EPA REGION III

Office of Public Affairs

Early Bird Headline

Monday, January 30, 2012

*** MORNING HOT LIST ***

In Dimock, EPA testing draws mixed reaction

SCRANTON TIMES-TRIBUNE DIMOCK TWP. - Two teams of scientists sampling well water from four homes a day are producing a picture of the aquifer under this Susquehanna County town that will help define the impact of natural gas drilling on drinking water.The water captured in vials and packed in coolers by scientists and contractors for the Environmental Protection Agency since Jan. 23 is the heart of an investigation spurred by concerns that Cabot Oil & Gas Corp.'s Marcellus Shale drilling and hydraulic fracturing tainted water wells. In a divided village where gas drilling is as earnestly embraced as it is criticized, the controversy over the EPA's fieldwork started before the sampling did.

EPA will test Susquehanna County water supplies for fracking contamination

READING EAGLE McClachy-Tribune (Sunday) The national agency will also supply drinking water for four Dimock Township homes with water tests already of concern. The federal government was to begin testing water supplies for 61 homes in Dimock Township, Susquehanna County, as soon as Jan. 20 in a dramatic expansion of the Environmental Protection Agency's current investigation into potential contamination by natural gas drilling and hydraulic fracturing. Citing its authority under the Superfund law, the EPA will also begin providing replacement drinking water supplies to four township homes where water tests taken by outside firms raised health concerns - some of them rising to the level of an "imminent and substantial threat" in houses where small children live, the agency said. The EPA reached out to both the state Department of Environmental Protection and Cabot Oil & Gas Corp., the Marcellus Shale driller active in the area, to ask if they would be interested in working with the agency as it collects data. Both agreed to cooperate Jan. 19, but indicated they were not convinced that the EPA's actions were necessary.

EPA to Provide Water to Homes Near Pennsylvania Fracking Site

BLOOMBERG NEWS(late Thursday) The Environmental Protection Agency will deliver water to four families in Dimock, Pennsylvania, where residents say their water has been contaminated during hydraulic fracturing by Cabot Oil & Gas Corp. (COG). The EPA will also test water at 60 homes to assess whether any residents are being exposed to hazardous substances, the agency said in a statement."EPA is working diligently to understand the situation in Dimock and address residents' concerns," EPA Regional Administrator Shawn M. Garvin said in a statement. "Conducting our own sampling will help us fill information gaps." Residents and

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activists protested outside a venue where EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson was speaking in Philadelphia last week, urging her to force Houston-based Cabot to clean up wells they say were contaminated after drilling started nearby. The company is using hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, a process that injects water and chemicals to free gas in rock.

State still in running for cracker, Tomblin says

ASSOCIATED PRESS (W. Va.)CHARLESTON, W.Va. -- Fresh from a trip to Houston to lure a multibillion-dollar chemical processing plant to West Virginia, Gov. Earl Ray Tomblin may ask the Legislature to consider a new incentive to aid the state's quest, he told The Associated Press in a weekend interview. In his first comments to the media since Thursday's lengthy meeting with potential investors, Tomblin said the proposal involves the potential site for one of these "cracker" plants. He declined to be more specific about the possible incentive. "I'm not sure that I can tell what that is," Tomblin told AP. "We may have to come back to the Legislature another time in order to satisfy some of their needs ... It could very well be this session."

DEP takes public comment on revised oil and gas permits

POTTSTOWN MERCURY HARRISBURG — The Department of Environmental Protection announced today it has submitted a revised version of its erosion and sediment control general permit for earth disturbance associated with oil and gas activities for publication in the Pennsylvania Bulletin, along with four other supporting documents, including a draft permit application and a policy explaining the permit requirements.DEP revised the permit and the associated documents to incorporate recent regulatory revisions, to improve the administration of the program and to implement changes agreed to in a settlement with the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, Talisman Energy USA Inc. and Ultra Resources Inc.“As a result of this agreement, the department has met with stakeholders from industry and environmental organizations to develop a permit that provides both regulatory certainty and continued protection of the state’s waterways,” DEP Secretary Mike Krancer said.

Maryland's bay restoration plan available for public comment

ASSOCIATED PRESS (Md.) ANNAPOLIS— Maryland's plan for restoring the Chesapeake Bay is now available for public comment. The state presented the plan to the Environmental Protection Agency last month as part of a new federally led effort to restore the bay. The EPA asked all six states in the bay watershed to present their plans for complying with its so-called "pollution diet" for restoring the nation's largest estuary.The Maryland Department of the Environment is also holding public meetings statewide during the public comment period, which ends March 9. Public meetings will be held in Chestertown, College Park, Hagerstown, Baltimore County and Baltimore.

Septics legislation prompts criticism, confusion

ASSOCIATED PRESS (Md.) BALTIMORE — A reworked bill to control septic systems in Maryland hasn't calmed concerns about state control of local land use, officials with two key stakeholder groups said. Les Knapp Jr., associate director of the Maryland Association of Counties, said it is better than a bill introduced last year but still poses concerns for the state's counties. The largest concern is the expansion of state authority to approve residential subdivisions, he said. Val Connelly, government relations director for the Maryland Farm Bureau, said Friday that the complexity of the bill is an issue, and her group wants to make sure it receives enough study. States in the Chesapeake watershed are working to comply with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's tougher, federally led bay restoration plan that requires additional pollution cuts in all areas. Gov. Martin O'Malley surprised many last year with a proposal to ban septic systems, which are a source of nitrogen pollution, for major new developments.

Fairfax to pay penalty for wastewater spills

WASHINGTON POST Fairfax County has agreed to pay a civil penalty and enter into a consent decree with

Virginia's State Water Control Board because of a series of wastewater spills last year, including the discharge of nearly 600,000 gallons of rust-tinged sludge into Pohick Creek and several smaller sewage spills, officials said. After a closed session to discuss legal affairs at its regular meeting last Tuesday, the Fairfax Board of Supervisors disclosed that the county would enter the consent decree. The county also will pay more than $15,000 into the Department of Environmental Quality's Environmental Response Fund, according to an unsigned copy of the decree.The enforcement action, which is a formal acknowledgment of lapses and of a plan for future compliance, is a rare blemish on the record of a county that prides itself on caring for the environment. It's also a reminder of the challenges Virginia's biggest jurisdiction faces in managing a vast, aging water treatment system.

PENNSYLVANIA

PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER

Home efficiency tips from the US secretary of energy *Households in the United States consume nearly a quarter of the nation's energy - 23 percent.When President Obama spoke about domestic energy production and energy efficiency in his State of the Union address last week - "the easiest way to save money is to waste less energy," he said - the cameras briefly panned to Department of Energy Secretary Steven Chu, a Nobel Prize-winning physicist. He was smiling slightly and nodding.Before becoming energy secretary in 2009, Chu directed the Energy Department's Lawrence Berkeley National Lab, known for its work on energy. Chu was in Philadelphia recently to receive the Franklin Founders Award, given each year on Benjamin Franklin's birthday to someone who has advanced one of Franklin's interests, including energy.*

PITTSBURGH POST-GAZETTE

Letters to the editor **The XL pipeline isn't the way to create jobs.** When advocating for the construction of the Keystone XL pipeline, the oil industry and U.S. Rep. Tim Murphy ("Build the Pipeline," Jan. 25 Perspectives) conveniently neglect to mention that there is already a Keystone pipeline. Operating since 2010, the existing Keystone pipeline brings oil from Alberta, Canada, to refineries in Illinois and Oklahoma, which in turn supply U.S. consumers. The XL section of the pipeline would extend it to ports and refineries on the Gulf Coast in Texas. The real purpose of the Keystone XL pipeline then is not to make the United States less dependent on foreign oil -- after all, the oil comes from Canada, a foreign nation -- but rather to make it easier to ship the oil overseas, where it will earn the oil companies much more than if it stays here.

Hauling business gives items new lifeOne firm's trash can be a nonprofit's treasure. In 2007, James Wallace got a small pickup truck and began wading into the world of other people's waste. He started in his native Beaver Falls, renting first one small garage and then another. He began trolling other towns on their garbage nights and graduated from scrap to usable items, like refrigerators. The next year, he incorporated as U Call, We'll Haul and began getting jobs that were really heavy, emotionally and physically.

GETintoNATURE: New rule bans giant snakes The Florida Everglades teems with wildlife. Until relatively recently, alligators were king. They eat just about everything. Today, however, even gators succumb to huge exotic snakes. Freed by irresponsible collectors and pet owners, giant constrictors have climbed atop the Everglade's food chain. These snakes can weigh more than 100 pounds grow to almost 20 feet in length.

PENNLIVE

EPA announces new testing and fresh water for Dimock
(late Thursday) The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency announced Thursday it would conduct independent tests of well water at 60 homes in Dimock, where Cabot Oil & Gas has been accused of fouling the aquifer as it drilled for gas in the Marcellus Shale. The EPA said it will conduct tests at approximately 60 homes. It will also ensure

temporary water is supplied to four homes "where data reviewed by EPA indicates that residents' well water contains levels of contaminants that pose a health concern."... Regional EPA Administrator Shawn M. Garvin said in a press release, "We believe that the information provided to us by the residents deserves further review, and conducting our own sampling will help us fill information gaps. Our actions will be based on the science and the law and we will work to help get a more complete picture of water quality for these homes in Dimock." The release added that "natural gas plays a key role in our nation's clean energy future and the Obama Administration is committed to ensuring that the development of this vital resource occurs safely and responsibly." The EPA said it would take approximately three weeks to conduct the tests and another five weeks to get results.

SCRANTON TIMES-TRIBUNE

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New databases improve access to state gas drilling records A redesigned website for the state's Office of Oil and Gas Management features new data tools that simplify the public's access to permit records, drilling dates, inspections and enforcement actions for the state's multiplying natural gas wells. The site debuted two weeks ago for the Department of Environmental Protection's high-profile office, which has come under recent criticism for inconsistency in its public data about Marcellus Shale gas wells.

LEHIGH VALLEY NEWS

Environmental groups to sue EPA over delayed coal ash regulationsIt's been more than three years since a coal ash spill in eastern Tennessee was labeled the largest environmental disaster of its kind in the United States. It's been more than six years since a PPL containment area failed in Lower Mount Bethel Township sending more than 100 million gallons of ash slurry into the Delaware River. But federal regulations have yet to be implemented. Several environmental groups hope to change that and have announced plans to sue the Environmental Protection Agency over what they consider an example of the agency caving to political and corporate pressure.

READING EAGLE

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ASSOCIATED PRESS (Pa.)

Pa. town with tainted wells getting new *EPA* water (late Thursday) More than a dozen homeowners in Dimock say they have been without a reliable supply of clean water since Cabot Oil & Gas Corp., the Houston-based drilling firm blamed for polluting their aquifer, won permission from state regulators to halt daily deliveries on Nov. 30.After analyzing sampling data provided by Cabot, the residents, and the state Department of Environmental Protection, EPA said hazardous substances were found in the water wells of several homes. But only in four homes were they in high enough concentrations to present a health threat, the agency said. EPA said it might provide water to additional homes, or stop delivering water altogether, depending on the results of its own testing,"EPA is working diligently to understand the situation in Dimock and address residents' concerns," EPA Regional Administrator Shawn M. Garvin said in a statement. "We believe that the information provided to us by the residents deserves further review, and conducting our own sampling will help us fill information gaps. Our actions will be based on the science and the law and we will work to help get a more complete picture of water quality for these homes in Dimock." EPA said the federal Superfund program - the environmental fund used to clean up abandoned

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WASHINGTON, D.C.

WASHINGTON POST

Fairfax to pay penalty for wastewater spills Fairfax County has agreed to pay a civil penalty and enter into a consent decree with Virginia’s State Water Control Board because of a series of wastewater spills last year, including the discharge of nearly 600,000 gallons of rust-tinged sludge into Pohick Creek and several smaller sewage spills, officials said. After a closed session to discuss legal affairs at its regular meeting last Tuesday, the Fairfax Board of Supervisors disclosed that the county would enter the consent decree. The county also will pay more than $15,000 into the Department of Environmental Quality’s Environmental Response Fund, according to an unsigned copy of the decree.The enforcement action, which is a formal acknowledgment of lapses and of a plan for future compliance, is a rare blemish on the record of a county that prides itself on caring for the environment. It’s also a reminder of the challenges Virginia’s biggest jurisdiction faces in managing a vast, aging water treatment system.

DELAWARE

WILMINGTON NEWS JOURNAL

More trails will improve our quality of lifeI was excited that the first highlight of Gov. Markell’s State of the State address was $13 million for more hiking and biking trails.But after reading last Friday’s article, I became disappointed by John Sigler’s comment “Why in the world does Delaware need $13 million in bike trails.” More hiking and biking trails will significantly improve our quality of life.

WEST VIRGINIA

CHARLESTON GAZETTE

Former foreman sues Patriot in methane test scandal

The Associated Press is reporting on this, having picked up the story from the Morgantown Dominion Post:*An ex-mine foreman who admitted faking safety inspection reports is suing Patriot Coal Corp. and the Federal No. 2 mine bosses who he claims pressured him to falsify data. John Renner is awaiting sentencing on federal charges. He pleaded guilty in U.S. District Court in Clarksburg in March 2010, but prosecutors have repeatedly delayed his sentencing, citing his cooperation in an investigation of the mine.The complaint says mine management pressured Renner to fake methane gas readings on sealed sections of the mine to avoid a shutdown that would have stopped coal production. The managers' conduct was "atrocious, utterly intolerable in a civilized community and so extreme and outrageous as to exceed all possible bounds of decency," the complaint charges.*

CHARLESTON DAILY MAIL

Editorial: With friends like these, who needs enemies?

President Obama's EPA livens up the West Virginia political landscape

So here are West Virginia Democrats, with President Barack Obama, leader of the war on coal, at the top of the ticket, and a Senate seat and a governorship to win. And what does the administration do? The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency threatens a proposed mountaintop removal mine that would make it less expensive to finish the King Coal Highway, a project dear to Southern West Virginia Democrats. Consol Energy wants to mine 16 million tons of coal over 14 years with a surface mine that covers 2,300 acres of Buffalo Mountain between Belo and Delbarton in Mingo County. The post-mining land use plan calls for the coal company, after mining, to build the Delbarton-to-Belo segment of the King Coal Highway.

WHEELING INTELLIGENCER

Industry, Professors at Odds on Gas

Theories on methane's impact debated. ST. CLAIRSVILLE - Professors from Cornell University believe methane released by natural gas drilling activities may be worse for the environment than burning coal, but gas industry officials disagree. "We believe the preponderance of evidence indicates shale gas has a larger greenhouse gas footprint than conventional gas, considered over any time scale," said Robert W. Howarth, ecology and biology professor at Cornell, the Ivy League university based in Ithaca, New York. "The greenhouse gas footprint of shale gas also exceeds that of oil or coal when considered at decadal (10-year) time scales, no matter how the gas is used," he added of the material drillers are extracting in the Marcellus and Utica shale fields.

ASSOCIATED PRESS (W. Va.)

State still in running for cracker, Tomblin saysCHARLESTON, W.Va. -- Fresh from a trip to Houston to lure a multibillion-dollar chemical processing plant to West Virginia, Gov. Earl Ray Tomblin may ask the Legislature to consider a new incentive to aid the state's quest, he told The Associated Press in a weekend interview. In his first comments to the media since Thursday's lengthy meeting with potential investors, Tomblin said the proposal involves the potential site for one of these "cracker" plants. He declined to be more specific about the possible incentive. "I'm not sure that I can tell what that is," Tomblin told AP. "We may have to come back to the Legislature another time in order to satisfy some of their needs ... It could very well be this session."

Are Marcellus Shale jobs 'booming'? CHARLESTON, W.Va. -- Danny Simms, a self-proclaimed oil and gas industry expert, recently joined a larger Charleston accounting firm because he said it's time for him to "share the fun" of the industry. For nearly 30 years, Simms' accounting firm offered assistance in the oil and gas industry, among other services, but the small firm sometimes struggled. Simms only had about five people working at one time, which prevented the firm from handling "big jobs" and growing, he said. That changed when he joined Woomer, Nistendirk & Associates PLLC, an accounting firm started by Robert Nistendirk and Stephen Woomer 17

years ago. The firm on Capitol Street offers legal, medical, retail, manufacturers, nonprofit, and many other accounting services. Joining the firm, Simms said, "has offered me something I've been having to fight for years which is staff size. There's a lot of opportunity for us in the oil and gas industry ... we're increasing the capabilities of our firm."

MARYLAND

BALTIMORE SUN

Air quality firm to meet with Edgewater Elementary School community

Parents have complained about health concerns. A consulting firm hired by Anne Arundel County schools to test air quality at Edgewater Elementary School will meet with the school community on Tuesday. Ed Light, president of Ashton-based Building Dynamics LLC, said Friday that the company is conducting comprehensive evaluations and reviewing parents' and staff concerns. He said Building Dynamics will meet with the Edgewater community at 7 p.m. Tuesday and that a report would be issued when the firm's study is complete.

CUMBERLAND TIMES-NEWS

Letter; Maybe some of these fears are based on facts that are provenThe letter written to the editor by Scott Cline, petroleum engineer, argued that citizens concerned about fracking are “long on fiction and short on facts.” (“Unfounded fears about shale gas obscure facts,” Jan. 25 Times-News).Perhaps Mr. Cline is unfamiliar with the EPA’s conclusion in December 2011 that water contamination in Pavillion, Wyo., is caused by hydraulic fracking, with samples from that town containing at least 10 known chemicals used in the fracking process? I also wonder whether Mr. Cline is aware that EPA studies of that town’s drinking water in 2010 led the recommendation that citizens not use their tap and well water due to contaminates from dangerous chemicals — the same chemicals used in the fracking process? Chemicals used in fracking do not have to be reported by the gas companies using them and the process is exempt from the Clean Air, Clean Water, and Superfund Acts — acts passed by Congress to protect citizens from exposure to toxic and carcinogenic chemicals.

Letter: Overflowing public sewage systems may also be at fault

I agree with Mr. Jack Miltenberger, president of the Allegany County Farm Bureau, and his letter to the editor on January 27 (“It’s wrong to blame farmers for pollution in Chesapeake Bay”). Farmers have been taking the blame for polluting the Chesapeake Bay for many years. Dairy farmers used to be blamed. Have you noticed any dairy farms around the county lately?

Then mine waste water was blamed, but that has been practically eliminated. The Potomac River between Pinto and Rawlings used to have a strong odor, and a person wouldn’t think of swimming or fishing in it as we used to years ago.

ANNAPOLIS CAPITAL

Our Bay: Cost to flush may doubleChances are, it's going to cost you more to flush your toilet starting this summer. Gov. Martin O'Malley is pushing a plan that would effectively double the "flush fee" for most Marylanders. Although Republicans in the General Assembly are fighting the plan, the legislature's Democratic leaders have promised it will pass. The money would go into the state's Bay Restoration Fund, which pays for winter cover crops, septic system upgrades and sewage plant renovations.

Bay website gets a makeover

One of the most popular Chesapeake Bay reference websites got a makeover this week.Officials at the Environmental Protection Agency's Chesapeake Bay Program have been working for a year and a half to make the

site easier to navigate.

Thousands dip into bay to raise more than $2.5MThe stars aligned perfectly for the 16th annual MSP Polar Bear Plunge at Sandy Point State Park yesterday.Under blue skies and mild 53-degree temperatures, thousands plunged into the Chesapeake Bay to raise funds for a good cause - Special Olympics Maryland. As quickly as they raced into the somewhat chilly waters, they came streaming - and screaming - back to the shore.

This Week's Take: We need to double down on commitment to clean waterIf your family is like mine, the struggling economy is making every household economical decision a critical one cringed when I got my latest fuel oil bill and turned the thermostat down a couple of degrees to try and lessen the pain of the next bill.My wife and I both own fuel-efficient cars, but we still restrict driving as much as possible to delay filling up our tank as long as we can. Like many families, we are putting off important purchases, hoping to get a little more time out of a pair of shoes or a winter coat. None of this, however, dampens my strong desire for clean water and healthy air. Pollution is pollution, whether it contaminates our environment in a recession, or in an economic boom.

STAR DEMOCRAT

MDE sets hearing on WIP for Feb. 6 in Kent CountyBALTIMORE The Maryland Department of the Environment has scheduled several public meetings on the state's phase two Watershed Implementation Plans (WIP). The first is scheduled from 1 to 3:30 p.m. Monday, Feb. 6, at Washington College in Chestertown. Subsequent meetings are scheduled in Hagerstown and in Baltimore. Maryland gave the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency its draft phase two plan in December, and its available for public review and comment through March 9. The plan outlines strategies for meeting a federally mandated pollution diet for the Chesapeake Bay. More information is available online at www.mde.state.md.us.

FREDERICK NEWS POST

90 years of defending soil, air, woods, waters and wildlifeMembers of the Izaak Walton League of America are celebrating. Ninety years ago, in 1922, the IWLA was founded by a group of sportsmen meeting in Chicago. Many of them were anglers and they were concerned about the deteriorating conditions of the nation's top fishing streams. Industrial waste and raw sewage were being discharged into waterways. Wetlands were being drained and wildlife habitat being lost. Not content to just talk about the environmental woes of the time, they formed the Izaak Walton League of America, with the mission to defend the environment, promote and practice conservation and improve outdoor recreation and opportunities to do so. The organization's namesake, Izaak Walton, was a 17th-century angler, conservationist and author. His most recognized book is "The Compleat Angler," first published in 1653, a celebration of t

BALTIMORE BREW

Smoky fire breaks out at Sparrows Point

(Saturday) As the steel mill begins to return to production, a fire erupts south of its furnaces. No injuries so far reported. A fire broke out last night in a waste dump at the Sparrows Point steel mill, sending thick clouds of acrid red and black smoke into residential communities around the mill, eyewitnesses told *The Brew*. Photos sent to this website show a fire with high lapping flames that encompassed a large swath of property at the southeast part of the mill where raw and waste materials are stored. The fire broke out around 8 p.m. and caused no injuries, according to eyewitnesses. Several Baltimore County fire companies responded to the blaze, according to Twitter traffic, including the Providence Volunteer Fire Company 29 in
Towson.

WGMD.COM

Bill to Ban Fracking Wastewater Introduced in *Maryland* (Friday) Legislation has been introduced in MD that would ban the treatment of wastewater generated by hydraulic fracking that comes from other states. Maryland officials are still looking at the possibility of allowing fracking in the state – but consumer advocacy groups and

some concerned residents are looking at the possible negative effects that Maryland could be exposed to – even if fracking isn't allowed. Officials with "Food & Water Watch" say the chemicals used in fracking are toxic and often radioactive – and the waste is shipped around the country to be treated in municipal plats that don't have the proper resources to handle this sort of wastewater and they want to keep the wastewater out of Maryland treatment facilities. The legislation introduced this week – "the Hydraulic Fracturing Wastewater Prohibition Act" would protect Marylanders from the dangers of fracking.

SO MD NEWS.COM

Outdoors: Acid rain reductions have workedWith the wacky bunch of politicians we have in Washington D.C., today, it might be hard to believe that our U.S. Congress could ever do anything positive or beneficial.Those representatives in the House and Senate right now can't seem to agree on anything, but this wasn't always the case.Roll back time a little over 20 years and this same legislative body actually did some good work.In 1990, Congress passed Clean Air Act Amendments. Under Title IV, or the Acid Rain Program, it mandated substantial reductions in sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxides from power plants that use fossil fuels such as coal, gas and oil. Guess what? In a report to Congress earlier this month, coming from the National Acid Precipitation Assessment Program, "measurable improvements" have been made in air quality, visibility and human health plus the water quality in many acid-sensitive lakes and streams has gotten better because of emissions reductions from electricity generating power plants.

SEVERNAPARKPATCH

Phytoplankton Help Maintain a Healthy BayPhytoplankton, commonly referred to as algae, are microscopic size, single-cell plants that serve as an important source of food for many creatures that live in the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries. These tiny plants live near the surface of a body of water and feed on nutrients that are washed into waterways. During warm weather, when excessive amounts of nutrients are washed into waterways, the phytoplankton population will increase dramatically which can warn biologists that an oxygen deprived dead zone may soon be created in the water. Dead zones occur when the phytoplankton die, sink to the bottom of a body of water, and undergo a decomposition process by bacteria which robs the water of the oxygen needed to sustain aquatic life such as fish and crabs.

ASSOCIATED PRESS (Md.)

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VIRGINIA

ASSOCIATED PRESS (Va.)

Virginia legislators seek to link health impacts, regulation of power providers RICHMOND, Va. — Two Democratic state legislators want Virginia regulators to consider the public health impacts of electricity generation. Sen. Donald McEachin of Henrico County and Del. David Englin of Alexandria will outline their proposals Monday at a news conference in Richmond. They'll be joined by an asthma sufferer.The two say Virginia's electric utilities generate pollution that causes a range of illnesses costing the state and leading to premature deaths. They'll illustrate the problem with a map showing areas hardest hit by coal-fired plants.

MISCELLANEOUS

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Calif air regulators pass auto emissions rules to cut air pollution, spur clean car marketSAN FRANCISCO — Seeking to influence other states and Washington, California air regulators passed sweeping auto emission standards Friday that include a mandate to have 1.4 million electric and hybrid vehicles on state roads by 2025. The California Air Resources Board unanimously approved the new rules that require that one in seven of the new cars sold in the state in 2025 be an electric or other zero-emission vehicle.

Lunar New Year fireworks send Beijing air pollution soaring under new measuring system
BEIJING — Clouds of smoke from Lunar New Year fireworks sent air pollution readings soaring in the more sensitive measurement system Beijing started using a little more than a week ago, reports said Sunday.

BLOOMBERG NEWS

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PORT TECHNOLOGY INTERNATIONAL

Maersk signs up for *Virginia* Port's low-emission schemeDanish shipper Maersk Line has announced that it will burn low-sulfur fuel while at berth in the Port of Virginia from February.Maersk will become the first shipping line to participate in the Commonwealth of Virginia's Green Operator fuel switch program through the Virginia Port Authority (VPA), the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality and the Department of Transportation.It is hoped that the initiative will help to improve air quality in the greater Hampton Roads area, with the significant reduction of sulfur and nitrogen oxide emissions.