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Leading the News

Climate Regulation

Clean Power Plan Review Tests EPA's Climate Change Obligations

Whether the EPA has an obligation to address climate change will be central as the agency begins its efforts to roll back Obama-era limits on carbon dioxide pollution from power plants.

Enforcement

Who Will Justice Let Cash in on Environmental Settlements?

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation received a check for \$7 million from Princess Cruise Line in April, but not as a typical act of charity. Rather, the payment was part of a \$40 million settlement the cruise line made with the federal government to resolve allegations that it violated the Clean Water Act by illegally dumping oil waste and falsifying oil spill records.

General Policy

Week Ahead: Pruitt Meets the Purse-String Holders

EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt will explain to Congress why he believes cutting his agency's budget by 31 percent is a good idea, one of numerous energy and environment events during the week of June 12.

News

Air Pollution

Poor Data, Lax Enforcement Mar EPA's Oversight of Benzene Rule

Benzene emissions from gasoline may be higher than the EPA estimates because poor data quality and inconsistent enforcement are hampering the agency's efforts, the inspector

general said.

Budget

Expect GOP Plaudits for Pruitt But Not EPA Budget at Hearing

EPA chief Scott Pruitt will likely get a warm welcome from Republican appropriators next week despite bipartisan opposition to the agency's fiscal year 2018 budget, a GOP lawmaker told Bloomberg BNA.

Chemicals

Webinar: Reviewing New Chemicals Under Amended TSCA

Bergeson & Campbell, P.C. and Bloomberg BNA present a free webinar Monday, June 12, "Reviewing New Chemicals Under Amended TSCA: Impact on Innovation." Speakers include Lynn Bergeson, managing partner of Bergeson & Campbell; Richard Engler, senior chemist at Bergeson & Campbell; Charlie Auer, senior regulatory and policy adviser at Bergeson & Campbell; Jeffery Morris, director of the Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics at the EPA; Beth Bosley, president of ...

Climate Change

EPA's Pruitt Could Face Tough Crowd at G-7 Environment Meeting

Climate-related issues are just one part of the agenda for this weekend's meeting in Italy of environment ministers from the leading industrial nations, but EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt can expect an earful on the decision of the U.S. to withdraw from the Paris climate change agreement, environmental groups said.

Climate Change

Paris Pullout Pits Chamber Against Some of Its Biggest Members

As President Donald Trump mulled whether to exit the Paris climate accord, companies as varied as Dow Chemical Corp., Exxon Mobil Corp., and Citigroup Inc. prodded him to stay in.

Climate Policy

Trump Climate Critics Wrong on Pulling Out of Paris, Perry Says

Critics of President Donald Trump's move to withdraw the U.S. from the Paris climate change agreement are acting more for political reasons than for the reality of what the accord may achieve, U.S. Energy Secretary Rick Perry said June 9 in an interview where he defended the president's move.

Coal Mining

Concern Raised About Peabody Mine Cleanup on Navajo, Hopi Land

Arizona residents and environmentalists are growing increasingly worried about the cleanup of a large coal mine that's moving swiftly toward closure. Peabody Energy Corp., the mine's operator, promises that the reclamation will be done right.

EPA

EPA Failed to Update Science Advisory Board Policies, GAO Says

The Environmental Protection Agency failed to adequately update policies for diversifying the scientists who advise the agency on policy matters, the U.S. Government Accountability Office said in a report on June 8. The GAO found that the agency did not adequately develop an updated policy statement on its Science Advisory Board, a group of scientific experts that advise the agency. The Federal Advisory Commission Act requires the EPA to establish guidelines for the advisory board.

Emissions Trading

Carbon Prices Continue to Drop in Northeast

The cost for electricity generators to comply with the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative sank to a four-and-a-half-year low in RGGI's latest auction, driven by an oversupplied market and uncertainty over a longstanding program review by the nine states in the initiative.

Energy

'Game-Changer' Electricity Goal May Cut Australia's Emissions

Australia should introduce a Clean Energy Target program for electricity generators to help lower its greenhouse gas emissions, the country's chief scientist said in a report.

Energy

German Clean Power Surges Risk Grid Blackouts, Instability

Germany's electricity grid was pushed to the limit of stability last year and blackout risks will remain as long as network infrastructure fails to keep up with surging clean power, according to operator Amprion GmbH.

Energy

HIKO Mulling Appeal on \$1.8M Fine for Overcharging

HIKO Energy LLC may appeal a court's decision to uphold a \$1.8 million fine against the company, an attorney for the East Coast electric generation supplier told Bloomberg BNA June 9.

Energy

India Power Plants Stranded as 50 Million Homes Left in the Dark

India is scaling back expectations for power demand growth as it struggles to electrify millions of homes despite a glut in generation capacity.

Enforcement

Exxon Says N.Y. Attorney General Distorts Company's Climate Data

Exxon Mobil Corp. accused New York Attorney General Eric Schneiderman of wildly distorting in court how the company calculates the long-term financial impact of climate change on its assets.

Enforcement

Hogan Lovells Attorney Named to EPA Enforcement Role

Patrick Traylor, a partner at Hogan Lovells who represented clients on Clean Air Act enforcement and other matters, has started a new job as the EPA's deputy assistant administrator in the Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance.

Forests

Lawmakers Aim for Fewer Wildfires, Healthier Forests

A reintroduced bill that would make disaster funding available for the largest wildfires garnered support from both sides of the aisle June 8, just one week before another bill addressing forest management issues is set for discussion in the House.

Hazardous Waste

General Electric Challenges EPA on \$613 Million Cleanup

General Electric says the Environmental Protection Agency's orders for cleaning up chemical pollution along the Housatonic River are too expensive and too demanding.

Infrastructure

Slashing Permit Wait Time Key to Fixing Infrastructure: Trump

President Donald Trump called for major changes to the infrastructure approval process, vowing to ease the "excruciating wait time" for federally funded projects.

International Climate

Macron Said to Push for Franco-German Carbon Emissions Price Floor

Emmanuel Macron reached out to Germany to establish a common price floor for carbon dioxide emitted by power utilities as the French president seeks to strengthen his alliance with Angela Merkel after the U.S. decided to exit the Paris climate accord, according to people familiar with the matter.

International Climate

Merkel Says Trump's Climate Stance Is Lowering G-20 Expectations

German Chancellor Angela Merkel said Group of 20 leaders “won't get everything we wished for” at a summit next month after U.S. President Donald Trump's decision to exit the Paris climate accord.

Motor Vehicles

Study of VW's Cheating on Diesels Examines Role of Bosch Code

A study alleges that Robert Bosch GmbH created the software that enabled Volkswagen AG to evade diesel emissions standards for years.

Solid Waste

Biosolids Ash Can't Be Used on Farm, Virginia Court Rules

Ash from the incineration of biosolids at a Virginia wastewater treatment plant cannot be used to raise the ground level of a flood-prone agricultural field in the tidewater, the state appeals court ruled.

Stormwater

Mimic Nature to Harness Stormwater Runoff at Parks, EPA Says

Harness stormwater at parks by planting rain gardens with native plants and grasses and installing porous pavements, the EPA recommends in a new guidance.

Toxic Substances

EU Panel Classifies Titanium Dioxide as Cancer Risk

Titanium dioxide, which is widely used in the manufacture of paints, paper, and plastics, should be classified as carcinogenic in the European Union, the European Chemicals Agency said June 9.

Vehicle Fuels

Biofuel Revamp Debate Powers Up, Includes Higher Ethanol Blends

Long-awaited efforts to modify biofuel policy are entering the limelight across Capitol Hill.

Water Pollution

Colorado's Water Permit Fees Going Up for Businesses, Utilities

Colorado companies, such as MillerCoors and Newmont Mining, a host of oil and gas operations, and public and private utilities will pay higher clean water permitting fees under a bill signed by Gov. John Hickenlooper (D).

Water Pollution

Dental Mercury Discharge Rule Freed Up by Lawsuit, Group Says

Limits on the amount of mercury from dental fillings that can be discharged by dentists into the sewer system were re-posted on the EPA's website June 9, after being put on hold by the Trump administration in January.

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