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## **Energy and Climate Report**

May 24, 2017 - Number 99

### News

#### *Biodiversity*

##### **Brazil Lawmakers Vote to Shrink Protected Areas of Amazon**

Brazil's Senate approved two measures that would reduce by more than 2,200 square miles the size of protected areas in the eastern Amazon.

#### *Climate Change*

##### **EU Report Tracks Rising Exposure to Natural Hazards**

The proportion of the world's population exposed to flood risk increased between 1975 and 2015, while the proportion exposed to tropical cyclone winds fell slightly, according to an atlas of exposure to natural hazards published May 24 by the European Union's in-house science service, the Joint Research Center.

#### *Climate Policy*

##### **Trump's Delay Opens Door for European Lobbying on Paris Pact**

President Donald Trump hasn't decided if the U.S. will remain a part of the Paris climate accord, Secretary of State Rex Tillerson said, as pressure mounts from Pope Francis, European leaders and Democratic lawmakers at home to remain in the historic pact to address global warming.

#### *Climate Science*

##### **More Questions, Few Answers on Climate Interventions: Scientists**

Technologies that would allow humans to intervene in the climate change process, such as carbon capture, are not yet viable but raise many questions, scientists commissioned by the federal government to study this issue said.

#### *EPA*

##### **Obama Administration Failed to Protect Environment, Pruitt Says**

EPA chief Scott Pruitt skewered his predecessors at a May 24 symposium, arguing contamination crises and court battles are the real environmental legacy of the Obama administration.

#### *Emissions Trading*

##### **California Carbon Auction Bounces Back, Raising \$475 Million**

California's carbon market bounced back in the latest quarterly cap-and-trade auction results released May 24, with the state selling 90 percent of the allowances offered at or above the \$13.57 per ton floor price, a stark contrast to a series of low-participation auctions.

#### *Energy*

Old Coal Mines Have a Place in the Future of Clean Energy  
Ben Chafin sees the future of clean energy in abandoned coal shafts.

**Energy**

U.S. Nuclear Plant Fails at Auction Despite State Assistance  
Even the promise of state subsidies wasn't enough to help a struggling nuclear power plant in the biggest electricity market emerge a victor in a closely watched auction.

**Energy**

Westinghouse Gets Buyer Interest, Sees Talks Starting Soon  
Westinghouse Electric Co. has fielded interest from those looking at buying Toshiba Corp.'s majority stake in the bankrupt U.S. nuclear contractor and expects to begin a sale process in late summer, according to Westinghouse's interim chief executive officer.

**Energy**

Westinghouse to Emerge From Bankruptcy Stronger, CEO Says  
Westinghouse Electric Co., which has filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy, will emerge "quickly, better, stronger," CEO Jose Gutierrez said in his first public speech since the company's filing in a U.S. bankruptcy court in March.

**International Climate**

Pope Lends Weight to G-7 Push to Bind Trump to Climate Deal  
Pope Francis joined an international chorus urging Donald Trump to meet U.S. commitments on climate change in talks at the Vatican May 24.

**International Climate**

World Bank Sees Batteries as 'Next Frontier' of Climate Spending  
The World Bank expects stricter rules for clean-energy auctions to spur investment in batteries and other kinds of energy storage, making the industry segment the "next frontier" of climate finance.

**Regulatory Policy**

Icahn Reaps \$60 Million Windfall as Trump Regulations Adviser  
Government work has paid off handsomely for billionaire Carl Icahn.

**Renewable Energy**

U.S. Government Launches Probe into Cheap Imported Solar Cells  
The U.S. government opened an investigation into whether American solar-panel manufacturers are being hobbled by cheap imports, marking the first step in a probe that may lead to import tariffs on photovoltaic components.

**Science Policy**

EPA Seeking New Science Advisers After Departures  
The EPA is looking to fill numerous vacancies on one of its scientific advisory boards after 11 of its members were either dismissed or resigned in protest earlier in May.

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