

To: Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
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Leading the News

Chemicals

EPA Risk Rules Give Parties More Time to Submit Chemical Data

Two final chemical rules the EPA issued June 22 gave manufacturers and other parties more time to submit information to influence whether the agency reviews a chemical's risks and the conclusions it reaches.

Courts

Property Rights Curbed by Top U.S. Court in Development Case

The U.S. Supreme Court dealt a blow to property-rights advocates June 23, ruling that regulators didn't violate the U.S. Constitution when they refused to allow separate houses on adjoining riverfront lots owned by four siblings.

General Policy

Week Ahead: Alaska Senator Has Dual Clout on Environment, Energy

Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska), who chairs the Energy and Natural Resources Committee, also has clout on environmental matters—and she'll make her influence felt at a Tuesday hearing that's one of numerous events in those areas during the week of June 26.

News

Chemical Security

Groups Seek Injunction to Halt Chemical Facility Rule Delay

Labor unions and environmental and public health organizations are asking a federal judge to issue an emergency injunction blocking an EPA move to delay new chemical facility safety regulations until 2019.

Chemicals

Better Coordination on Risk Review Tools Needed at EPA: Watchdog

The EPA's Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention needs better coordination with agency researchers on computer-based tools that are urgently needed to assess chemical risks, the Office of the Inspector General found.

Duty to Indemnify

ASARCO Can't Recoup for Lead Paint Cleanup at Superfund Site

ASARCO can't recover from its insurer any of its costs of cleaning up soil contaminated with lead under a Superfund settlement with the federal government, a New York appeals court ruled (*ASARCO LLC v. Superintendent of Fin. Servs. of N.Y.*, 2017 BL 214178, N.Y. App. Div., 41294/864357N, 6/22/17).

Endangered Species

German Bill May Ease Construction on Land With Protected Species

The lower house of the German Parliament, the Bundestag, passed a bill late June 22 amending the country's Federal Act for the Protection of Nature, making it easier for construction projects to move forward even if they threaten protected species.

Energy

U.K. Told Nuke Plant Subsidies May Spiral Past \$38 Billion

Britain's first new nuclear plant in a generation may cost consumers 30 billion pounds (\$38 billion) or more in higher electricity costs, five times more than ministers had expected, the government's auditor warned.

Enforcement

Ohio Refiner to Pay \$13 Million for Air Pollution Violations

An Ohio petroleum refinery will pay \$1 million in penalties and spend nearly \$12 million on pollution controls and environmental projects for alleged violations of the Clean Air Act.

Enforcement

Plea Bargains Top Agenda of Brazil's New Antitrust Regulator

Ensuring legal security to plea bargain deals signed with companies is the top priority for Brazil's antitrust regulator, its new boss told Bloomberg.

Forests

Norway Slashes Contribution to Anti-Deforestation Amazon Fund

Norway, which has donated more than \$1 billion in the past decade to the Amazon Fund to fight deforestation, will significantly scale back its contribution this year, arguing that Brazil's commitment to environmental protection "might be in retreat."

Mergers and Acquisitions

EnergySolutions, Waste Control Specialists Won't Appeal Merger Block

Valhi Inc., the owner of Waste Control Specialists LLC, said in a statement June 23 that it won't appeal a federal trial court judge's decision to block its merger with rival radioactive waste disposal firm EnergySolutions Inc.

Motor Vehicles

Deal Ending Ford Explorer Exhaust Suit Gets Final OK

Ford Motor Co's nationwide class settlement with owners of 2011-15 Ford Explorers with exhaust problems received final court approval (*Knutson v. Ford Motor Co.*, S.D. Fla., No. 0:14-cv-61344-WPD, 6/20/17).

Pesticides

Arkansas Board Passes Dicamba Ban

The Arkansas State Plant Board voted June 23 to pass a proposed emergency rule to ban the use of in-crop dicamba, with an exemption for pastureland, and to expedite the rule increasing civil penalties for misuse of the common pesticide.

Pesticides

Monsanto Says Roundup False Label Suit Meritless

Monsanto Co. said June 23 it will zealously defend a proposed class suit alleging it falsely advertises Roundup by saying the weed killer's active ingredient, glyphosate, doesn't affect humans or pets (Blitz v. Monsanto Co., W.D. Wis., No. 17-00473, complaint filed 6/20/17).

Renewable Energy

Tembo Power Proposes New Hydro Solution for Congo Copper Mines

Africa-focused energy company Tembo Power Ltd. is proposing a new approach to address the electricity shortfall in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Renewable Energy

World's Biggest Wind Turbine Maker Sets Sights on New Markets

The chief executive officer of Vestas Wind Systems A/S says the world's biggest wind turbine maker wants to expand in the Middle East and the Asia Pacific region as it taps into growing demand for renewable energy in new markets.

Water Pollution

Pennsylvania Lawmakers Target Water Commission Over Fees

An interstate agency overseeing Susquehanna River water quality is under fire by a group of Pennsylvania State House Republicans who accuse it of regulatory overreach and have vowed to reduce its power and funding.

White House

Tech in One Hand, Overhaul in Other, Trump Tackles Government

President Donald Trump's plans to use new technology to modernize the federal government—claiming \$1 trillion in savings and better services—may outstrip his proposal to overhaul agencies to make them more effective.

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