

To: Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
From: Bloomberg BNA
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Daily Environment Report

July 04, 2017 - Number 127

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Leading the News

Climate Science

Scientists Skeptical of Pruitt's Call for Climate Debate

Climate change scientists see little upside to engaging in EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt's interest in additional debate on the merits of their research, fearing it will only validate the agency's plans to roll back regulations.

News

Air Pollution

Court Rebukes EPA for Shelving Obama-Era Methane Regulation

A federal appeals court rebuked the EPA for unilaterally suspending Obama-era methane emissions regulations, criticizing the "flimsiness" of its arguments and bringing the regulations back into effect.

Chemical Safety Board

Shutdown Threat Risks Stalling Work, Pushing Out Staff

Companies dealing with Chemical Safety Board investigations this year face the prospect of a distracted, inefficient agency after the Trump administration proposed to shutter it in the upcoming budget cycle.

Climate Change

Louisiana Town Convulsed by Relocation as Climate Policy Shifts

There was a fight coming and everyone knew it, so the reverend asked his guests to start with a prayer.

Climate Policy

Obama in Indonesia Takes Swipe at Trump on Paris Climate Accord

Former U.S. President Barack Obama has pointed to the importance of the Paris climate accord while criticizing Donald Trump for pulling the world's biggest economy out of the pact.

Duty to Indemnify

Cooper Industries Didn't Waive Coverage for N.J. Cleanup

Cooper Industries LLC didn't waive insurance coverage for contamination migrating from its property into the Passaic River when it reached a settlement with its insurers decades ago, the Sixth Circuit ruled (*Emp'rs Ins. of Wausau v. McGraw Edison Co.*, 2017 BL 227385, 6th Cir., No. 16-1264, unpublished 6/30/17).

Maritime Affairs

Canada Seeks to Go Beyond International Maritime Arctic Rules

Ships in Arctic waters would still be required to meet pollution-prevention rules that go beyond internationally agreed upon standards, Canada proposed.

Mining

Brazil Companies Get Extension for Mine Spill Settlement

A Brazilian judge gave Samarco Mineracao and two other companies four more months to finalize an agreement to pay for environmental damages and compensate those hurt by the 2015 rupture of a mining waste reservoir.

Shareholder Activism

Jana Partners Takes EQT Stake, Seeks to Halt Rice Deal

Sometimes-activist investor Jana Partners disclosed a 5.8 percent stake in EQT Corp. as the fund seeks to scuttle the natural gas driller's deal to buy Rice Energy Inc. for \$6.7 billion.

Practitioner Insights

Practitioner Insights: Lessons After One Year of TSCA Reforms

By Gavin Thompson: It has been a tumultuous year since June 22, 2016, when President Barack Obama signed the Frank R. Lautenberg Chemical Safety for the 21st Century Act (LCSEA) to amend the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA). Thus, after many years of debate and negotiations between the chemical and related industries, environmental and consumer groups, and others, TSCA reform became a reality. What have we learned in the year since then?

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Daily Environment Report for EPA

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Daily Environment Report

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Leading the News

Climate Change

Global Players Vow Steady if 'Slower Transformation' on Climate

Countries and companies worldwide put on a brave face in the wake of President Donald Trump's June 1 announcement that the U.S. would withdraw from the Paris Agreement on climate change, vowing to carry on without the world's second-largest emitter of greenhouse gases.

Climate Change

Trump Announces U.S. Withdrawal From Climate Accord

President Donald Trump announced the U.S. would withdraw from the Paris climate pact and that he will seek to renegotiate the international agreement in a way that treats American workers better.

International Climate

Trump Exit Won't Bar Successor From Rejoining Climate Pact

President Donald Trump's June 1 exit from the Paris climate pact will almost surely strengthen China's hand—and to some extent Russia's—as the more than 190 nations still in the pact face years of negotiations over implementing the deal.

News

Chemicals

EPA Updated Chemical Production Data Said Useful for Companies

The EPA's production volume and other data for 8,556 chemicals are out, and an industry official says this will help companies as they prepare to meet requirements of the new chemicals law.

Climate Policy

Trump's Paris Adieu Is a Win for Coal and Oil but Not a Big One

The biggest winners in President Donald Trump's decision to walk away from the Paris climate accord are oil, coal and natural gas producers. And even they aren't popping Champagne corks.

Duty to Defend

Love Canal Pollution Insurance Claim Flushed

The Cincinnati Insurance Co. has no duty to defend a plumbing firm against claims it released sewage at a construction project near the Love Canal Superfund site, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit ruled May 31 (Cincinnati Ins. Co. v. Roy's Plumbing, Inc., 2017 BL 181355, 2d Cir., No. 16-2511, summary order 5/31/17).

EPA

Obama EPA Chief Joins Environmental Equity Firm as Adviser

Former EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy is joining an investment firm, marking a departure from three decades in the public sector.

EPA

Supervisors Targeted as EPA Buyout Process Begins

Voluntary buyout procedures are moving ahead at EPA headquarters and regional offices, the agency's acting deputy administrator told staff in a June 1 memo.

Emissions Trading

Finland Launches Subsidies for Energy-Intensive Businesses

Energy-intensive industries in Finland can apply for subsidies to compensate for higher electricity prices caused by the European Union's greenhouse gas emissions trading program under a new state aid initiative that took effect June 1.

Energy

Devon Energy Among Clients For Which Trump Aide Lobbied

The White House granted an ethics waiver to an energy staffer to work on issues such as the EPA's methane regulations, despite recently having lobbied for companies such as Devon Energy Corp. in 2017 on the rules.

Environmental Justice

EU Court Limits Environmental Liability Exemption

Companies in the European Union that cause harm to water bodies cannot rely on permits issued before the bloc's Environmental Liability Directive took effect to dodge the directive's provisions, the EU Court of Justice ruled June 1.

International Climate

PODCAST: Is This the End for the Paris Accord?

It's official: President Donald Trump will withdraw the U.S. from the Paris Agreement on climate change.

International Climate

What Did Trump Just Do? Paris Climate Withdrawal Explained

The U.S. departure from the Paris climate accord won't happen overnight, as President Donald Trump's announcement June 1 sets in motion a years-long process to withdraw from the landmark agreement—and raises a host of questions about what comes next.

International Issues

Economic Damage from Paris Exit May Emerge in Trade Wars

President Donald Trump argued that leaving the Paris climate accord would save jobs at home, but his decision may create a new threat to the U.S. economy from abroad: trade wars.

Motor Vehicles

Norway Adopting Electric Vehicles Faster Than Anywhere Else

Since the 14th century, Akershus Fortress has protected Oslo from raids by bloodthirsty Swedes. Now a Cold War bomb shelter in its basement is being repurposed to help save the Norwegian capital from more insidious foes: pollution and global warming. Starting this month, electric car owners will be able to drive down a narrow ramp between rough-hewn rock walls dripping with condensation and plug in at one of 86 charging stations—for free.

Oil & Gas

Offshore Safety Director Dives Into Regulatory Reviews

The new top regulator for offshore oil and gas safety and environmental protection is diving into reviews of Obama administration regulations to assess how justified they are.

REACH

EU Chemicals Agency Says Animals Used In 11% of REACH Data

Methods to generate chemical safety data that don't require tests on animals are widely used by companies seeking to fulfill their obligations under the European Union's REACH regulation, the European Chemicals Agency said in a report published June 1.

Renewable Energy

Italy Switches on Five New Subsidy-Free Solar Power Plants

Octopus Investments Ltd. started generating power from five subsidy-free solar plants in Italy in the latest sign that clean-energy can be profitable without government support.

Renewable Energy

Taiwan Approves Four-Year Plan to Double Wind Power

Taiwan approved a plan June 1 to double its installed wind power capacity over the next four years.

Water Pollution

EPA: No Further Hudson River PCB Dredging Required of GE

No further dredging of the upper Hudson River for PCB contamination will be required by the Environmental Protection Agency on the basis of the draft results of a five-year review conducted under a 2002 cleanup plan, agency regional officials said June 1.

Water Pollution

Water Rule Meeting Documents Sought by Advocates in Lawsuit

Environmental advocates want the EPA to release documents from meetings with states and business groups on plans to rewrite a rule defining the reach of the Clean Water Act.

Water Resources

Commercial Waterway Users Look for Federal Spending Plans

Commercial waterway users are hopeful about congressional support for water infrastructure but sound uncertain and a bit skeptical about Trump administration plans.

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