

**To:** Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]  
**From:** Bloomberg BNA  
**Sent:** Wed 6/21/2017 12:16:22 AM  
**Subject:** June 21 -- Daily Environment Report



## **Daily Environment Report**

June 21, 2017 - Number 118

The Bloomberg BNA Daily Environment Report is brought to you by EPA Libraries. Please note, these materials may be copyrighted and should not be forwarded outside of the U.S. EPA. If you have any questions or no longer wish to receive these messages, please contact Josue Rivera-Olds at [rivera-olds.josue@epa.gov](mailto:rivera-olds.josue@epa.gov), 202-566-1558.

### Leading the News

#### *EPA*

##### EPA to Let More Research Office Science Advisers' Terms Lapse

The Environmental Protection Agency in August will let go dozens more scientists who advise the agency's Office of Research and Development on its priorities and cancel all of the board's subcommittee meetings in 2017, according to a letter obtained by Bloomberg BNA.

#### *Oil & Gas*

##### Zinke Preparing to Reshape Interior Through Personnel

A hiring freeze the Interior Department instituted for staff in the Washington and Denver metropolitan areas is a first step toward its shrinking middle and upper management and shifting more personnel into local and state offices, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke said June 20.

#### *Radioactive Waste*

##### Interim Waste Storage Possible at Yucca Mountain: Perry

Energy Secretary Rick Perry isn't only eyeing Yucca Mountain for permanent nuclear waste storage.

### News

#### *Climate Change*

##### NYC Planners Say Storm Barrier May Come Too Late

The warming Atlantic Ocean has raised the risk of another Hurricane Sandy. And still, trillions of dollars of real estate and infrastructure near the shores of New York City and northern New Jersey remain vulnerable to devastation.

## **EPA**

### EPA Could Offer 1,228 Employees Buyouts, Union Says

As many as 1,228 EPA employees will be eligible for buyout offers, according to a proposed memorandum of understanding on the offers released by the agency's union.

## **Emergency Response**

### Trump's Emergency Manager Earns Support of Climate Advocates

Brock Long was cleared by the Senate to become President Donald Trump's emergency-management director June 20 after gaining the support of one unlikely constituency: environmentalists.

## **Energy**

### Court Upholds Plant Performance Rule in Largest U.S. Power Grid

A U.S. appeals court found that the power plant performance standard in PJM Interconnection's annual forward capacity auction is proper, according to a recent opinion.

## **Energy**

### Energy Department Grid Study Expected in June, Perry Says

The Department of Energy's highly anticipated study on the U.S. power grid and how it can help coal and nuclear power "should be" available by the end of the month, Energy Secretary Rick Perry said June 20.

## **Energy**

### Green Groups Critical Ahead of Trump Power Grid Report

Critics aren't waiting for opening night to pan a Trump administration study on the U.S. power grid they believe will demonize renewable energy while promoting coal and nuclear generation.

## **Energy**

### Nuclear Power Tax Credit Extension Bill Passes House

The House passed a bill June 20 that would extend a nuclear power production tax credit pursued by the energy industry.

## **Enforcement**

### 'Sue and Settle' Legislation Expected to Start Moving Soon

The House is expected to start moving as early as this summer to pass legislation that would add new public comment requirements to "sue-and-settle" citizen lawsuits, addressing many Republicans' issues over certain types of environmental litigation.

## **Forests**

### Brazil President Vetoes Measures to Reduce Amazon Protected Areas

Brazil President Michel Temer in a surprise move June 19 vetoed two measures that would have reduced by more than 2,200 square miles two protected areas in the eastern Amazon.

## **International Climate**

### U.S. Exit From Climate Pact Triggers Worries on Transparency

The U.S. exit from the Paris climate pact raises the prospect that the one nation pushing China, India, and other rapidly developing nations for more transparency in their climate actions won't be co-chairing a panel sorting out those rules.

## **Liabile Parties**

### Allnex Can't Escape Liability for Chemical Plant Cleanup

Chemical manufacturer Allnex (Luxemborg) & Cy S.C.A. is on the hook for \$35.1 million in cleanup costs for toxic spills at a chemical plant it bought from Cytec Industries Inc., the Southern District of New York ruled (Cytec Indus. Inc. v. Allnex (Luxembourg) & Cy S.C.A., 2017 BL 208769, S.D.N.Y., No. 14-cv-1561, 6/19/17).

### **Michigan**

#### Site Owner Can't Recover Cleanup Damages Under Access Law

The owner of contaminated site can't recover damages from a prior owner under the Michigan site access law for a tardy cleanup, the Sixth Circuit said June 19 (Newell Brands, Inc. v. Bosgraaf, 6th Cir., 16-02331, 16-2403, unpublished 6/19/17).

### **Oil & Gas**

#### Oil, Gas Revenue Must Be Used for Conservation, Pa. Court Rules

Revenue generated by oil and gas development on public land may only be used to conserve and maintain the state's natural resources, the Pennsylvania Supreme Court held June 20.

### **Pesticides**

#### Hundreds of Scientists Recommend Better Oversight of Germ-Killers

More than 200 scientists and health professionals are urging consumers to avoid two common germ-killers, while recommending that regulators better label products with the chemicals and evaluate the risks the substances may pose to health and the environment.

### **Pipeline Safety**

#### Pipeline Agency Says It Won't Enforce Obama Gas Storage Regs

Regulations for natural gas storage sites put in place after the Aliso Canyon natural gas leak won't be enforced, PHMSA announced.

### **Renewable Energy**

#### Brazil Bank Approves \$312 Million in Loans for Wind Farms

The Brazilian Development Bank approved 1.04 billion reais (\$312 million) in low-cost financing for three utilities to develop wind complexes that will generate enough energy to power 700,000 homes.

### **Renewable Energy**

#### Lyon Group Plans \$501 Million Australia Solar, Storage Project

Lyon Group will build a A\$660 million (\$501 million) solar and battery storage project in the Nowingi district of Victoria by January 2018 combining a 250-megawatt solar-power station with 160 megawatt-hours of storage, according to a June 20 statement.

### **Risk Assessment**

#### EPA Extends Time to Plan 10 Chemical Risk Assessments

The EPA is extending the time it will take to prepare its strategy to evaluate the risks of 10 chemicals and giving chemical manufacturers, states and other interested parties until Sept. 19 to comment on the problems the agency should examine.

### **Toxic Substances**

#### EU Chemicals Agency Tightens Restrictions on Phthalates

A European Chemicals Agency committee adopted an opinion in favor of a wide-ranging restriction under the European Union's REACH law, which would have the effect of largely prohibiting four hazardous phthalates from consumer products sold in the bloc.

### **Toxic Substances**

#### Lumber Liquidators Dodges Some Toxic Flooring Claims

Lumber Liquidators won dismissal of some homeowners' claims over alleged formaldehyde contamination in its Chinese-made laminated flooring products, but the Eastern District of Virginia declined June 20 to dismiss other allegations (In re Lumber Liquidators Chinese-Manufactured Flooring Prods. Mktg., Sales Practices & Prods. Liab. Litig., 2017 BL 210393, E.D. Va., No. 15-md-2627, 6/20/17).

***Water Pollution***

**Minnesota Lacked Proper Permit for Water Transfer: Court**

**A Minnesota agency erred by not obtaining a federal permit for a construction project affecting a lake's water level, the state's appellate court ruled.**

[Privacy Policy](#) | [Terms of Service](#) | [Manage Your Email](#) | [Contact Us](#)

1801 South Bell Street, Arlington, VA 22202  
[Copyright](#) © 2017 [The Bureau of National Affairs, Inc.](#) .  
Daily Environment Report for EPA