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Daily Environment Report

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Leading the News

Pesticides

Watchdog May Find EPA-Monsanto Links on Pesticides Routine

The EPA inspector general will look into a relationship between an agency deputy director in the pesticide program and Monsanto Co. But former agency officials say it's unlikely that the relationship was improper given the level of interaction required by agency staff and companies to safely register pesticides.

News

Asbestos

Asbestos Suit Against Shipping Firm Stays Afloat

Moore McCormack shipping line will again have to defend asbestos claims filed by the estate of a Portland, Or. shipyard worker after an Oregon appeals court reinstated the suit (*Williams v. CBS Corp.*, 2017 BL 191856, Or. Ct. App., A158077, 6/7/17).

Biotechnology

Brazil Approves World's First Genetically Modified Sugar Cane

Brazilian regulators approved the world's first genetically modified sugar-cane as the country, which is the biggest producer of the commodity, tries to recover the competitiveness it lost in recent years.

Budget

Lawmakers Doubtful About Interior Spending Cut Proposals

The Trump administration goal of a balanced federal budget within 10 years contributed to many of the proposed spending cuts for Interior Department programs, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke told House lawmakers June 8.

Contribution

ARCO Bid Seeks to Shift \$1.2M in Hazmat Costs

Atlantic Richfield Co. will be allowed to file a countersuit over claims it is liable for \$1.2 million in hazardous waste cleanup costs at a gas station, the Western District of Washington ruled June 7 (Wakefield Family LLC v. Atl. Richfield Co., 2017 BL 192294, W.D. Wash., No. 17-cv-5114, 6/7/17).

Drinking Water

Tap Water in 27 States Shows Levels of Toxic Chemicals: Report

The drinking water supplies of about 15 million residents in 27 states have unsafe levels of two potentially toxic chemicals once used in common household products, environmental advocates said in a June 8 report.

Energy

China's Clean Energy Ambition Floats on Abandoned Coal Mine

China's ambitions to dominate new energy technologies are unfolding at the site of an abandoned coal mine about 300 miles northwest of Shanghai.

Energy

Nuclear Subsidies Slow to Catch on as Opposition Steps Up

Almost a year after New York became the first state to approve subsidies for nuclear reactors threatened with closure, efforts to replicate the model elsewhere are proving a tough sell.

Energy

U.S., China Discuss American Liquid Natural Gas Exports

Energy Secretary Rick Perry advanced the prospect of expanding American liquid natural gas (LNG) exports to China during a June 8 meeting with Executive Vice Premier Zhang Gaoli in Beijing.

Mining

Maine Lawmakers Ban Open-Pit Mining, Approve Restrictions

Maine will ban open-pit mining, prohibit mining on public land, and restrict the industry elsewhere in the state under a far-reaching bill approved by lawmakers following the governor's veto.

Oil Spills

Trump Said to Mull Combining Agencies Separated After Gulf Spill

After the 2010 Gulf oil spill, the Obama administration broke the scandal-plagued federal agency that policed offshore drilling into separate bureaus.

Recycling

Recycle, Reuse Policies for Danish Businesses May Become Law

Builders and waste companies in Denmark could face new requirements to maximize the amount of materials they must recycle, re-purpose, and re-use under a series of proposals that could find their way into law.

Regulatory Policy

White House Thinking on Regulatory Budget Still Developing

Practical questions surround the implementation of President Donald Trump's executive order on regulation, even as the White House is still developing its regulatory goals for this administration.

Renewable Energy

German Renewables Peak as Country Bolsters Paris Commitment

Germany's latest wind and solar power record is unlikely to be the last as the nation deepens its commitment to a low-carbon economy in the face of U.S. President Donald Trump's decision to quit the Paris climate accord.

Renewable Energy

Hydro Overpowers Energy Needs in China

Unused energy from hydropower facilities in the southwest China provinces of Yunnan and Sichuan in 2016 was more than the amount needed to power Hebei, the main province surrounding Beijing, for a month, raising questions about the need for future projects.

Renewable Energy

U.K. Seen Headed for Subsidy Free Power from Offshore Wind Farms

Britain may soon join Germany in harvesting subsidy-free electricity from offshore wind farms, giving government ministers new options in securing power supplies that don't pollute.

Webinar

Webinar: Reviewing New Chemicals Under Amended TSCA

Bergeson & Campbell, P.C. and Bloomberg BNA present a free webinar Monday, June 12, "Reviewing New Chemicals Under Amended TSCA: Impact on Innovation." Speakers include Lynn Bergeson, managing partner of Bergeson & Campbell; Richard Engler, senior chemist at Bergeson & Campbell; Charlie Auer, senior regulatory and policy adviser at Bergeson & Campbell; Jeffery Morris, director of the Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics at the EPA; Beth Bosley, president of ...

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