

**To:** Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]  
**From:** Bloomberg BNA  
**Sent:** Thur 6/8/2017 12:07:24 AM  
**Subject:** June 07 -- Energy and Climate Report



## **Energy and Climate Report**

June 07, 2017 - Number 109

### News

#### *Climate Change*

##### How Australia Survived a Climate Policy Reversal

Australian businesses and organizations say they know firsthand the damage that can be done if a national government retreats from climate commitments—and they have some suggestions for U.S. companies on how to respond.

#### *Climate Change*

##### If Trump Gets His Way, World May Not Know if U.S. Emissions Rise

President Donald Trump's critics argue that pulling the U.S. out of the Paris climate accord will lead to an increase in greenhouse gas emissions.

#### *Coal Mining*

##### Lawmakers, Regulators Stress Urgency to Renew Mine Cleanup Fee

Congress is already behind schedule in renewing a fee on coal companies that's essential for cleaning up the \$10.5 billion worth of abandoned mines across the country, lawmakers and state regulators said June 7.

#### *Coal-Fired Power Plants*

##### Utilities Seek Ohio Subsidies Even as Coal Falls From Power Mix

American Electric Power and other electricity companies want Ohio ratepayers to prop up two of their aging coal-fired power plants until 2040 despite AEP's predictions that coal will drop in its mix for electricity generation.

#### *Congress*

##### House Panel Approves Energy Bills as Pallone Urges Climate Action

A House panel unanimously approved a slew of energy bills June 7, including a measure to increase workforce education and training for energy and manufacturing-related fields.

#### *EPA*

##### PODCAST: What Happens When Empty Desks Run the Government

President Donald Trump blamed Democrats June 5 for “taking forever” to approve his administration's appointees in a tweet, saying that “They are nothing but OBSTRUCTIONISTS!” But, Trump hasn't moved the quickest of the last few presidents on vetting and getting appointees through the confirmation process—in fact, he is the slowest of the last four presidents, according to data collected by the Partnership for Public Service. Of the 559 key positions ...

#### *Endangered Species*

### Interior to Review Sage Grouse Policy, Consider Changes

The federal government will review conservation plans for the greater sage grouse to determine how it can work more closely with states and use more flexibility and innovation to protect the bird in 11 Western states, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke said June 7.

### **Energy**

#### Dark Clouds Hang Over Nuclear Town Torpedoed by Green Energy

In an eerily quiet nuclear reactor hall in southern Sweden, new copper and steel machinery stretching 50 meters and weighing hundreds of tons is just sitting idle.

### **Energy**

#### Key Shale-Boom Booster Threatened by Trump's Spending-Cut Plans

An agency instrumental to America's surge in energy production would lose half its funding in President Donald Trump's proposed federal budget.

### **Energy**

#### Top German Court Blocks Nuclear Fuel Tax

Germany's Constitutional Court said June 7 the federal government overstepped its powers when introducing the national nuclear-fuel tax in 2011.

### **Enforcement**

#### Advocate for Clients Such as BP to Lead Environment at Justice

President Donald Trump's choice to lead the environment section at the Justice Department is a Washington litigator known for his advocacy on behalf of clients such as BP PLC in the Deepwater Horizon oil spill and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce in opposing EPA climate regulations.

### **Radioactive Waste**

#### Private Storage is Fastest Nuclear Waste Option: Sen. Alexander

The quickest—and possibly least expensive—solution for storing the country's used nuclear fuel would be at privately run interim storage facilities, the Republican heading the Senate panel on the Energy Department's budget says.

### **Vehicle Fuels**

#### Electric Car Market Goes Zero to 2 Million in Five Years

The number of electric vehicles on the road rocketed to 2 million in 2016 after being virtually non-existent just five years ago, according to the International Energy Agency.

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