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## **Daily Environment Report**

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### Leading the News

#### *Chemicals*

##### **States Want Access to Chemical Trade Secrets Before Spills**

States could soon respond quicker to chemical accidents armed with information EPA has. But first, they'll have to prove they can protect chemical makers' trade secrets.

#### *Emergency Response*

##### **PODCAST: Houston Faces Long-term Damage After Hurricane Harvey**

In some ways, things are returning to normal in Houston after Hurricane Harvey. Schools have reopened, the power is back on, and the flood water has, for the most part, receded.

#### *General Policy*

##### **Zinke Defends Private Travel Use as Part of Interior Job**

Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke defended his travel expenses Sept. 29 as a part of the job, including travel by chartered planes when less expensive commercial flights are unavailable to meet his scheduled plans.

#### *Pesticides*

##### **Mosquito Woes Threaten Puerto Rico as Floodwaters Recede**

A tropical disease epidemic could be brewing in Puerto Rico as the island territory struggles to emerge from Hurricane Maria's floods and wreckage.

### News

#### *Air Pollution*

##### **EPA Silent as Ozone Decision Deadline Looms, States Say**

States said the EPA remained mum just days before it was required to announce which

areas of the country exceed federal ozone pollution standards and must clean up their air.

### ***Biofuels***

#### **Trump Told Iowa He'd Save Ethanol. His EPA Chief Has Other Ideas**

As he sought votes during last year's Iowa caucuses, candidate Donald Trump courted farmers with praise for ethanol and promises that he would boost the home-grown fuel.

### ***Biotechnology***

#### **Russia Fuels Seed-Making Shift in Challenge to Monsanto**

Russia has transformed its agriculture sector since the Soviet era as imports of foreign capital, equipment, and technology helped farmers create one of the world's biggest crop producers. Now the country is targeting the next step in bolstering its agricultural muscle—high tech seeds.

### ***Dumping***

#### **Suniva Seeks Lower Import Tariffs in U.S. Solar Case**

Suniva Inc. is reducing the tariffs it's seeking on imported components as part of a U.S. trade case that's divided the industry.

### ***Energy***

#### **Perry Moves to Aid Coal, Nuclear Generators with Pricing Rule**

U.S. Energy Secretary Rick Perry is doubling down on coal and nuclear power.

### ***Energy***

#### **Pricing Rule to Help Coal, Nuclear Faces Uncertain Future**

Compensating nuclear and coal-fired power plants for their ability to operate reliably would lead to government price fixing and the Energy Department's proposal to do so is unlikely to be adopted, a state utility regulator told Bloomberg BNA.

### ***Energy***

#### **Southern's Nuclear Plant Gets \$3.7 Billion More in U.S. Aid**

Southern Co.'s troubled nuclear reactor project in Georgia is in line to get additional government support after the Energy Department announced Sept. 29 it offered \$3.7 billion in additional loan guarantees.

### ***Illinois***

#### **Landowners Wrongly Barred from Joining Tank Leak Case**

Owners of residential property tainted by a leaky underground gasoline storage tank should have been allowed to join cleanup litigation brought by the state, an Illinois Appellate Court ruled (*People ex rel. Madigan v. Nagle Station, LLC*, Ill. App. Ct., 1st Dist., No. 1-16-0534, 9/27/17).

### ***Liabile Parties***

#### **FMC Can't Shake Tribe's \$1.5M Per Year Waste Storage Fees**

FMC Corp. remains on the hook for a \$1.5 million annual permit fee imposed by a tribal court to store hazardous waste on American Indian land, a federal district court ruled (*FMC Corp. v. Shoshone-Bannock Tribes*, 2017 BL 344479, D. Idaho, 14-CV-489, 9/28/17).

### ***Motor Vehicles***

#### **Electric Scooter Taxes to Drop as Taiwan Boosts Green Vehicles**

Electric scooter owners in Taiwan could see a tax break as the country aims to boost clean transportation and its domestic electric vehicle industry by extending licensing incentives through 2021.

### ***Motor Vehicles***

#### **VW Still Choking on Diesel as Damages Surge to \$30 Billion**

More than two years after Volkswagen AG was thrown into chaos by the diesel-emissions scandal, the German auto giant is still choking.

### ***Natural Gas***

#### **Pennsylvania Nuns to Appeal Transco Pipeline Decision**

Nuns who sued on religious grounds to stop a pipeline from traversing their property in Pennsylvania say they will appeal a judge's decision to dismiss the case.

### ***Oil & Gas***

#### **Senate Republicans Want to Allow Drilling in Alaska Refuge**

Senate Republicans set the stage for using the budget to end the 37-year ban on oil and gas drilling in Alaska's pristine Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

### ***Pesticides***

#### **Environmentalists Force EPA Public-Records Redo on Pesticide**

The EPA didn't appropriately handle a public records request from an environmental group seeking documents about a controversial pesticide's effects on rare species, a district court found.

### ***Renewable Energy***

#### **Green Projects in EU May Be About to Lose Their Richest Investors**

Renewable energy developers may lose some of their richest backers as wind and solar farms move toward competing on price instead of their green credentials, Sweden's largest utility said.

### ***Renewable Energy***

#### **Poland to Expand Geothermal Heating, Government Says**

Poland hopes to tap into its rich geothermal resources in the coming years, according to government officials.

### ***Water Pollution***

#### **CalMat Co. Agrees to Clean Up L.A. Drinking Water Source**

CalMat Co. will spend \$1 million to clean up groundwater contaminated with a paint stripper chemical at a San Fernando Valley Superfund in Los Angeles County, according to a deal reached with the EPA.

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