—due, in part, to fees that chemical makers are expected to pay.

***Budget***

**Hanford Nuclear Cleanup Budget Slashed in Energy Proposal**

Washington state's Hanford Nuclear Reservation, scene of a recent collapse of a tunnel containing nuclear waste, would see its funding slashed under President Donald Trump's new budget proposal.

***Budget***

**Proposed Interior Budget Boosts Onshore, Offshore Energy**

Oil, natural gas and coal development would get a boost in the White House's proposed fiscal 2018 budget, despite a substantial 12 percent cut to the Interior Department's overall funding.

***Budget***

**Trump Dumps ‘Clean Coal’ Research Despite Lauding Its Potential**

President Donald Trump promised his administration would bring about “clean coal,” but his budget proposed slashing research the industry says it needs to make that a reality.

***Budget***

**Trump Proposes Selling Off Half the U.S. Strategic Oil Reserve**

The White House plan to trim the national debt includes selling off half of the nation's emergency oil stockpile, part of a broad series of changes proposed by President Donald Trump to the federal government's role in energy markets.

### ***Budget***

#### **Trump Seeks Pesticides Law Fix to Plug Budget Gap With Fees**

President Donald Trump wants to trim the EPA's pesticide licensing budget by about 18 percent and have industry fees cover the shortfall.

### ***Budget***

#### **Voluntary EPA Programs Get Ax in Budget Plan as Climate Work Halts**

Voluntary EPA programs that encourage businesses to improve energy efficiency and curb greenhouse gas emissions would get the ax from a Trump administration that has already pledged to roll back climate change regulations.

### ***Budget***

#### **White House Seeks \$150M for Yucca, Nuclear Waste Storage**

President Donald Trump's first budget proposal would provide \$30 million for the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to restart work on licensing Yucca Mountain as a permanent repository for nuclear waste.

### ***Chemicals***

#### **Composite Wood Makers Get More Time to Comply With EPA Rule**

Companies making, importing, supplying and selling composite wood would get more time to comply with the Environmental Protection Agency's formaldehyde emissions limits under a direct final rule the agency is scheduled to publish May 24.

### ***Chemicals***

#### **Minnesota Guide on Teflon Chemicals Addresses Water Supplies**

The Minnesota Department of Health updated its health advisory values for two industrial chemicals for public water supplies and private wells in two residential areas.

### ***Climate Change***

#### **'Everything on the Table' to Save Great Barrier Reef: Australian Official**

Unprecedented damage to the Great Barrier Reef caused by climate change and cyclones means that previously untried methods should be considered to protect it, the official charged with the reef's management told Australian lawmakers.

### ***Climate Change***

#### **Trillions on Yearly Infrastructure Spending Would Help Climate Goals: OECD**

The world's biggest economies have to spend about \$6.9 trillion a year on "smart" infrastructure through 2030 to be on track to keep global warming to safe levels, a new OECD report said.

### ***Climate Policy***

#### **Merkel to Confront Climate-Change 'Doubters' Among G-20 Peers**

German Chancellor Angela Merkel said she won't give up trying to persuade doubters among her global peers that climate change is real, signaling her message for a Group of Seven summit starting May 26.

### ***Climate Regulation***

#### **EPA Applies Brakes on Landfill Methane Rules**

The EPA took its first step toward reconsidering methane limits for landfills set by the Obama administration by freezing implementation of the rules for 90 days.

### ***Energy***

### Clean Car Rules Lead to Jobs From Technology, Equipment

More than a quarter million U.S. jobs are tied to the use of technology and production of materials used to improve vehicle fuel economy, according to a report released May 23 by environmental groups.

### **Energy**

#### David Jonas Tapped as Energy Department General Counsel

David S. Jonas, an expert in nuclear nonproliferation law, will be nominated by President Donald Trump as general counsel at the Department of Energy, the White House announced May 23.

### **Energy**

#### Two Energy Professionals Chosen for Nuclear Commission

A former utility commission chairman and a Senate energy staffer were named by the Trump administration to fill two vacant Republican seats on the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

### **Energy**

#### Video: Advanced Energy Research Office Would Be Cut in Trump Budget

The Trump White House is proposing to eliminate a small Energy Department advanced energy research office under a fiscal 2018 budget proposal.

### **Fuel Efficiency**

#### Toyota, Nissan, Honda to Lead Japan's Hydrogen Station Coalition

Eleven leading Japanese companies including Toyota, Nissan and Honda said they will collaborate to build more hydrogen stations to accommodate fuel cell motor vehicles in Japan.

### **Hazmat Transport**

#### States, Industry at Odds Over Crude By Rail Pressure Standard

Six state attorneys general and petroleum industry groups are battling over a pressure standard for transporting crude oil by rail tank cars.

### **International Climate**

#### China Joins EU, Canada in Backing Climate Deal Before Trump Plan

China, Canada and the European Union are joining forces to advance the Paris Agreement while President Donald Trump is still deciding whether the U.S. should stick with the landmark deal on climate change.

### **Natural Gas**

#### Federal Energy Regulator Wins in Pennsylvania Pipeline Challenge

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission did not violate federal laws by granting a conditional permit for a pipeline expansion in Pennsylvania before the state had completed its permits, a federal court said May 23.

### **Oil & Gas**

#### 'Gas Apocalypse' Looms Amid Power Plant Construction Boom

The glut of cheap natural gas from a single, gigantic, shale basin that straddles the Northeast, mid-Atlantic and Midwest has sparked a massive construction boom of power plants. Dozens have been built in the past two years alone.

### **Pesticides**

#### EPA to Delay Farmworker Protections for Two Years: Budget

The EPA will delay the effective date of its rule to tighten farmworker pesticide precautions

by two years, according to an agency budget document.

#### ***Renewable Energy***

##### **Renewable Energy Powers Jobs for Almost 10 Million People**

Renewable energy employed 9.8 million people last year, up 1.1 percent from 2015, led by solar photovoltaic at 3.09 million jobs, according to the International Renewable Energy Agency's annual report on the industry.

#### ***Renewable Energy***

##### **Speed Up Offshore Wind Projects, Industry Says**

Massachusetts' timeline for building an offshore wind industry in the state over the next 10 years is too slow and should be cut in half, energy developers said May 23.

#### ***Science Policy***

##### **EPA Science Adviser Criticizes Pruitt on Capitol Hill**

The head of an EPA science advisory panel criticized the agency's dismissal of several members of her panel during a May 23 hearing before a House Science subcommittee.

#### ***Sustainability***

##### **Smart-Beta Shoppers Going Green, Not Just for the Environment**

Getting a gold star for saving the world isn't the top motivation for asset managers who are looking to become more socially conscious. Instead, they're hoping to avoid long-term risk, according to a study by FTSE Russell.

#### ***Water Infrastructure***

##### **Water Programs Not Spared in Trump EPA Budget**

Water did not emerge from the president's first official budget request unscathed, with several EPA water programs up for large cuts or even elimination.

#### ***Water Pollution***

##### **EU Says Most European Beaches Safe for Swimming**

Nearly all of Europe's coastal and inland recreational sites met water quality standards for swimming last year, the European Environment Agency said May 23.

#### **CORRECTION**

The May 19 story "Pesticide Rule Delay Unusual, But Not Necessarily Illegal" stated that a federal district court decision in North Carolina Grower's Association Inc. v. Solis created precedent for upholding a 10-day comment period. The decision did not create precedent. The online version has been corrected.

## **BNA Insights**

#### ***Science Policy***

##### **Practitioner Insights: Taking the Science out of Federal Science Advisory Boards**

Andrew Rosenberg: The Trump administration has given new definition to the term "conflict of interest," from political meetings at Trump-owned businesses to cabinet members who may financially benefit from hamstringing the agencies they now lead.

## Regulatory Agenda

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