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NEWS

Air Pollution
EPA Approves Oklahoma Plan to Curb Regional Haze, Withdraws Federal Plan
The Environmental Protection Agency said Feb. 10 it has approved Oklahoma's plan to control regional haze pollution originating from two coal-fired power plants in the state, withdrawing a federal plan to reduce haze....

Climate Change
Con Edison to Calculate Economic Benefits Of Preparing Utility for Climate Change
Electric utility Con Edison will conduct an economic analysis to quantify the benefits of preparing its infrastructure for the impacts of climate change, a company official said Feb. 10....

Climate Change
EPA 'On Track' to Issue Greenhouse Gas Rule For Existing Power Plants, McCarthy Says
The Environmental Protection Agency is "on track" to issue its proposed carbon dioxide emissions standards for existing power plants in June 2015, and it will try to ensure "every sensitivity" to the jobs and communities...

Climate Change
Labor Leader Urges Infrastructure Investment To Protect Against Climate Change Impacts
Labor leaders are among those urging significant federal investments in water, energy and waste infrastructure as a way to promote job creation and protect from the impacts of climate change....

Drilling

Industry Seen Gaining From Presence
Of Oil-State Senators Atop Energy Committee
They are senior senators from two of the nation's top oil-producing states, longtime friends who are about to begin a partnership that has environmentalists uneasy and industry lobbyists counting on a shift in energy policy....

Drinking Water
GAO Report Says EPA Should Monitor
For More Than 30 Unregulated Contaminants
Congress should amend the Safe Drinking Water Act to allow the Environmental Protection Agency to monitor for more than 30 contaminants under certain circumstances, the Government Accountability Office said in a report released Feb. 10....

Drinking Water
Regulatory Gap Cited in Chemical Spill
Tainting Charleston, W.Va., Water Supply
The West Virginia storage facility that leaked a chemical that contaminated the water supply of 300,000 Charleston-area customers shouldn't have been built upstream from a treatment plant, a federal investigator said....

Drinking Water
Suit Claims 'Collective Dereliction' of Duty
By West Virginia Agencies in Elk River Spill
West Virginia agencies charged with safeguarding public health committed "collective dereliction" of duty by failing to prevent the Elk River chemical spill, according to a lawsuit filed on behalf of affected citizens (Covenant...

Energy
Commitment to Low-Carbon Policies Needed
To Promote Nuclear Reactors: DOE Official
The Department of Energy envisions a fleet of small nuclear reactors replacing retiring coal-fired power plants over the next two to three decades, but it will require a strong national commitment to low carbon and clean energy policies to...

Energy
Energy Department Finalizes Efficiency
Standards for Metal Halide Lamp Fixtures
Metal halide light fixtures commonly used to light parking lots, as well as commercial and industrial buildings with high ceilings, will be required to be more energy efficient under a final rule published by the Energy Department Feb. 10 (79...

Mining
Industry, States Ask Appeals Court to Affirm
Ruling Against EPA Conductivity Guidance
The National Mining Association and the states of West Virginia and Kentucky urged a federal appeals court Feb. 10 to uphold a lower court's rejection of the Environmental Protection Agency's water conductivity guidance related...

Mining
Judge Transfers Parts of Case to Three Other Venues
A federal judge in Colorado has transferred to federal courts in Montana, New Mexico and Wyoming certain claims in a lawsuit filed by WildEarth Guardians against the Office of Surface Mining, Reclamation and Enforcement 9 (WildEarth Guardians...

Pesticides
EPA Proposes Registration of New Insecticide
The Environmental Protection Agency is proposing to register Venerate, a biological insecticide containing the new active ingredient heat-killed Burkholderia spp. strain A396, according to a draft biopesticides registration action...

Pipeline Safety
Consensus Safety Management System
Draft to Be Released Soon, Official Says
A draft industry consensus document on the development of safety management systems for oil and gas pipelines is expected to be released to the public soon, according to an official with the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration...

Regulatory Policy
House Panel to Move Bill Requiring OMB
To Give Six-Month Notice for Pending Rules
A House committee plans to take up a bill Feb. 11 that would require the White House Office of Management and Budget to post details of Environmental Protection Agency and other rules at least six months before they are proposed or finalized....

Superfund
Settling Party's Insurer May Indemnify Another Party
Parties entering into a settlement are not obliged to explain why one party's insurers have agreed to make a payment on behalf of another settling party, the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California ruled Feb. 5, rejecting...

Toxic Substances
EU Chemicals Agency Recommends
Substances for Phaseout Under REACH
The European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) recommended Feb. 10 that the European Commission list five substances in Annex XIV of the REACH chemicals regulation, meaning that their use will be banned in the EU unless continued-use authorizations...

Water Pollution
Duke Energy Stops Coal Ash Leak,
Plans Long-Term Cleanup of River
The release of coal ash from a storage lagoon at Duke Energy's Dan River Steam Station near Eden, N.C., into the Dan River has been stopped, according to a spokeswoman for the utility....

Water Pollution
EPA Invites Wastewater Industry to Partner
On Methods to Modernize Permitting Process
The Environmental Protection Agency seeks to collaborate with the wastewater industry sector in seeking approaches to make the existing permitting process under the Clean Water Act National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System program...

Water Pollution
Rep. Capito Announces Bill to Require States
To Inspect Aboveground Chemical Tanks
Responding to a chemical spill upstream of a drinking water treatment plant in the Elk River in West Virginia, Rep. Shelley Moore Capito (R-W.Va.) announced Feb. 10 that she would introduce legislation to require states to establish inspection...

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