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## **Daily Environment Report**

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### Leading the News

#### *Water Infrastructure*

##### High Cost of Smart Water Meters Slows Adoption by Utilities

In a world of smart phones, smart cars, and smart appliances, drinking water utilities are striving to keep pace, installing smart meters that send real-time data about usage, leakage, and water quality.

### News

#### *Agriculture*

##### Farm Conservation Programs Get Watered Down in Trump Budget

Popular programs to minimize runoff from farms—a leading source of pollution to U.S. waterways—are getting watered down, prompting concern from farm groups and environmental advocates alike.

#### *Agriculture*

##### The Bees Are Back in Town, Sort of

Beekeepers across the country lost one-third of their honeybee colonies over the past year, marking an improvement from a record high four years ago, but still a troubling trend for the sector.

#### *Air Pollution*

##### EPA Opposes Supreme Court Review of Malfunctions Emissions Rule

The EPA's attempt to quash U.S. Supreme Court review on whether industrial facilities must meet federal air pollution standards when equipment malfunctions could be a bid to preserve time and flexibility as the agency looks to give states more leeway to police those incidents.

### ***Budget***

#### **Growing Wildfire Costs Prompt Renewed Effort for Funding Change**

Rep. Mike Simpson (R-Idaho) will revive an effort to revamp wildfire suppression funding by treating catastrophic fires similarly to hurricanes and other natural disasters, the lawmaker told Bloomberg BNA.

### ***Chemicals***

#### **SC Johnson to Expand Skin Allergen Disclosures in Products**

A leading U.S. manufacturer of household cleaning products announced it will voluntarily disclose the presence of 368 potential skin allergens in its goods, illustrating an ongoing industry trend.

### ***Climate Change***

#### **Group of Exxon Investors to Back Climate Change Plan Board Opposes**

Almost 90 Exxon Mobil Corp. investors plan to back a proposal that would pressure the company to bolster its disclosure of climate change risks and opportunities.

### ***Climate Change***

#### **Rising Seas May Wipe Out Jersey Towns and Millions in Top-Rated Bonds**

Few parts of the U.S. are as exposed to the threats from climate change as Ocean County, New Jersey. It was here in Seaside Heights that Hurricane Sandy flooded an oceanfront amusement park, leaving an inundated roller coaster as an iconic image of rising sea levels. Scientists say more floods and stronger hurricanes are likely as the planet warms.

### ***Energy***

#### **Energy Regulator Closer to Quorum as Committee Vote Nears**

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's long wait for a quorum is getting closer to an end as a Senate committee prepares for a vote after the Memorial Day recess.

### ***Enforcement***

#### **ConocoPhillips to Pay \$39M in New Jersey Contamination Case**

ConocoPhillips Co. will pay \$39 million to settle its part of a long-running lawsuit by New Jersey claiming environmental damages from groundwater contamination by the gasoline additive MTBE, state Attorney General Christopher S. Porrino announced May 25 (New Jersey DEP v. Atlantic Richfield Co., S.D.N.Y., No. 1:08-cv-00312, settlement 5/23/17).

### ***Motor Vehicles***

#### **GM Accused in Owner Lawsuit of Using VW-Like Defeat Devices**

General Motors Co. was sued for allegedly putting defeat devices in its trucks to beat emissions tests, the sixth carmaker accused of diesel cheating since 2015, when Volkswagen AG admitted to installing software to bypass pollution rules.

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

#### **Canada to Regulate Methane Leaks From Oil and Gas Production**

Canada plans to propose regulations to cut methane emissions by the oil and gas industry by 40 percent to 45 percent by 2025.

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

#### **China's Coal-Shrinking Goal Wins Believers as Gas Use Surges**

With factories and power plants across China burning half the world's coal, the government's latest targets for using more natural gas to ease the country's worsening air pollution seemed too ambitious.

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

#### **Colorado May Shut Down Wells If Oil, Gas Companies Miss Deadlines**

The Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission could order the shutdown of any oil and gas wells if those wells' operators fail to meet upcoming deadlines to check certain pipelines.

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

#### **White House Reviewing Plan to Pause Methane Rule**

The White House is reviewing an EPA plan to further pause implementing an Obama administration rule designed to limit methane emissions from oil and gas wells, according to the Office of Management and Budget website.

### ***Oil Spills***

#### **Brazil Fines Port Operator for Ship-to-Ship Oil Spill**

Acu Petroleo, an oil terminal operator in Rio de Janeiro's industrial port, was fined 275,000 reais (\$84,200) after spilling an undisclosed volume of oil May 5.

### ***Pesticides***

#### **Maryland Limits Pesticide Use in State-Owned Pollinator Habitats**

Three Maryland agencies required to prepare pollinator habitat plans for state lands will be limited in their use of certain pesticides under legislation Gov. Larry Hogan (R) signed May 25.

### ***Renewable Energy***

#### **Abu Dhabi's Masdar Starts Trash-Energy Venture in Nearby Sharjah**

Abu Dhabi's renewable energy company Masdar formed a joint venture to build a power plant that runs on garbage as the United Arab Emirates seeks to diversify its sources of electricity.

### ***Renewable Energy***

#### **Offshore Wind Developers Agree to Maryland Program**

Developers of the nation's largest-scale offshore wind farms have agreed to conditions set by Maryland regulators in exchange for billions of dollars in ratepayer-funded subsidies over 20 years.

### ***Stormwater***

#### **Construction Stormwater Permit Under Fire Again**

An Environmental Protection Agency permit that regulates stormwater runoff at construction sites, which squeaked through a regulatory freeze in February, doesn't do enough to protect the environment, Maryland water quality activists said in a lawsuit.

### ***Sustainability***

#### **Green Products to Face Shortfall in Key Ingredients: Report**

Companies are scrambling for green alternatives to the chemicals that prevent products from going bad, as consumers shift their tastes to more sustainable goods.

### ***Taxes***

#### **State Lawmakers Slow to Debate Carbon Taxes**

State carbon tax proposals introduced early in 2017 are moving slowly as legislatures prioritize other issues, particularly their budgets.

## Regulatory Agenda

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