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Daily Environment Report

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Leading the News

Chemicals

EPA to Clear Backlog of New Chemical Approvals by July

The backlog of new chemicals being reviewed by the Environmental Protection Agency is expected to be cleared by July due to staffing, policy and procedural changes the agency has made.

News

Air Pollution

Bosch Tied to Diesel-Cheating Claims Against Fourth Carmaker

Robert Bosch GmbH, the world's largest auto-parts supplier, was linked to emissions-cheating allegations against a fourth automaker on May 25, raising questions about the German company's role in the scandal gripping the car industry.

Energy

IRS Sets Tax Credit Values for Captured CO2

The 2017 tax credit for carbon dioxide captured and sequestered in secure geological storage is \$22.48, the Internal Revenue Service said.

Energy

Release—Finally—of Appliance Efficiency Standards Applauded

Energy efficiency advocates and industry groups are breathing a sigh of relief after the Trump administration lifted a temporary hold on appliance standards for ceiling fans, pool pumps, air conditioners and refrigeration products.

Environmental Justice

Exxon Refinery Neighbor Group Scoffs at Texas-EPA Agreement

Environmental groups say a settlement between the Texas state environmental regulator and the EPA over a potential civil rights violation in permitting of an Exxon Mobil Corp. refinery is too little, too late.

General Policy

Week Ahead: Lawmakers May Get Earful on Energy, Environment

Members of Congress holding town hall meetings in their home districts during the week of May 29 are expected to hear about energy and environment concerns as part of the public's reaction to President Donald Trump's new budget proposal.

International Climate

Six to One Against Trump on Climate in 'Honest' Exchange at G-7

German Chancellor Angela Merkel said Donald Trump was isolated on climate change at the Group of Seven, as the president said he's in no rush to decide whether to scrap U.S. involvement in the Paris Agreement.

Mining

No Gold in Them Hills, Mine Co's Superfund Claim Tossed

Mining company Federal Resources Corp. can't recoup any of its Superfund cleanup costs from the government for contamination at a former mine in Idaho, the Ninth Circuit ruled (*United States v. Fed. Res. Corp.*, 2017 BL 175794, 9th Cir., No. 15-35192, unpublished 5/25/17).

Motor Vehicles

Bipartisan Senate Bill Tweaks Fuel Efficiency Standards

A bipartisan Senate bill meant to standardize the federal government's regulation of fuel efficiency in cars and trucks would effectively loosen the efficiency standards that apply to automakers, allowing them to build and sell larger vehicles, according to environmentalists.

Natural Gas

Florida Pipeline's Legal Battles Persist After Construction

The owners of almost 700 miles of new pipeline into Florida aim to start the flow of natural gas in June—if federal regulators give the go-ahead despite objections and lawsuits from the Sierra Club and others.

Oil & Gas

Fire Kills One, Injures Three at Anadarko Tank Battery in Colorado

An Anadarko Petroleum Co. oil tank battery caught fire in Mead, Colo., killing one worker and injuring three others.

Regulatory Policy

Coal Ash Disposal Guidance Document Under White House Review

An Environmental Protection Agency's guidance for the approval of states' coal ash disposal permitting programs is under review at the White House Office of Management and Budget.

Renewable Energy

Energy-Generating Kites Backed by Shell Set for Test in Scotland

Power-generating kites backed by Royal Dutch Shell Plc, Schlumberger Ltd. and EON SE will start tests in the U.K. this summer, with the aim of developing a technology that could eventually replace offshore wind turbines.

Stormwater

Permit Should Cover Stormwater Pollutants, Not Flow, Builders Say

A new EPA permit for storm runoff in New Hampshire goes too far and actually regulates stormwater flow as opposed to the pollutants found in it, homebuilders' groups say in a lawsuit.

Toxic Substances

Canada Proposes Designating Cobalt and Compounds as Toxic

Canada proposed designating cobalt and water-soluble compounds containing cobalt as toxic and will collect additional information on releases to determine if regulatory measures are needed.

Vehicle Fuels

Shell Sees Solution to Energy-System Gaps in 'Hydrogen Grid'

Royal Dutch Shell Plc is looking to build a hydrogen empire in a bid to fix the biggest problem the energy transition faces: the question of how to store power in the long term.

Water Pollution

EPA Seeks Input on Postponing Utility Wastewater Limits

The EPA is moving ahead with its proposal to postpone compliance deadlines for a regulation governing wastewater discharges from steam-generating power plants, giving the power sector and the public 30 days to comment on the plan.

Regulatory Agenda

TODAY'S FEDERAL REGISTER

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