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From: Bloomberg Environment
Sent: Mon 12/4/2017 9:46:34 PM
Subject: Environment & Energy Report Highlights

Environment & Energy

Monday, December 04, 2017

Highlights

Leading the News

Trump to Shrink Utah Monuments Holding Artifacts, Minerals

By Jennifer A. Dlouhy and Justin Sink

President Donald Trump said Dec. 4 that he'll shrink two national monuments in Utah that contain stunning red-sandstone vistas, historic relics and energy resources, arguing his predecessor overstepped in protecting the land.

Hardrock Miners Avoid Millions in Cleanup Assurance Costs

By Sylvia Carignan

Mining industry and state government representatives have convinced the EPA to back down from a Superfund regulation that would have cost the industry more than \$170 million annually and required companies to pay for environmental cleanup.

Volvo, Truck Groups Say EPA Glider Plan Comes At Their Expense

By Abby Smith

Exempting some trucks from federal greenhouse gas emissions requirements "makes a mockery of the massive investments" companies such as Volvo have made to clean up their vehicles, industry representatives told the EPA.

Today's News

EPA Taps State Association Head for Air Office Deputy

By Jennifer Lu

The EPA has found the deputy assistant administrator for its air office in Clint Woods, who is stepping down as head of a state association of air pollution officials to join the federal agency.

Trump Disbands Group Meant to Prepare Cities for Climate Shocks

By Christopher Flavelle

The Trump administration has terminated a cross-agency group created to help local officials protect their residents against extreme weather and natural disasters.

Scalia Opinion Looms Over EPA Rethink of Waters Rule

By Amena H. Saiyid

An attorney cautioned the Trump administration Dec. 4 against rewriting the rule clarifying the reach of the Clean Water Act by relying solely on the late Justice Antonin Scalia's narrow reading of the law.

Dakota Access Judge Tightens Oversight Citing Keystone Rupture

By Andrew Harris

Citing the Keystone pipeline rupture in South Dakota last month, the federal judge overseeing a lawsuit over the Dakota Access pipeline ordered its builders, opponents and the Army Corps of Engineers to give him a spill-response plan by April 1.

Planes, Trains and Automobiles—America's New

Pollution King

By Tom Randall

For the first time in 40 years, power plants are no longer the biggest source of U.S. greenhouse gas pollution. That dubious distinction now belongs to the transport sector: cars, trucks, planes, trains and boats.

What We Know About How Tax Bill Affects Energy, Renewables

By Jonathan Levin, Andrew Pollack and Drew Armstrong

The tax bill passed by Republicans in the U.S. Senate over the weekend may boost profits for industries from banking to retail to fossil fuels. It also could put the squeeze on hospitals and renewable energy firms.

Tax Reform Losers from Biofuels to Coal to Get Second Chance

By *Ari Natter*

Energy lobbyists, who failed to get a range of expired breaks for biofuels to coal-fired power plants into the \$1.5 trillion tax overhaul bill making its way through Congress, may get a second chance before the end of the year.

A \$12 Billion Clean-Energy Tool That U.S. Tax Reform Could Kill

By *Brian Eckhouse*

The tax-reform proposal the U.S. Senate passed over the weekend would hobble—and potentially cripple—the supply of tax-equity investment, an esoteric but critical source of clean-energy finance.

Tax Reform Could Stifle JPMorgan's Support for Renewable Energy

By *Joe Ryan and Brian Eckhouse*

Clean-energy developers are learning the hard way that every line of the U.S. tax code is connected.

Texas Governor Asks EPA to Cut Biofuel Quotas, Citing Hardship

By *Mario Parker and Jennifer A. Dlouhy*

Texas Gov. Greg Abbott (R) asked EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt to lower conventional renewable-fuel quotas to no more than 9.7 percent of total gasoline consumption, saying that costs for biofuel credits “are creating a severe economic hardship for refiners,” among other parties.

Ozone Delays Draw Lawsuit From Environmental Groups

By *Jennifer Lu*

Environmental groups made good on their promise to sue the EPA over delays in determining the areas in the U.S. where air quality does not meet federal ozone

standards.

China Is Said to Plan Extending Electric Vehicle Tax Rebate

By Tian Ying, Heng Xie and Yan Zhang

China is planning to extend a tax rebate on the purchase of new-energy vehicles after the incentive helped the country become the world's biggest market for clean fuel automobiles, according to people with direct knowledge of the matter.

Austria Doubles Down on Hydro in Bid to Green Its

Power Supply

By Jonathan Tirone

Austria's biggest utility expects to squeeze more profit from hydropower and upgrade its distribution grid as Europe shifts toward getting more of its electricity from numerous types of sources.

Brazil May Pour Nearly \$3 Billion More Into Waterway Project

By *Michael Kepp*

Privatizing Brazil's state power company could pump another 9 billion reais (\$2.34 billion) into the country's effort to revitalize the basin of its second largest waterway over the next three decades.

Tropical Countries Push Green Supply Chains for Forestry

By *Lucien O. Chauvin*

Countries that export tropical timber are pushing toward more sustainable forestry practices in response to demands from countries, such as China, for greener supply chains.

Friday Night Wrapup

Trump Agrees to Meet with Senators Warring Over Biofuel Policy

By *Jennifer A. Dlouhy* and *Ari Natter*

President Donald Trump has agreed to meet with key senators and Cabinet-level officials to discuss U.S. biofuel policy, according to four people familiar with the plan.

Exxon Claim of Bogus Schneiderman Probe Questioned by Judge

By *Erik Larson*

A federal judge questioned Exxon Mobil Corp.'s claim that a securities-fraud probe by New York's Attorney General is flawed because its focus shifted from a suspected climate-change cover-up to whether investors were misled.

Duffy Wants Flood Program Extension Separate From Spending Bill

By *Brandon Ross*

The chairman of the House Financial Services Committee's insurance panel wants extensions of the National Flood Insurance Program to be separate from a government spending bill, a Republican aide told Bloomberg Government.

Southern Strikes a Deal on Costs of Failed 'Clean Coal' Plant

By Mark Chediak

Southern Co. has reached an agreement with Mississippi regulators that would have customers paying less for a failed, \$7.5 billion “clean coal” project.



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