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## **Energy and Climate Report**

June 15, 2017 - Number 115

### News

#### *Climate Change*

##### **EU Environment Agency Warns of 'Profound and Rapid' Arctic Changes**

The European Union should do more to relieve the pressures on the Arctic ecosystem or risk a breakdown of "the Arctic's role in global climate regulation," the European Environment Agency said June 15.

#### *Climate Regulation*

##### **California Gas Utilities Must Reduce, Fix Methane Leaks from Pipelines**

California adopted new standards requiring natural gas utilities for the first time to reduce methane leaks from pipelines.

#### *Climate Science*

##### **Trump's Budget Puts Climate Research Program on Thin Ice**

The U.S. could fall behind on mitigating expensive and irreversible damage from climate change domestically as a result of the White House's proposed cuts to an interagency research program's budget. Funding worries for the domestic climate and climate-related research program come at a time of uncertainty about the Trump administration's priorities for climate change as it slashes funding for that work across the government. President Donald Trump has pledged that the U.S. will ...

#### *Congress*

##### **Nuclear Waste Bill Set to Change After Subcommittee Markup**

Draft legislation on rebooting efforts to make Nevada's Yucca Mountain the nation's permanent repository for nuclear waste, which a House subcommittee approved June 15, will likely see changes before it's formally introduced, the subcommittee chairman says.

#### *EPA*

##### **Former Arizona Environment Chief Tapped as EPA's COO**

A former top aide to Arizona Gov. Doug Ducey (R), is joining the EPA as its chief operating officer, a position that doesn't require Senate confirmation, according to an agency spokeswoman and Ducey's office.

#### *EPA*

##### **No Region Shakeup or Staff Layoffs, EPA's Pruitt Says**

The EPA is not aiming to relocate any of its 10 regional offices, and ongoing discussion of that prospect is "pure legend," Administrator Scott Pruitt told House appropriators June 15.

#### *EPA*

### Trump Spurs Bipartisanship as Lawmakers Vow to Stop EPA Cuts

President Donald Trump's plan to slash spending on the Environmental Protection Agency was blasted by lawmakers, as Republicans and Democrats took turns telling the agency's head that proposed budget cuts were unlikely to survive in Congress.

### ***Emissions Trading***

#### Singapore's Carbon Tax May Be Felt Throughout Southeast Asia

When Singapore rolls out Southeast Asia's first carbon tax in 2019, the biggest impact may not be on carbon emissions at all—at least, not directly.

### ***Energy***

#### China, India Seen as \$4 Trillion Opportunity for Energy by 2040

China and India will be the biggest recipients for new investment in power-generating capacity by 2040, representing a \$4 trillion opportunity for the energy sector.

### ***Energy***

#### Energy Department Climate Office Closure One of 'Many' Planned

The Energy Department's closure of its Office of International Climate and Technology, which works on global emission reductions, is one of many program offices the agency is eyeing to cut as part of fiscal year 2018 budget reductions, an agency official said.

### ***Energy***

#### House Panel Extends \$6 Billion in Untapped Nuclear Tax Credits

The U.S. House Ways and Means Committee approved a bill that would extend a \$6 billion tax benefit for the nuclear power industry, a potential boon to Scana Corp. and Southern Co., which are building facilities in Georgia and South Carolina.

### ***Energy***

#### Malicious Attacks on Electric Grid Facilities Over-Reported

The incidence of sabotage and vandalism to the U.S. electric grid might be less severe than data reported to the federal government suggest, a Bloomberg BNA data analysis shows.

### ***Energy***

#### Senate Committee Advances Nuclear Regulator Nominee Svinicki

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission is a step closer to retaining its quorum as the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee advanced the nomination of current NRC Chairman Kristine Svinicki for a third term at the agency.

### ***Motor Vehicles***

#### EPA Isn't Reviewing California's Clean Air Act Waiver: Pruitt

EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt said the agency isn't reviewing a Clean Air Act preemption waiver granted to California that allows the state to impose air pollution control requirements that are stricter than those of the federal government.

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

#### Industry Cheers Methane Rules Pause Despite New Uncertainty

The energy industry is cheering the EPA's plans to place a two-year hold on an Obama-era methane regulation despite any additional uncertainty the pause may introduce.

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

#### U.S. Toughens Stance on Russian Gas as Engie Defends New Pipe

As U.S. lawmakers targeted Russia's controversial \$10-billion natural gas pipeline to Europe in a plan for expanded sanctions, French utility Engie SA defended the link that it says is

vital for the region's fuel supplies.

***Renewable Energy***

Rotting Garbage to Light 80,000 Aussie Homes Amid Energy Rethink  
Australia's poor recycling track record has an upside.

***Renewable Energy***

Solar Power Will Kill Coal Sooner Than You Think

Solar power, once so costly it only made economic sense in spaceships, is becoming cheap enough that it will push coal and even natural-gas plants out of business faster than previously forecast. That's the conclusion of a Bloomberg New Energy Finance outlook for how fuel and electricity markets will evolve by 2040. The research group estimated solar already rivals the cost of new coal power plants in Germany and the U.S. and by 2021 will do so in quick-growing markets such as China and ...

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