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From: Bloomberg Environment - Environment & Energy Report [bloomberg@bna.com]
Sent: 10/31/2018 8:05:50 PM
To: Smidinger, Betsy [Smidinger.Betsy@epa.gov]
Subject: Environment & Energy Report Highlights

Bloomberg Environment

ENVIRONMENT & ENERGY REPORT

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Highlights

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LEADING THE NEWS

EPA's Science Advisers to Focus on Lead in Blood

By Sylvia Carignan

A model for lead's effects on the human body is the latest focus for EPA acting Administrator Andrew Wheeler's scientific advisers.

Search for New Coal Uses to Prop Up Industry Gets $18.7M From DOE

By Stephen Lee

The Trump administration made another overture to the coal industry Oct. 31, rolling out $18.7 million to fund research into ways of turning coal into other products.

Conservation Fund Bill Could Attach to Lands Package in Lame Duck

By Dean Scott

A measure to revive an expired federal conservation fund could hitch a ride on legislation that can quickly gain support and avoid draining floor time during the lame-duck session.

New FERC Chairman Says Politics Won't Dictate Grid Action

By Stephen Cunningham

The nation's top energy regulator said politics won't play any role in whether his agency takes action to ensure grid resilience, after an earlier plan to prop up ailing coal and nuclear power plants was rejected.

Obama Furnace, Water Heater Rules Should Be Yanked: Gas Industry

By Rebecca Kern

Natural gas industry groups want the Energy Department to withdraw Obama-era proposed energy efficiency standards for certain gas furnaces and water heaters.

TODAY'S NEWS

Some Assembly Required as Ikea Expands 'Circular' Supply Strategy

By Adam Allington

With its clean Scandinavian aesthetic and affordable prices, Ikea has produced some 12,000 products and outfitted millions of homes and apartments around the world.

Brazil's Bolsonaro Said to Consider Pro-Market Energy Team

By Sabrina Valle and Mario Sergio Lima

President-elect Jair Bolsonaro and his economic czar Paulo Guedes are approaching established Brazilian executives and pro-market bureaucrats to

lead the energy ministry and state-controlled oil and power companies, according to four people familiar with the talks.

Merkel's Coalition Has Finally Endorsed German Green Power Plan

By Brian Parkin

Germany's ruling coalition sealed a long-awaited plan to boost auctions of wind and solar power, brushing aside the political turmoil that's dogged the alliance since the summer and making good on election promises.

Immunity for 'International Organizations' Unclear (1)

By Kimberly Strawbridge Robinson

An uncharacteristically cold U.S. Supreme Court bench made it difficult to predict if "international organizations" similar to the United Nations and The World Bank enjoy greater immunity from suit than foreign governments.

Chemours Co. Loses Bid for Duties on Chemical Imports

By Brian Flood

Imports of polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE) resin fom China and India are not seriously hurting or threatening U.S. industry, the International Trade Commission announced Oct. 31.

France Needs $11 Billion in Green Subsidies to Shrink Nuclear

By Rachel Morison

The French government may need an additional 10 billion euros ($11 billion) to subsidize the renewable technologies needed to keep fossil-fuel use in check as it scales back its long-standing reliance on nuclear power.

Puerto Rico Seeks Firms to Oversee Electrical Distribution

By Michelle Kaske

Puerto Rico is looking for companies to manage and operate the transmission and distribution system for the island's bankrupt electric utility.

Virginia Farmer Fights to Harvest Uranium

By Ari Natter

Walter Coles Sr. stood on a hill overlooking the Virginia pasture land that his family has farmed since it was deeded to them by Thomas Jefferson, motioning with a sweep of his hand to the expanse of radioactive treasure buried below.

The Car That Will Help Big Automakers Game China's New Rules

By Ma Jie

Automakers typically want their cars to stand out. However, China's push for greener vehicles is prompting Toyota, Fiat Chrysler, Honda, and Mitsubishi to resort to an unusual move: they're set to sell the same car.

Canada Can Grow While Greening Energy Production, Top Regulator Says (1)

By James Munson

Canada's energy mix could become less carbon-intensive during the next two decades while growth in energy demand could gradually slow, according to the country's largest energy regulator.

What You Need to Know Before Palm Oil's Top Players Meet

By Anuradha Raghu and Eko Listiyorini

Many of the world's most important palm oil players will gather on the tropical island of Bali this week Trade wars, biodiesel, El Nino and the outlook for supplies of the oil, used in everything from chocolate to shampoo, are likely to be under discussion.

France Braces for First Winter as Unified Natural Gas Market

By Anna Shiryaevskaya

France is merging its two natural gas trading hubs, smoothing price shocks if supply in the south is tight.

For Farmers, Trade and Food Policy Are at Play in U.S. Midterms

By Mario Parker

A flip in either or both chambers of Congress with next week's midterm elections may reverberate into pig farms and soybean fields.

Glencore Is Going to Get Crazy Rich on Coal Next Year

By Thomas Biesheuvel

Glencore Plc's coal mining business will eclipse its copper unit next year and become the world's biggest commodity trader's most profitable operation.

Ikea's Nod to Sustainability • Contaminant Liability in California • Conservationist's Mixed Legacy (Corrected)

By Stephen Lee

Known for its flat-pack goods and unpronounceable product names, Swedish home furnishings giant Ikea has revolutionized the way we think about, and shop for, furniture.

ALL ABOUT: Conservationist Edna Molewa

By Wachira Kigotho

Edna Molewa, the late South African minister for environmental affairs, had a vision for how to conserve wildlife that involved controlled hunting and sales of lion bones and elephant tusks.

INSIGHT: PFAS Liability Is Coming to California

Across the country, regulators and litigants are turning their attention to the emerging contaminants known as "perfluoroalkyl" or "polyfluoroalkyl" substances (PFAS). PFAS are ubiquitous in modern life. These emerging contaminants come from an incredible variety of sources and have been used in myriad ways for decades, ranging from firefighting at airports and military bases to carpet manufacturing to wastewater treatment. Alston & Bird attorneys Jeffrey Dintzer and Nathaniel Johnson explore upcoming legal liability for the chemicals in California and elsewhere.

Are You Smarter Than an Environmental Reporter? (Podcast)

By David Schultz

This week, we introduce a new segment on our weekly environmental policy podcast, Parts Per Billion : a news quiz where you can test your knowledge of current events against that of Bloomberg Environment's finest journalists.

TUESDAY NIGHT WRAPUP

Illinois Sues to Force Plant to Limit Toxic Emissions or Close

By Stephen Joyce

An Illinois company that sterilizes medical equipment and other products could be shut down if it can't limit its emissions of the chemical ethylene oxide, which is toxic to humans.

Probe of Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke Sent to U.S. Prosecutors

By Ari Natter and Jennifer A. Dlouhy

The Interior Department's top watchdog has referred an investigation into Secretary Ryan Zinke to the Justice Department, raising the prospect that criminal violations have been uncovered, the Washington Post reported Oct. 30.

Over 250 Companies Sign Pledge to Fight Plastic Pollution

By Adam Allington

Some of the world's largest consumer goods manufacturers and packaging companies, including Colgate-Palmolive, PepsiCo, and Unilever, have pledged to minimize plastic pollution and make their products more environmentally friendly.

Edison Says Equipment May Have Partly Sparked California Wildfire

By Mark Chediak

Edison International says some of its equipment was likely one of the triggers behind the second-largest wildfire in California history, which raged north of Los Angeles in December.

GM Trust Sues National Grid, GE for N.Y. Site Cleanup Costs (1)

By Sylvia Carignan

A General Motors Co. trust handling the company's former plants is suing National Grid, General Electric, Bristol-Myers Squibb Co., and others for the cost of cleaning up a plant in upstate New York.

Environmentalists Ponder New Lawsuit on Power Plant Wastewater

By Amena H. Saiyid

The Center for Biological Diversity is debating whether to appeal a federal court ruling tossing out a lawsuit over the EPA's delay of toxic limits for some wastewater released by power plants.

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