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Bloomberg Environment

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Highlights

LEADING THE NEWS

Trump EPA Plans New Restrictions on Science Used in Rulemaking

By Jennifer A. Dlouhy

The Environmental Protection Agency is preparing to restrict the scientific studies it uses to develop and justify regulations, making it harder to rely on research when its underlying data are shielded from view.

Oil, Gas Firms Could Avoid EPA Penalties by Admitting Violations

By Amena H. Saiyid

Oil and gas producers that choose to report past environmental violations at drilling sites, and related assets that they acquire, may dodge penalties under an audit program that the EPA plans to expand.

Communications Contract Cuts May Signal DOE Shift From Clean Energy

By Rebecca Kern

The Energy Department has cut its clean energy communications contract—after spending $41.6 million over the past four years—to $1.47 million in the coming year, according to the Bloomberg Government contracts database.

Disappearing Lakes Are Latest Bad News for Greenland Ice Sheet

By Adam Allington

Satellites orbiting 430 feet over Greenland's interior are telling a story of disintegration. Long cracks formed on the surface of the Greenland ice sheet are linking miles and miles of meltwater-filled lakes and depressions.

Power Plants Can't Rely on Defunct Air Trading Program for Haze

By Jennifer Lu

Electric utilities can't rely on a Bush-era emissions trading program to meet their obligation to improve visibility in parks and wilderness areas, judges said in a March 20 opinion.

Security Detail Added $30K More to EPA Chief's Italy Trip

By Eric Roston

Travel costs for security personnel accompanying EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt to Italy tallied $30,554, bringing the grand total for the trip to $120,249, according to documents obtained by the Environmental Integrity Project.

World's Last Male Northern White Rhino Dies in Kenyan Reserve

By Paul Richardson

The world's last male northern white rhino died, leaving only two females of the species left on the planet.

TODAY'S NEWS

Auto Industry Sees Path For California, EPA Fuel Economy Deal

By Abby Smith

Auto suppliers and manufacturers see an opening for California regulators to compromise with the Trump administration on "slight adjustments" to fuel economy standards for passenger cars—but the EPA must provide data to back up any changes.

Refiners Could Save Millions Under EPA Air Pollution Proposal

By Jennifer Lu

Industry would save millions of dollars under proposed "technical corrections" to work standards, record-keeping, and reporting requirements for controlling hazardous air pollution from refineries.

Energy Department's Advanced Research, Loans Get Nod From Perry (1)

By Rebecca Kern

Energy Secretary Rick Perry spoke positively about his department's loans and advanced research programs during a March 20 hearing, even though the Trump administration has proposed to cut their funding.

Nuclear Regulator's Shrinking Staff a Safety Concern, Democrats Say

By Bobby Magill

Shrinking staffing levels at the Nuclear Regulatory Commission as nuclear power plants are shuttered raise safety questions, congressional Democrats told NRC commissioners March 20.

Chevron, Oil Giants Request Dismissal of California Climate Case

By Kartikay Mehrotra

Federal statute prohibits California and its cities from blaming individual companies for the effects of global warming, several oil companies said in a filing asking a San Francisco judge to dismiss the case against them.

Sunny U.S. Southeast Is Finally Becoming a Hot Spot for Solar

By Brian Eckhouse

The reason why the sunny U.S. Southeast resisted solar power for years is the same reason that explains its about-face: cost.

Exxon Says U.S. Gulf Coast Plastics Project Could Begin by 2021

By Kevin Crowley

Exxon Mobil Corp. said a project to expand plastics manufacturing along the U.S. Gulf Coast could start up by 2021 as the oil explorer boosts investment in a business that accounted for almost one-fourth of last year's profit.

Oldest Reactor Ready for 60 Years of Operation After Makeover

By Jesper Starn

Swiss utility Axpo Holding AG restarted the world's oldest nuclear reactor after halting it since 2015 to carry out works that will allow it to operate for at least a dozen more years.

U.S., EU Spar Over Solar Tariff Compensation Terms

By Bryce Baschuk

The U.S. and the European Union remain at loggerheads over the impact of President Donald Trump's solar tariffs on European producers, according to a World Trade Organization filing published March 20.

Lawmakers Threaten Fight on Nuclear Sharing Deal with Saudis

By Jennifer A. Dlouhy

Congress could move to disapprove an agreement to provide nuclear power technology to Saudi Arabia if the U.S. doesn't secure "binding commitments against enrichment and reprocessing" of spent nuclear fuel or "assurances

against the deployment of these sensitive technologies," two House lawmakers warned.

City Loses Insurance Fight Over Chemicals Leaked From Pipes

By Peter Hayes

A central California city won't get insurance coverage for liability stemming from a commercial laundry's claims that municipal pipes leaked toxic solvents.

Appalachia Beats Texas in Chemical Money-Making Potential: Report (Corrected)

By Jack Kaskey

Appalachia wants what Texas has.

Dubai Breaks Ground on Record-Breaking Solar Power Plant

By Matthew Kalman

Dubai broke ground on the biggest concentrated solar power project in the world, slated to generate 700 megawatts of power as part of a complex that will generate 5,000 megawatts by 2030.

BMW Joins List of Carmakers Probed for Suspected Diesel Cheating

By Elisabeth Behrmann

BMW AG became the latest in a list of carmakers under investigation over suspected illegal devices to influence emissions setups in its diesel vehicles—even as the German carmaker said it simply made a mistake.

Czech Utility Coordinates Nuclear Project with Green Spinoff

By Ladka Bauerova

CEZ AS, Eastern Europe's largest utility, plans to spin off its renewable energy assets alongside the tender for new nuclear units.

Critics Cry Foul as India Changes Coastal Rules for Violators

By Madhur Singh

India's new policy allowing businesses to obtain permits retroactively for operations in coastal areas that began without prior approval has environmental advocates up in arms.

Grassley Worries Trump Could Cap Biofuel Credit Costs

By Jennifer A. Dlouhy and Mario Parker

Sen. Chuck Grassley (R-Iowa) said he is “very fearful” President Trump “really doesn’t understand the damage” that would be caused to the ethanol industry and rural America if the government caps the cost of compliance credits refiners use to prove they have satisfied biofuel blending quotas.

Bid for FDA Ban of Formaldehyde Hair Products Stalled

By Steven M. Sellers

Two environmental groups can't force the Food and Drug Administration to begin rulemaking to regulate or ban formaldehyde in hair-straightening products, the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia said March 19.

Father-Daughter Team Claims Cheaper, Safer Way to Bury Nuclear Waste

By Ashlee Vance

A case study in the annals of political paralysis has been Nevada’s Yucca Mountain, a would-be repository for the country’s nuclear waste that’s never quite come to serve that purpose. The debate over whether to store spent nuclear fuel inside Yucca has entered its fourth decade, and rumblings from the White House and Congress suggest lots more ineffectual arguing ahead. That is, unless the Mullers get their way.

McDonald's to Cut Greenhouse Gases in Push to Boost Sales, Reputation

By Leslie Patton

McDonald's Corp., on a quest to boost sales by improving its image, is vowing to cut its greenhouse-gas emissions.

Teijin Plans More China Plants in Bet on Electric-Vehicle Boom

By Ma Jie and Kiyotaka Matsuda

Teijin Ltd., a Japanese supplier of carbon fiber used in planes and premium cars, is planning to increase its capacity in China as rising sales of electric cars boosts demand for its composites products that help cut vehicle weight.

Glencore and Rio Diverge on Coal with $1.7 Billion Mine Deal

By Ben Sharples and Jack Farchy

Glencore Plc agreed to buy two of Rio Tinto Group's last remaining coal assets for $1.7 billion, underscoring the differing views of the mining giants toward the world's dirtiest fuel.

French Farmland Birds Die Off as Researchers Eye Insecticides

By Rudy Ruitenberg

Grain fields and meadows in France, Europe's largest agricultural producer, are falling silent due to a "dizzying" decline in the country's farmland bird population, researchers said.

Blue Skies Above China Need Space Below Ground to Store Gas

By Dan Murtaugh

While China seeks more natural gas to meet booming demand from President Xi Jinping's clean-air drive, one part of the fuel's supply chain isn't growing fast enough to avoid a repeat of this winter's supply crunch.

Unilever Wants to Filter China's Foul Air Before It's Cleaned Up

By Thomas Buckley

As urban China was cloaked in smog two years ago, Unilever saw a business opportunity. The company that had perfected its approach to cleanliness and convenience—think Dove soap and Knorr instant soups—bought an air-

purifying business, aiming to help Chinese consumers cut through the toxic cloud.

Indonesian Mining Giant Wants to Ride Electric Vehicle Bandwagon

By Tassia Sipahutar

Indonesia's state-owned miners are on a mission to reposition the country from a supplier of raw materials to one that caters to demand for metals from makers of electric vehicles and smart-phones.

MONDAY NIGHT WRAPUP

Unlimited Term for China's Xi Could Mean Green Push Continues

By Michael Standaert

China's war on pollution and campaign for an "ecological civilization" could continue for decades if the National People's Congress a approves a measure allowing President Xi Jinping to remain in power for life.

EPA Fluorochemicals Summit With States Planned for May

By Tiffany Stecker

Governors from across the country will discuss solutions to the growing problem of certain chemicals in U.S. drinking water systems at an EPA-hosted summit in Washington in May.

Growth of Uncompleted Oil Wells Slows Amid Shale Surge

By Alex Nussbaum

While U.S. shale explorers are pumping record amounts of oil, the growth rate is flattening out for one closely watched category: drilled-but-uncompleted wells.

Shakeup Looms for China's Electric-Vehicle Makers

By Bloomberg News

China's breakneck push to lead the world in electric-vehicle adoption may cause collateral damage among the legion of domestic carmakers deemed superfluous to that mission.

Peru to Require Climate Change Adaptation, Mitigation Strategies

By Lucien O. Chauvin

Peru's Congress has cleared environmental legislation that would require local, state, and national governments to include climate change adaptation and mitigation in their investment policies, strategies, and projects.

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