Message

From: Bloomberg BNA [bloomberg@bna.com]
Sent: 10/26/2017 12:28:02 AM
To: Duffy, Rick [Duffy.Rick@epa.gov]
Subject: Oct. 26 -- Daily Environment Report

-->

Bloomberg BNA

Daily Environment Report

October 26, 2017 - Number 206

The Bloomberg BNA Daily Environment Report is brought to you by EPA Libraries. Please note, these materials may be copyrighted and should not be forwarded outside of the U.S. EPA. If you have any questions or no longer wish to receive these messages, please contact Josue Rivera-Olds at rivera-olds.josue@epa.gov, 202-566-1558.

Leading the News

EPA
EPA's Pruitt Denies He's an Ally of Polluters, Vows to Get Tough
Scott Pruitt, the head of the Environmental Protection Agency, vowed that he will get tough on corporate polluters, dismissing critics who cast him as too cozy with industry.

Energy
Fossil Fuels Get Boost as Agencies Scrutinize Their Rules
Natural gas permitting is likely to be streamlined and air pollution and appliance efficiency regulations will get extra scrutiny as federal agencies seek ways to ease burdens on domestic energy production.

Regulatory Policy
Waiting Game Begins as EPA Nominees Sail Through Committee
President Donald Trump's picks to staff the EPA and the nation's nuclear regulator sailed through a Senate committee, but they face a longer road to getting a confirmation vote.

Water Infrastructure
Interior Department Says No to Aiding California Water Tunnels
California can't count on the Trump administration to advance its $17.1 billion plan to re-engineer the state's key water conveyance system.

News

Air Pollution
No Changes to Toxic Air Pollution Rule for Wastewater Treatment
Standards for the amount of hazardous air pollution allowed to come from wastewater treatment plants will stay the same, the EPA said in a final rule.

Biodiversity
Fire Rages Across Brazil National Park; Arson Suspected
A fire has burned through about a quarter Brazil's Chapada dos Veadeiros National Park, and as of Oct. 25 had not been brought under control, the government said.

Chemicals
Home Depot Is Removing Formaldehyde as Part of Push to Go Green
Home Depot Inc. is eliminating substances like formaldehyde and lead in several categories, making it the latest retailer to accede to demands for greener products.

Chemicals
U.K. Chemical Companies Face Brexit Uncertainty, Green Watchdog Warns
U.K. chemical companies fear the government's lack of clarity about their future regulatory framework could significantly damage the country's second-biggest manufacturing industry after it leaves the European Union, according to the British Parliament's green watchdog.

Chemicals
Workplace Chemical Exposure Limits Now in EPA's Hands
Regulators at the Environmental Protection Agency can accomplish what their counterparts at the Occupational Safety and Health Administration largely have not: They can limit worker exposure to a host of hazardous chemicals.

Climate Change
Coal Producer Peabody Can Look to Future Without Paying for Past
Peabody Energy Corp. is off the hook for now for liabilities related to its role in climate change.

Climate Policy
NRG Backs Carbon Tax Amid Bid to Sell Clean-Energy Operations
Just because NRG Energy Inc., the owner of almost 9 gigawatts of coal-fired power, is working to sell its renewables businesses doesn't mean it's giving up on clean energy.

Endangered Species
Ringleader Admits Shipping Ivory, Rhino Horn, Coral to China
A basement in historic Concord, Mass., was the staging ground for a wildlife smuggling ring that shipped $700,000 of ivory, coral, and rhinoceros antiquities from the U.S. to China, the leader of the ring has admitted to a federal judge.

Energy
European Coal-Power Addicts Dwarf Those Planning Exits
Europe still has a long way to go to curb its addiction to coal power when viewed through the lens of capacity, according to Bloomberg New Energy Finance.

Energy
Forget the Grid of the Future, Puerto Ricans Just Want Power Back
A month after Hurricane Maria devastated the island, power lines still lay slack along roads, utility poles are snapped clean in half, and most Puerto Ricans remain in the dark.

Energy
Nuclear Industry Pushes IRS for Decommissioning Fund Rule Change
Nuclear energy industry advocates urged the IRS to allow power plants shutting down to use

tax-favored funds to pay for storing spent fuel whether or not the expenditures are tax deductible.

Energy

Rick Perry Discusses Power Supply with African Nations

U.S. Energy Secretary Rick Perry discussed energy issues, including liquefied natural gas supply for electricity generation, with a range of African nations from Nigeria and Ivory Coast to South Africa.

Formaldehyde

Lumber Liquidators Reaches $36M Laminate Flooring Settlement

Lumber Liquidators has reached a $36 million settlement of class action claims over its sale of Chinese-made laminate flooring (In re Lumber Liquidators Chinese-Manufactured Flooring Products Marketing, Sales Practices and Products Liability Litigation, E.D. Va., 15-md-2627, 16-md-2743, 10/24/17).

Pesticides

Chemical Companies Concerned as EU Glyphosate Deadlock Continues

BASF Corp., Monsanto Co., and other companies marketing products containing glyphosate expressed frustration Oct. 25 at the lack of progress in the European Union over the reauthorization of the herbicide.

Regulatory Policy

House Votes to Bolster Industry Say in Environmental Settlements

The House moved Oct. 25 to abolish what Republicans see as improper collusion between the EPA and environmental groups when they negotiate settlements that force the agency to expedite or strengthen regulations, sending the bill to an uncertain future in the Senate.

Renewable Energy

Ban on New Onshore Wind Farms May Cost U.K. Up to $1.3 Billion

The U.K.'s subsidy ban for new onshore wind farms could tack 1 billion pounds ($1.3 billion) onto power bills over five years by eschewing one of the cheapest forms of clean energy.

Renewable Energy

Spain's Supreme Court Upholds 'Sun Tax' on Solar Producers

Spain's solar producers could fall out of sync with the European Union's renewable energy and climate goals after the country's Supreme Court upheld a decision on fees known as the sun tax.

Renewable Energy

Why Oil-Rich Gulf Arab Countries Are Turning to Renewables

Solar power is getting so cheap that even Gulf Arab states awash in crude oil are embracing the renewable resource. Their motive is as much to keep selling fossil fuels as it is to rein in their carbon emissions.

TCE

Ametek Exec Loses Bid to Dismiss Hazmat Death Claims

An executive for Ametek Inc. must answer claims that his inaction in cleaning up a large hazardous waste spill contributed to a woman's cancer death, the Southern District of California ruled Oct. 24 (Cox v. Ametek, Inc., 2017 BL 381749, S.D. Cal., No. 17-cv-01211, 10/24/17).

Correction

Because of en editing error, the affiliation of the press secretary in the final paragraph of the Oct. 24 story, "Energy Bid to Support Coal, Nuke Plants Called Illegal," was incorrect. The press secretary works for the Department of Energy. The online version of the story has been corrected.

Practitioner Insights

Pesticides

Practitioner Insights: Manipulated Science Attacks Vital Herbicide

Our quality of life depends on sound science. From health care to transportation to energy and food, progress and innovation will require valid and objective research.

Privacy Policy | Terms of Service | Manage Your Email | Contact Us

1801 South Bell Street, Arlington, VA 22202

Copyright © 2017 The Bureau of National Affairs, Inc.