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## **Daily Environment Report**

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### Leading the News

#### *Chemicals*

##### **Defense Bill Backs Health Study of Chemicals in Drinking Water**

The House on Nov. 14 approved a defense spending blueprint that would support a \$7 million national study of people exposed to a group of chemicals widely used to make many consumer and military products.

#### *EPA*

##### **Tested EPA Air Chief to Advance Trump Rollbacks**

EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt may have just received the most important tool to implement his rollback agenda: the EPA's new air chief Bill Wehrum.

#### *International Climate*

##### **Halting Weak Climate Rules for Poorer Nations Top U.S. Priority**

Resisting efforts by China and other developing nations to carve out separate, less stringent rules for reporting and verifying their greenhouse gas emissions under the 2015 Paris Agreement is the priority for the U.S. at the Bonn climate talks, a White House official said Nov. 14.

#### *International Climate*

##### **Upheaval in Bonn as U.S. Reshuffles Climate Diplomats**

State Department diplomat Tom Shannon, long slated to take the helm of the U.S. delegation at the United Nations climate summit in Bonn, won't be coming due to a family emergency, the State Department said Nov. 14, adding a new complication to talks intended to begin implementing the Paris climate pact.

### News

### ***Agriculture***

#### **Saudi Arabia Plans Region's Largest Farm Waste Processing Plant**

A plant that will transform 500,000 tons of date palm and agricultural waste into 300,000 tons of organically-based petrochemical products like biofuels annually is part of Saudi Arabia's plan to diversify its economy and modernize its farms.

### ***Chemicals***

#### **Amazon Plays Catch-Up in Push to Police Chemicals in Products**

Amazon.com Inc. is developing a plan to regulate the chemicals used by suppliers, but it still lags Wal-Mart Stores Inc., Target Corp. and other retailers in the push for greener products.

### ***Chemicals***

#### **China's Long-Range Plans Start to Shake Out in Chemicals Industry**

China's efforts to consolidate nearly 300,000 small chemical producers and assume more environmental, health, and safety oversight of their chemical operations and enforcement could take five to 10 years to play out, a top official said.

### ***Climate Change***

#### **Add to Job Demands List: Paid Vacation for Extreme Weather**

Even the workplace has to adapt to the warming world. As climate change creates more intense storms, companies have started preparing for work disruptions due to extreme weather.

### ***Climate Policy***

#### **Microsoft Sets New Carbon Target to Help Meet Paris Climate Deal**

Microsoft Corp. joined a growing number of companies pledging to curb their emissions in line with the international efforts to keep global warming to no more than 2 degrees Celsius.

### ***EPA***

#### **EPA Grant Recipients Ban Unlikely to Catch Courts' Eye**

Challenges to EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt's decision to ban grant recipients from advisory boards may get little traction in courts wary of defining the advice federal agencies seek.

### ***Emissions Trading***

#### **China's Looming Carbon Market Still Largely a Mystery**

China says it is on the cusp of launching what would in time become the world's largest carbon-emissions trading system, but it has yet to share much information about exactly how the system would work.

### ***Energy***

#### **Disaster Recovery Law Should Build Stronger Grids: Murkowski**

The hurricane devastation in Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands should force updates to the nation's disaster recovery law to ensure the islands' power grids are more resilient to future storms, lawmakers said.

### ***Energy***

#### **Puerto Rico to Boost Wind, Solar to Bolster Grid, Rossello Says**

Puerto Rico should boost its use of wind and solar electricity to provide for as much as 25 percent of the island's electricity, its governor said Nov. 14.

### ***Energy***

#### **Puerto Rico Utility Admits Mistakes in No-Bid Energy Contracts**

Puerto Rico's utility acknowledged that it made some missteps in issuing contracts to help it rebuild its grid, even as it defended its choice of two untested companies to lead the effort.

### ***Energy***

#### **Puerto Rico's Other No-Bid Contractor Says Its No Whitefish**

Even though it's best known for fracking and only been in the business of restoring downed power lines for a few months, Mammoth Energy Services Inc. got a no-bid, \$187 million contract to restore electricity to hurricane-ravaged Puerto Rico.

### ***Forests***

#### **U.K., Germany to Provide \$153 Million to Protect Brazil Forests**

The U.K. and Germany will provide about 130 million euros (\$153 million) to help Brazil reduce deforestation and protect the health of forests.

### ***Insurance***

#### **House-Passed Flood Insurance Bill Faces Senate Hurdles**

A House-passed bill reauthorizing the National Flood Insurance Program is considered likely to encounter headwinds in the Senate on both sides of the aisle, a Senate committee chairman said.

### ***Mining***

#### **Brazil's BHP-Vale Mine Could Get Key Vote This Month**

BHP Billiton Ltd. and Vale SA's Brazilian iron-ore venture just had its biggest breakthrough on the licensing front since being shut down in the wake of a deadly dam spill two years ago.

### ***Mining***

#### **Utilities Pour Salt on Miners' Wounds as Uranium Supplies Swell**

Power producers across the world have stockpiled enough uranium to fuel their reactors for more than four years, adding to pain faced by miners who are cutting output amid weak prices.

### ***Motor Vehicles***

#### **Coal to Cow Pies: BMW Pledges 100 Percent Renewable Power**

BMW AG's plan to switch exclusively to green electricity finds it tapping some unusual power sources—including a South African biomass plant that runs on cow dung and chicken droppings.

### ***Motor Vehicles***

#### **Taiwan Extends Tax Waiver to Boost Electric Vehicle Purchases**

Taiwan hopes to put more electric vehicles on its roads by extending through 2021 tax incentives set to expire next year.

### ***Natural Resources***

#### **\$16 Billion Fine Sought for Fugitive Fish in Puget Sound**

A \$16 billion fine for escaped salmon might be "astronomical," but that's the penalty one conservation group is seeking for 305,000 nonnative species that escaped from a fish farm into Puget Sound.

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

#### **Safety Board Drops Interior Department From Oil Rig Oversight Push**

An Interior Department unit that regulates offshore oil platforms is the wrong entity to put in place new regulations for whistleblower protections and corporate governance, the Chemical Safety Board said Nov. 14.

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

#### **With Arctic Drilling Under Attack, Norway Oil Minister Hits Back**

The man overseeing western Europe's biggest crude spigot is fighting back against the oil doubters.

### ***Pesticides***

#### **Two Extra Years Sought to Assess Pesticides' Effect on Species**

The Trump administration asked a federal court to extend by two years a deadline to complete final assessments on the effects of three pesticides on endangered or threatened species.

### ***Renewable Energy***

#### **Cheap Battery Forecasts Kill India's Long-Term Power Deals**

India's power distributors are balking at traditional 25-year thermal-power purchase contracts, avoiding lengthy entanglements so they can benefit as costs for batteries and renewable energy slide. Now in vogue: agreements that last 10 years or even less.

### ***Renewable Energy***

#### **China Plans Renewable-Energy Quota System to Ease Idle Capacity**

China is introducing a clean-energy quota system to enforce provincial targets and ease its idle-capacity problem.

### ***Vehicle Fuels***

#### **China Could Consider Resuming New Electric Car Permits**

China's government is considering a resumption of new permits to make electric vehicles as early as the first half of 2018, a move that would clear the way for Ford Motor Co. and Tesla Inc. as well as a string of local manufacturers to start production, people with knowledge of the matter said.

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