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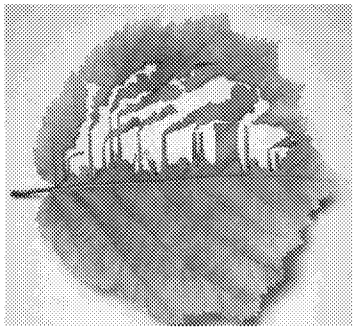
Subject: Cross-Cutting Issues News for November 26, 2021



Cross-Cutting Issues News for November 26, 2021

Bloomberg Environment

Environment & Energy

NOTE: The next Bloomberg Law environment afternoon newsletter will appear Nov. 29.

South Fork Wind Slated to Start Construction in 2022

Biden administration environment moves top today's news, starting with a second major U.S. wind farm gaining federal approval.

The South Fork Wind project, a joint venture between Orsted AS and Eversource Energy, will consist of 12 turbines located 35 miles east of Montauk Point in New York and 19 miles southeast of Block Island in Rhode Island. It's slated to start construction in early 2022.

Vineyard Wind, another wind farm off Massachusetts' coast, broke ground last week. Both projects are part of Biden administration goals to cut emissions and build 30 gigawatts of offshore wind energy by 2030. South Fork will generate about 130 megawatts.

"In just six months, the U.S. offshore wind industry has seen the approval of two large-scale wind power projects, and momentum is gaining," Business Network for Offshore Wind President and CEO Liz Burdock said.

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Carbon Capture Expert to Lead Energy Office

The Biden administration has tapped two engineering professors to head up a new energy division of White House Office of Science and Technology Policy.

Sally Benson, a professor of energy engineering at Stanford University, was hired as the office's deputy director for energy and chief strategist for the energy transition. Costa Samaras, an associate professor of civil and environmental engineering at Carnegie Mellon University, will serve as principal assistant director for energy and chief advisor for energy policy, the White House said.

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Infrastructure Funds Require a Coordinated Permitting Strategy

The new $1.2 trillion infrastructure funding package is expected to spur a flurry of project development against a backdrop of climate change and environmental justice concerns, Baker Botts attorneys Allison Watkins Mallick and Joshua Frank write in a Bloomberg Law Insight.

Streamlined Permitting: While much of the package is dedicated to federal and state infrastructure programs, the bill also allocates billions of dollars in incentives and matching funds for energy projects, including grid resiliency and the development of carbon capture projects, they say. The package also includes provisions to streamline environmental permitting for such projects, including the preparation of a single, joint environmental impact statement for certain projects, they say.

Coordinated Strategy: To help mitigate the risks of a lengthy and resource-intensive permit defense process, project proponents should have a coordinated strategy to address potential climate change and environmental justice issues, Mallick and Frank say. For example, they note that the 333-mile Champlain Hudson Power Express transmission line was able to obtain multiple federal and state permits without substantial opposition because the developer engaged with stakeholders, created a community benefits fund, performed a comprehensive environmental review, and made routing changes in response to community feedback.

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Offshore Wind Farm East of New York Wins Federal Approval

The U.S. Department of the Interior approved the construction of a wind farm off the coast of New York that will provide power for 70,000 homes. Read More

U.S. Trade Agency Says Trump Solar Tariffs Are Still Needed (3)

A U.S. trade agency has determined that tariffs on imported solar equipment, imposed by Donald Trump in 2018, are still necessary. Read More

Chart: Delivering U.S. Power Is Almost as Costly as Producing It

U.S. utility spending to replace aging transmission equipment and install more lines to reach new wind and solar farms means the cost of delivering electricity has been steadily rising. At the same time, the falling price of natural gas in recent years, along with wider use of renewables that don't need fuel, has dragged down the cost of producing power.

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Labor Proposal Stakes Out Final Word on ESG Retirement Investing

A proposed Biden administration rule making it easier for retirement plans to invest in environmental and socially conscious funds has the potential to settle a perennial debate over do-good investments in workers' savings. Read More

Germany's New Coalition Unveils Plan to Green Economy Faster (1)

Germany's new coalition government stepped up efforts to slash greenhouse gas emissions with a faster coal exit, more renewables and a new carbon price floor. Read More

Only Three Oil Majors Align With Paris Goals, Fund Managers Say

Only three oil and gas majors have strategies aligned with keeping global warming limited to 1.5 degrees Celsius, according to an assessment by a group managing $39 trillion in assets. Read More

China's Slowdown Could Mean Peak Emissions Have Come Early

China's carbon dioxide emissions have dropped for the first time since the economy was locked down at the start of pandemic, after the nation's property slump hit construction activity and its energy crisis forced the authorities to ration power. Read More

California Power Outages Rise as High Winds Raise Fire Risk (2)

The largest utility in Southern California cut power for more customers in the mountains near Los Angeles as strong winds raised the risk of wildfire, marking the

second year in a row that parts of the region will spend Thanksgiving in the dark. Read More

Adelphia Gateway Loses Bid to Move Gas Dispute to Third Circuit

Documents Attached

Adelphia Gateway LLC can't proceed with its lawsuit that seeks to move a dispute over Pennsylvania's approval of its natural gas compressor station to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit, a federal court in the state ruled. Read More

Chemical Makers Face First of Two EPA Fee Hikes (2)

Document Attached

Fees that chemical manufacturers pay the EPA so the agency can partly recoup its costs to oversee the safety of their products will increase 18.9% effective Jan. 1. Read More

Nominations Sought for Bloomberg Law's Pro Bono Innovators

Bloomberg Law in 2022 will recognize a selection of law firms, companies and non-profit organizations that are successfully innovating in their approaches to pro bono legal service across the globe. We're thrilled to announce a call for nominations for our new award, Pro Bono Innovators.

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InsideEPA *will return Monday, Nov. 29.*

GREENWIRE
E&E NEWS PUBLICATION

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Biden admin approves nation's second offshore wind project
By Heather Richards, E&E News reporter
On Thanksgiving, Smokey Bear takes Manhattan
By Jennifer Yachnin, E&E News reporter
White House science office launches energy division
By Nick Sobczyk, E&E News reporter
Biden nominates Shalanda Young for OMB director
By Kelsey Brugger, E&E News reporter
EPA bans Trump-era regional chief from federal contracts
By Kevin Bogardus, E&E News reporter
White House reveals federal agency vaccine rates
By Kelsey Brugger, E&E News reporter
Biden pressured to fill Nuclear Regulatory Commission seats
By Jeremy Dillon, E&E News reporter
BLM wild horse, burro adoptions near two-decade high
By Scott Streater, E&E News reporter
Industry group challenges Forest Service on timber reduction
By Marc Heller, E&E News reporter
Dungeness crab season to open Dec. 1 for first time in years
By The Astorian/Associated Press
Feds back extension of Trump solar tariffs
By David Iaconangelo, E&E News reporter
Maine official suspends permit for $1B transmission line
By Associated Press
Tacoma LNG plant gets OK from Wash. pollution board
By Associated Press
Lawsuit: BP refinery permit change undercuts soot ruling
By Sean Reilly, E&E News reporter
Liberal Ore. resists dropping controversial investments
By Associated Press
R.I. rethinks transportation pollution plan after compact fails
By Associated Press
Santa Ana winds to raise Southern Calif. fire danger
By Associated Press

Great Barrier Reef erupts in color after bleaching episodes

By Associated Press

Pakistani cultural capital is now world's most polluted city

By Associated Press

CLIMATEWIRE

AN E&E NEWS PUBLICATION

Editor's note: Climatewire *will return Monday, Nov. 29.*

ENERGYWIRE

AN E&E NEWS PUBLICATION

Editor's note: Energywire *will return Monday, Nov. 29.*

ENN ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS NETWORK

FERAL HOG INVASIONS LEAVE COASTAL MARSHES MORE SUSCEPTIBLE TO CLIMATE CHANGE

Coastal marshes that have been invaded by feral hogs recover from disturbances up to three times slower than non-invaded marshes and are far less resilient to sea-level rise, extreme drought and other impacts of climate change, a new study led by scientists at Duke University and the University of Massachusetts Boston (UMB) finds.

UNLOCKING KEYS TO CLIMATE CHANGE HIDDEN IN NEW ZEALAND'S CAVES

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