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## **Daily Environment Report**

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### Leading the News: Hurricane Harvey

#### *Chemicals*

##### Chemical Plant Explosion Revives Fight Over Shelved Safety Regulations

Police and firefighters responding to an explosion at a flooded Arkema chemical plant in Texas would have known more about the facility's risks under an updated chemical safety rule shelved by the Trump administration, critics contend.

#### *Chemicals*

##### Texas Explosions Signal Chemical Plants Pushed to Limits by Storm

In its devastatingly slow crawl up the industrial Gulf Coast, Hurricane Harvey is proving to be the biggest test yet of the safety and vulnerabilities of the U.S. chemicals industry.

#### *EPA*

##### Harvey Cleanup Tests Trump Plan to Shrink EPA by 8 Percent

The EPA has a team in Texas to lead the environmental response to Hurricane Harvey, which could pose a severe test for an agency the Trump administration is moving to shrink as early as this weekend.

#### *Hydraulic Fracturing*

##### Harvey's Floods Could Delay 10 Percent of U.S. Fracking: Analyst

As much as 10 percent of U.S. fracking work could be delayed after Hurricane Harvey ripped through southeast Texas, home to one of the nation's busiest oilfields, according to Raymond James & Associates financial advisory.

#### *Renewable Energy*

##### Harvey Pushed This Texas Wind Farm All the Way to the Max

For a wind farm in the path of a hurricane, location matters.

#### *Solid Waste*

##### Concerns Over Houston Landfills Rise as Floodwaters Recede

Tens of thousands of hurricane-ravaged houses will be gutted or bulldozed when the floodwaters in Texas eventually recede and cleanup begins. Where all of that garbage ends

up is a looming question, with potential long-term environmental consequences.

### ***Superfund***

#### **Superfund Sites Unprepared for Climate Change, Hurricanes**

EPA cleanup policies may not be enough to protect human health as contaminants from Superfund sites threaten to spread in Hurricane Harvey's aftermath, community advocates and climate change groups say.

### ***Water Pollution***

#### **Harvey Leaves 115,000 in Texas Without Safe Tap Water**

Hurricane Harvey has put at least 50 water utilities out of service, leaving about 115,000 people in southeast and lower central Texas without tap water for drinking and cooking.

## **News**

### ***Chemicals***

#### **Chemours Told to Stop Discharging Two Chemicals in N.C.**

North Carolina regulators are asking The Chemours Co., to stop discharging two more chemical compounds of concern into the Cape Fear River from its Fayetteville, N.C., facility.

### ***Chemicals***

#### **Fate of Chemical Makers' Trade Secrets Rests With EPA**

The EPA is preparing to receive requests from potentially hundreds of chemical manufacturers, importers, and processors who want to keep thousands of chemical details out of the public eye.

### ***Chemicals***

#### **Number of Chemicals in Products Underestimated, EPA Says**

The number of chemicals in products people use at home, work, or school typically is underestimated, an EPA exposure researcher said Aug. 31.

### ***Citizen Suits***

#### **Rockwell Dodges Injunction Over Aircraft Plant Waste**

Rockwell Automation Inc. and Gulfstream Aerospace Corp. will face nuisance and trespass claims over chemical waste from a Oklahoma aircraft plant, but not an injunction, the Western District of Oklahoma ruled (*Bethany v. Rockwell Automation, Inc.*, 2017 BL 305534, W.D. Okla., Case No. 16-cv-01005, 8/30/17).

### ***Climate Policy***

#### **New England, Canada Strive for Deeper Greenhouse Gas Cuts**

New England and eastern Canadian provinces will lean more heavily on renewable energy, electricity conservation, and zero-emissions vehicles as they aim for deeper greenhouse gas reductions.

### ***Courts***

#### **Judge With 'Healthy Skepticism' of Regulation Exits D.C. Circuit**

The nation's second-most-powerful court is losing a "unique" voice that is skeptical of administrative agency power, with Judge Janice Rogers Brown set to retire Aug. 31 after 12 years serving on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit.

### ***Energy***

#### **Auto Industry to Absorb Costs for Clean-Car-Production Federal Loans**

The Trump administration's Energy Department wants automakers to shoulder the costs associated with loans that help the industry produce high-efficiency and electric vehicles.

### ***Energy***

#### **Energy Official With Controversial Twitter History Resigns**

William Bradford, who has a history of controversial Twitter posts, resigned from his politically-appointed position as the director of the Energy Department's Office of Indian Energy.

### ***Enforcement***

#### **EPA Enforcement Nominee to Start Work Ahead of Confirmation**

Susan Parker Bodine, the president's pick for EPA enforcement chief, will start work at the agency Sept. 5 ahead of her Senate confirmation vote.

### ***Enforcement***

#### **Engineer Gets Prison Term For Conspiring with China on Nuclear Materials**

A nuclear engineer charged with illegally conspiring to develop and produce nuclear materials in China was sentenced to two years in prison, the FBI announced.

### ***Mining***

#### **Brazil Judge Reinstates Ban on Mining in Copper-Rich Amazon Area**

A federal judge in Brazil suspended a presidential decree that had reopened the gold-and-copper-rich eastern Amazon to mining.

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

#### **Bankrupt Black Elk Energy Convicted for Offshore Explosion**

Black Elk Energy Offshore Operations LLC, a bankrupt company, has been convicted of eight felony violations and a misdemeanor in connection with a 2012 explosion that killed three workers and injured several others on an offshore oil production platform in the Gulf of Mexico.

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

#### **Energy Transfer's Delayed Rover Pipeline Cleared to Start**

Energy Transfer Partners LP got cleared Aug. 31 to start the first part of its controversial Rover pipeline, a \$4.2 billion system that will deliver natural gas from the shale formations of the eastern U.S. to market.

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

#### **Millennium Pipeline Needs Greenhouse Gas Analysis, New York Says**

A proposal for a short natural gas pipeline in New York has been denied water quality permits partly because the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) did not account for downstream greenhouse gas emissions when approving the project.

### ***Renewable Energy***

#### **Australia's Digital Currency Opens Avenues for Renewables Trading**

An Australian company developed a digital currency designed for peer-to-peer trading among businesses and homeowners looking to sell surplus renewable energy.

### ***Renewable Energy***

#### **Brazil Plans to Offer Up to 9 Gigawatts in Energy Auctions**

Brazil is planning to award contracts for as much as 9 gigawatts of new generating capacity in a pair of power auctions scheduled for December, according to a person with knowledge of the process. The bulk is expected to go to wind farms.

***Renewable Energy***

**China's Ex-Im Bank Backs Azerbaijan Wind With \$460 Million Loan**

The Export-Import Bank of China will finance a 500 million-euro (\$460 million) wind farm in the Caspian Sea off the coast of Azerbaijan as the third-biggest crude oil producer in the former Soviet Union taps clean energy to supply its domestic energy needs.

***Renewable Energy***

**Germany to Cut 2018 Onshore Wind Aid After Additions Exceed Cap**

Germany will cut subsidies paid to onshore wind farm owners from January after additions surpassed an industry cap, the Bnetza power regulator said.

***Renewable Energy***

**Japan Environment Ministry Asks for \$2.9B to Boost Clean Energy**

Japan's Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry is seeking to allocate 323 billion yen (\$2.9 billion) to expand the use of low-carbon energy sources for the year starting April 1, an increase of nearly 7 percent from the previous year.

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