

To: Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
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Environment & Energy

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Highlights

Leading the News

UN Leaders Tackle Air Pollution, Call It Globe's Greatest Threat

By *Wachira Kigotho*

Pollution accounts for 12.6 million deaths each year, in addition to causing other human suffering and the destruction of ecosystems, Edgar Gutierrez, the president of the 2017 United Nations Environment Assembly, told more than 4,000 delegates in Nairobi, Kenya.

Senate Likely to Confirm Army Corps Nominee Despite Delay

By *David Schultz*

The Trump administration's choice to lead the Army Corps of Engineers appears to be cruising toward Senate confirmation, despite one Republican senator's plan to block him as a way to get answers from the Pentagon about Russia.

Freeport-McMoRan Seeks 43-Fold Hike in a Water Pollution Limit

By *Tripp Baltz*

Colorado has decided to put off for two years a decision on a proposal by copper company Freeport-McMoRan Inc. to hike state water-pollution molybdenum levels in streams nearly 43 times higher than current standards.

Panel Sends Clean Air Carve-Out Bills to House Floor

By *Stephen Lee*

Republicans on the House Energy and Commerce Committee sent seven environmental bills to the House floor Dec. 6.

China to Ban 10 More Highly Toxic Pesticides

By *Michael Standaert*

Agricultural authorities in China are speeding up the phaseout of highly toxic pesticides, announcing Dec. 5 that another 10 pesticides will be eliminated by the end of 2022.

Today's News

Groundwater Pumping Fees Are Not Taxes, California Court Says

By *Carolyn Whetzel*

A decision by California's highest court could give a boost to local water agencies grappling with how to implement the state's landmark groundwater management law.

Packaging Industry in Brazil Boosts Recycling Above Year-End Goal

By *Michael Kepp*

Packaging importers, producers, and distributors in Brazil that signed a 2016 collection and reprocessing agreement have increased the volume of used packaging waste being recycled by 29 percent, well above the 19.8 percent increase targeted in their accord, a recent report shows.

Brazil Fines Companies \$2.5M for Applying Banned, Toxic Pesticides

By *Michael Kepp*

Fifteen crop dusting companies in Brazil are facing 8.2 million reais (\$2.5 million) in fines, the biggest of which were levied for using crop dusters to apply banned,

highly toxic pesticides, according to the country's environmental agency.

**California Bill to Banish Gasoline Cars by 2040 Is in
the Works**

By Ryan Beene and Dana Hull

A California lawmaker wants to put the state alongside China, France and the U.K. and have its legislature consider a ban on vehicles powered by fossil fuels.

Natural Gas Risks Becoming Too Pricey in Climate

Change Battle

By Mathew Carr and Anna Shiryayevskaya

Natural gas risks becoming too expensive for its own good. Rising costs are likely to make gas increasingly uncompetitive against solar, wind and battery storage technologies, undermining its role as a “transition fuel” between coal-fired generation and renewables beyond 2030

Biggest U.S. Nuclear Owner Exelon Investing in Storage Startup

By *Brian Eckhouse*

Exelon Corp., the biggest U.S. nuclear operator, is investing in the batteries of the future.

European Power Companies Pledge Faster Shift to Clean Energy

By *Ewa Krukowska*

The European Union's electricity industry vowed to accelerate the transition to clean energy and take a leading role in the EU plan to reduce greenhouse-gas emissions.

Power Lines, Poles Focus of Industry Over Coal and Nuclear Plants

By *Naureen S. Malik, Mark Chediak and Jim Polson*

Hurricane winds and raging wildfires knocked out power to millions of people from Florida to California this year, underscoring the need to protect America's electric grid from disaster.

Your Recycling Heads to Dump as China Gets Picky About Waste

By *Jen Skerritt and Kristine Owram*

Amid the pear orchards and wineries of southern Oregon, more than 90 percent of residents dutifully dump discarded junk mail, unwanted phone books and old magazines into specially marked gray and red recycling bins. And every other week, the canisters get wheeled to the curb for pickup, as most of the contents begin their long trip to China.

Arctic Oil Rush Abates in Norway After Exploration Letdown

By *Mikael Holter*

Oil exploration in Norway's Arctic seems to have lost some of its appeal after a disappointing drilling campaign.

German Prosecutors Look into BMW Diesel Cheating Allegations

By *Karin Matussek*

Munich prosecutors are looking into allegations BMW AG diesel cars are fitted

with defeat devices to cheat on emissions levels following tests by German environmental group DUH.

Dead-Well Glut Has Alberta Regulators Scrutinizing Oil Licenses

By Kevin Orland

Alberta's government is giving its energy regulator new authority to scrutinize and reject applications for oil and gas production licenses to try to slow the growth of the province's inventory of abandoned wells.



World's No. 1 Miner Sees Bigger Role for Carbon-Capture Systems

By *Feifei Shen*

BHP Billiton Ltd., the world's biggest mining company, said wider use of systems that trap carbon emissions will be needed to meet international climate goals, even as investments in the technology stall.

Tuesday Night Wrapup

Argentine, Indonesian Biodiesel Imports Will Face New Duties

By *Brian Flood*

U.S. biodiesel producers scored a big win when the International Trade Commission Dec. 5 said imports of biodiesel from Argentina and Indonesia have seriously injured the domestic industry.

Update Groundwater Policies to Stem Depletion, Pollution: OECD

By *Rick Mitchell*

China is testing programs to trade groundwater in its northern region, while India is rationing electricity to reduce pumping, and Tucson, Ariz., is striving to diversify its water portfolio.

Texas Toxic Site Might Wait Two Years for Cleanup (Corrected)

By *Nushin Huq*

Cleanup of a waste pit at a Texas Superfund site targeted for cleanup by the EPA might not begin for another two years, agency officials said.

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