

**To:** Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]  
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## **Daily Environment Report**

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### Leading the News

#### *Coal Mining*

##### Trump Administration Halts Study of Surface Mining Health Effects

Coal industry supporters are hailing the Trump administration's decision to nix a study on the health effects of surface coal mining, saying it's not necessary and likely wouldn't have yielded reliable conclusions.

### News

#### *Climate Change*

##### Trump Administration Disbands Climate Advisory Panel

The Trump administration has disbanded a broad federal advisory panel formed to critique the government's National Climate Assessment.

#### *EPA*

##### Former Alabama Regulator to Lead EPA Southeast Region

A former Alabama environmental regulator will be sworn in Aug. 28 to lead the Environmental Protection Agency's Southeast region.

#### *Energy*

##### Former Lobbyist Named Energy Commission Chairman's Chief of Staff

Anthony Pugliese, a former Pennsylvania energy lobbyist, was named Aug. 21 as new Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Chairman Neil Chatterjee's chief of staff.

#### *Energy*

##### Germany's IBC Gets Power Contract for 20 MW Indian Solar Plant

German solar developer IBC Solar AG signed a power-purchase agreement with the Solar

Energy Corp. of India, a government enterprise, to buy electricity from its 20-megawatt plant in the state of Odisha.

#### ***Environmental Reviews***

##### **Norway Streamlines Impact Assessments, Enforces Strict Penalties**

Norwegian companies will have to follow new rules for assessing the impacts that development projects have on the environment or human health or face tougher sanctions that could mean fines or prison for offenders.

#### ***Mergers and Acquisitions***

##### **Rosneft, Trafigura Finalize \$12.9 Billion Deal for Essar Oil**

Rosneft PJSC and partners including Trafigura Group finalized their \$12.9 billion purchase of India's Essar Oil Ltd.

#### ***Mining***

##### **Chile's Environment Ministry Rejects Andes Iron Mine Project**

Mining company Andes Iron failed to obtain an environmental license for its Dominga iron-ore and copper mine as the Chile's Ministerial Committee for Sustainability voted 3–2 to reject the \$2.5 billion project Aug. 21.

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

##### **Atlantic Governors Seek Continued Federal Oil and Gas Leasing Ban**

North Carolina Gov. Roy Cooper (D) is urging federal regulators to continue the current ban on oil and gas drilling off his state's coast, joining Republican and Democratic governors in East Coast states who don't want the Atlantic included in the government's next five-year drilling plan.

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

##### **Crestone Peak's Colorado Oil Drilling Plan Faces Hurdles**

Crestone Peak Resources is seeking permission to use horizontal drilling and hydraulic fracturing in Boulder County, Colo., the first new oil and gas activity since a five-year drilling moratorium expired there.

#### ***Regulatory Policy***

##### **Federal Redo of Leave Rules May Implicate Chemical Safety Board**

A pending Office of Personnel Management regulation could shake up a long-running personnel dispute at the Chemical Safety Board, potentially freeing up more resources for ongoing investigations or internal reforms impacting oil, chemical and mining companies that could be subject to agency probes.

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