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Environment & Energy

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Highlights

Leading the News

Halting Weak Climate Rules for Poorer Nations Top U.S. Priority

By Dean Scott

Resisting efforts by China and other developing nations to get separate, less stringent rules for reporting and verifying their greenhouse gas emissions and the steps they will take to meet those goals under the 2015 Paris agreement is the priority for the U.S. at the Bonn climate talks, a White House official said.

Tested EPA Air Chief to Advance Trump Rollbacks

By Abby Smith

EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt may have just received the most important tool to implement his rollback agenda: the EPA's new air chief Bill Wehrum.

Two Extra Years Sought to Assess Pesticides' Effect on Species

By Tiffany Stecker

The Trump administration is asking a federal court to extend by two years a deadline to complete assessments on the effects of three pesticides on endangered or threatened species.

Today's News

Microsoft Sets New Carbon Target to Help Meet Paris Climate Deal

By *Jessica Shankleman*

Microsoft Corp. joined a growing number of companies pledging to curb their emissions in line with the international efforts to keep global warming to no more than 2 degrees Celsius.

Top U.S. Climate Negotiator Won't Attend Bonn Summit (Corrected)

By *Dean Scott*

State Department diplomat Tom Shannon, who was to head the climate talks for the U.S. in Bonn, won't attend the gathering.

Puerto Rico's Other No-Bid Contractor Says Its No Whitefish

By Daniel Flatley

Even though it's best known for fracking and only been in the business of restoring downed power lines for a few months, Mammoth Energy Services Inc. got a no-bid, \$187 million contract to restore electricity to hurricane-ravaged Puerto Rico.

Puerto Rico Utility Admits Mistakes in No-Bid Energy Contracts

By Daniel Flatley

Puerto Rico's utility acknowledged that it made some missteps in issuing contracts to help it rebuild its grid, even as it defended its choice of two untested companies to lead the effort.

Puerto Rico to Boost Wind, Solar to Bolster Grid, Rossello Says

By Daniel Flatley

Puerto Rico should boost its use of wind and solar electricity to provide for as much as 25 percent of the island's electricity, its governor said Nov. 14.

Puerto Rico's Utility Opted Out of Mutual Aid for

Whitefish Deal

By *Rebecca Kern*

Puerto Rico's utility opted out of mutual assistance from the U.S. association of publicly-owned utilities in lieu of the \$300 million contract with Whitefish Energy Holdings LLC, according to company documents released by a House committee late Nov. 13.

U.K., Germany to Provide \$153 Million to Protect Brazil Forests

By *Vanessa Dezem*

The U.K. and Germany will provide about 130 million euros (\$153 million) to help Brazil reduce deforestation and protect the health of forests.

Utilities Pour Salt on Miners' Wounds as Uranium Supplies Swell

By Ben Sharples

Power producers across the world have stockpiled enough uranium to fuel their reactors for more than four years, adding to pain faced by miners who are cutting output amid weak prices.

Washington Aquaculture Co. Sued Over Escaped Atlantic Salmon

By Paul Shukovsky

A conservation organization is seeking a civil penalty of up to \$52,414 for each of the approximately 305,000 Atlantic salmon that escaped in August from a collapsed Cooke Aquaculture Pacific LLC net pen into Puget Sound.

China's Long-Range Plans Start to Shake Out in Chemicals Industry

By Michael Standaert

China's efforts to consolidate nearly 300,000 small chemical producers and assume more environmental, health, and safety oversight of their chemical operations and enforcement could take five to 10 years to play out, a top official said.

China's Looming Carbon Market Still Largely a Mystery

By Michael Standaert

China says it is on the cusp of launching what would in time become the world's largest carbon-emissions trading system, but it has yet to share much information about exactly how the system would work.

With Arctic Drilling Under Attack, Norway Oil Minister Hits Back

By Mikael Holter

The man overseeing western Europe's biggest crude spigot is fighting back

against the oil doubters.

**Saudi Arabia Plans Region's Largest Farm Waste
Processing Plant**

By Matthew Kalman

A plant that will transform 500,000 tons of date palm and agricultural waste into 300,000 tons of organically-based petrochemical products like biofuels annually is part of Saudi Arabia's plan to diversify its economy and modernize its farms.

Taiwan Extends Tax Waiver to Boost Electric Vehicle Purchases

By Yu-Tzu Chiu

Taiwan hopes to put more electric vehicles on its roads by extending through 2021 tax incentives set to expire next year.

China Plans Renewable-Energy Quota System to Ease Idle Capacity

By *Feifei Shen*

China is introducing a clean-energy quota system to enforce provincial targets and ease its idle-capacity problem.

Add to Job Demands List: Paid Vacation for Extreme Weather

By Rebecca Greenfield

Even the workplace has to adapt to the warming world. As climate change creates more intense storms, companies have started preparing for work disruptions due to extreme weather.

Coal to Cow Pies: BMW Pledges 100 Percent Renewable Power

By *Brian Parkin and Elisabeth Behrmann*

BMW AG's plan to switch exclusively to green electricity finds it tapping some unusual power sources—including a South African biomass plant that runs on cow dung and chicken droppings.

China Could Consider Resuming New Electric Car Permits

By *Tian Ying, Keith Zhai and Yan Zhang*

China's government is considering a resumption of new permits to make electric vehicles as early as the first half of 2018, a move that would clear the way for Ford Motor Co. and Tesla Inc. as well as a string of local manufacturers to start production, people with knowledge of the matter said.

Amazon Plays Catch-Up in Push to Police Chemicals in Products

By Lauren Coleman-Lochner

Amazon.com Inc. is developing a plan to regulate the chemicals used by suppliers, but it still lags Wal-Mart Stores Inc., Target Corp. and other retailers in

the push for greener products.

EPA Grant Recipients Ban Unlikely to Catch Courts'

Eye

By *Sylvia Carignan*

Challenges to EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt's decision to ban grant recipients from advisory boards may get little traction in courts wary of defining the advice federal agencies seek.

Safety Board Weighs Dropping Offshore Oil Rig Safety

Efforts

By *Sam Pearson*

The U.S. Chemical Safety Board is set to decide Nov. 14 if it's worth it to keep pushing a recommendation for more worker participation in safety issues at offshore oil platforms.

Cheap Battery Forecasts Kill India's Long-Term Power Deals

By Anindya Upadhyay

India's power distributors are balking at traditional 25-year thermal-power purchase contracts, avoiding lengthy entanglements so they can benefit as costs for batteries and renewable energy slide. Now in vogue: agreements that last 10 years or even less.

Monday Night Wrapup

Brazil Fast-Tracks Biodiesel Blend Hike

By *Michael Kepp*

Brazil will hike the amount of biofuel allowed in its diesel from 8 percent to 10 percent one year ahead of schedule to help cut carbon emissions, the National Energy Policy Council said.

U.S. Pullout From Paris Agreement Won't Spur Coal Comeback: IEA

By *Rick Mitchell*

President Donald Trump's decision to pull the U.S. out of the Paris climate pact is unlikely to spur a “comeback by coal,” or to have a big impact on global carbon dioxide emissions until after 2025, an International Energy Agency official said.

Renewables Set to Grab More of Energy Market as Costs Plunge

By *Anna Hirtenstein*

Renewable forms of energy, such as wind and solar, are likely to grab a bigger share of the market in the coming decades, generating more electricity than coal by 2040.

Future of Natural Gas Looks Golden Again Thanks to China Smog

By *Kelly Gilblom*

Natural gas is set to pull away from its more polluting siblings, oil and coal.

China Is Over Coal and Bored With Oil as It Charts Energy Future

By *Dan Murtaugh*

The world's worst polluter is leading the clean energy revolution, according to the International Energy Agency.

Ivory Coast Won't Uproot Illegal Cocoa Farms for Five Years

By *Baudelaire Mieu*

Ivory Coast, the world's largest cocoa producer, won't be able to uproot cocoa plantations illegally planted in protected forests and national parks for at least five years, the forestry minister said.

Deadly Air Pollution Confronts Nuclear-Armed Rivals

By *Chris Kay and Iain Marlow*

From his office in the smog shrouded city of Lahore, environment official Saif Anjum pores over reams of pollution data and lists the actions being taken by Pakistan's largest province to combat the toxic air. He said they have arrested hundreds of crop-burning farmers and closed construction sites and industrial furnaces.

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