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From: Bloomberg BNA
Sent: Wed 8/30/2017 11:46:12 PM
Subject: Aug. 31 -- Daily Environment Report



Daily Environment Report

August 31, 2017 - Number 168

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Leading the News

Air Pollution

Flooded Houston Facing Threat From Air, Too, With Toxic Gas Releases

Houston residents face a less obvious threat from the air as they deal with historic flooding: The Hurricane Harvey-caused shutdown of the region's massive petrochemical industry released more than 2 million pounds of harmful pollutants into the air as of Aug. 29, according to initial reports to Texas regulators.

Chesapeake Bay

Maryland Wants to Muck Out Exelon Dam to Save Chesapeake Bay

One "big and dirty flush" from a Maryland dam could wipe out decades of efforts to clean up the Chesapeake Bay.

Special Report

Pesticides

As Dicamba Dust Settles, Scientists and Industry Spar

Arkansas soybean farmers are wrapping up a summer of harvesting bumper crops alongside the crippling devastation of their neighbors' fields. The same herbicide is causing both optimism and bitterness in the region, and discussions over its future use is dividing farmers, scientists, and industry.

News

Energy

Enbridge Pipeline Coating Damage Needs Fix, Michigan Says

Enbridge's Line 5 gas and oil pipeline needs immediate repairs after the company reported that several sections had damaged coating, Michigan state officials said.

Energy

Xcel Proposes Closing Coal-Fired Units at Colorado Power Plant

Xcel Energy Inc. is proposing an early retirement for two of its three coal-burning units at the Comanche Generation Station in Pueblo, Colo., and replacing them with new, cleaner energy sources as part of an agreement with a coalition of companies and energy, labor, and consumer groups.

Oil & Gas

Interior Delay of Oil and Gas Royalty Rule Rebuked by Court

The Trump administration failed to abide by administrative procedures when it delayed an Obama-era regulation for calculating royalties on energy resources extracted from federal lands, a federal judge ruled Aug. 30 (*Becerra v. Interior*, N.D. Cal., No. 3:17-cv-2376, 8/30/17).

Risk Assessment

EPA Chemical Analysis Program's Science Focus of Sept. 6 Hearing

EPA's chemical toxicity program will be at the forefront of a House Science Committee hearing Sept. 6.

Risk Assessment

EPA Rapidly Revamping Chemical Risk Reviews to Dodge Cuts

The EPA's chemical toxicity assessment program is sprinting toward innovation to avoid the administrator's chopping block.

Toxic Substances

EU Construction Companies Face New Workplace Carcinogen Standards

Infrastructure contractors, construction companies, and other industries in the European Union face new limits on workplace exposure to carcinogens after a European Parliament committee advanced new standards.

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