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NEWS

Biotechnology
EPA Considering Changes to Monsanto Field Tests
The Environmental Protection Agency is considering a request by Monsanto Corp. to amend its planned field tests for plant-incorporated protectant (PIP) corn that contains bacillus thuringiensis (Bt) proteins, according to a notice scheduled...

Climate Change
California Commission: Comments Suggest Planners Have Use for Sea-Level Guidelines
Much of the public comment on sea-level rise guidelines proposed by the California Coastal Commission is focused on specific locations and projects, evidence that development planners are already considering using the document, according...

Climate Change
EPA Assertions on Carbon Capture Viability Sparked Concerns by White House Officials
White House officials questioned whether the Environmental Protection Agency's proposed greenhouse gas emissions standards for new power plants were based on viable technology, according to documents prepared in the weeks preceding...

Climate Change
EPA Science Advisers Say Review Of Power Plant Rule Not Needed
A review of carbon dioxide standards for new fossil fuel-fired power plants by the Environmental Protection Agency's Science Advisory Board "would not provide additional benefit to the proposed rule," a group of independent...

Climate Change
Natural Gas Responsible for Reductions
In Power Plant Emissions, Study Finds
Power plants using natural gas and a new technology to get more energy from the fuel release far lower amounts of carbon dioxide than coal-fired plants, according to a new study. ...

Climate Change
New Export Credit Rules for Rail Projects
Will Boost Low-Carbon Transport, OECD Says
The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development released new export credit rules Jan. 9 that it said will promote fairer global competition in the rail infrastructure sector and help governments encourage a lower carbon dioxide-emitting...

Climate Change
Senate Companion Bill Addresses Power Plant Rules
Sen. Joe Manchin (D-W.Va.) Jan. 9 introduced identical companion legislation to a House bill to limit the Environmental Protection Agency's ability to regulate greenhouse gas emissions from new and existing power plants. The Electricity...

Drilling
Independent Tests on Fracking Reveal
High Methane Levels in Some Texas Wells
When the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency declared that a group of Texas homes near an hydraulic fracturing operation didn't have dangerous levels of methane in their water, it relied on tests conducted by the natural gas driller...

Endangered Species
Interior to Observe Mitigation Efforts
By Colorado for Greater Sage Grouse
Interior Secretary Sally Jewell will visit Colorado to observe firsthand the state's efforts to mitigate harm done to the Greater Sage-Grouse and its habitat, according to Colorado Gov. John Hickenlooper (D). ...

Energy
Interior Environment Report Due in February
To Guide Seismic Testing Off Atlantic Coast
The Interior Department plans to issue in February an environmental review required before any seismic testing for offshore oil and gas resources can occur off the Atlantic Coast, an agency official said Jan. 10....

Energy
Renewable Energy Lobbying Group
Names New Chief Executive Officer
The American Council on Renewable Energy (ACORE) announced Jan. 10 that it has appointed Michael R. Brower as president and chief executive officer....

Hazmat Transport
Coast Guard Delays Chemical Categorization Updates
The U.S. Coast Guard is delaying the effective date of revisions to regulatory tables that identify hazardous materials that have been approved for maritime transportation in bulk until Jan. 16, 2015, according to a notice scheduled for publication...

Invasive Species
Advocates Back Hydrologic Separation

As Best Option in Army Corps Report
While the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is presenting Congress with several options for preventing the transfer of aquatic nuisance species between the Great Lakes and Mississippi River basins, environmentalists said Jan. 9 complete hydrologic...

Mining
Response Deadline Extended in Dredge-and-Fill Case
The U.S. Supreme Court extended until Feb. 14 the deadline for the Environmental Protection Agency to respond in a lawsuit regarding its authority to veto portions of a dredge-and-fill coal mining permit issued by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers...

Natural Resources
Russian Law Aims to Reduce Illegal Logging
By Introducing Timber Tracking System
A long-awaited law will introduce reforms in Russia's forestry industry aimed at decreasing illegal logging and complying with U.S. and European standards for verifying that wood imports are legally sourced....

Natural Resources
Russian Law to Decrease Protections
For Nature Reserves, Allow Development
An amended law will allow Russia's government to reduce the level of protection for some nature reserves to allow for the development of tourist and energy infrastructure, which environmental advocates say could destroy the country's...

Oil Spills
Fifth Circuit Upholds BP's Settlement
Of Claims From Gulf of Mexico Spill
A federal appeals court Jan. 10 upheld approval of BP Plc's $9.2 billion partial settlement of private-party claims from the 2010 Gulf of Mexico oil spill (In re Deepwater Horizon-Appeals of the Economic and Property Damage Class Action...

Risk Assessment
NTP Issues Revised Preliminary Documents
On Trichloroethylene Carcinogenicity Review
The National Toxicology Program released two revised preliminary documents Jan. 10 regarding the review for the potential reclassification of trichloroethylene (TCE), which is mainly used as a metal cleaner and degreaser, in the "Report...

Sustainability
UN Warned Not to Meddle in Climate Treaty
With Upcoming Development Agenda
The post-2015 sustainable development agenda of the United Nations should complement but not meddle in efforts to reach a global agreement on climate change, ambassadors and climate experts told a UN working group....

Toxic Substances
EU Publishes 16 Exemptions to Directive
Restricting Use of Hazardous Substances
The European Commission has published 16 directives that each added an exemption to the bloc's 2011 Restriction of Hazardous Substances Directive (RoHS Directive, 2011/65/EU)....

Water Pollution
Agencies, Water Utility Cope With Emergency

From West Virginia Industrial Chemical Spill
A spill of coal-processing chemicals Jan. 9 triggered a state of emergency affecting as many as 300,000 people in West Virginia after the pollutants entered the Elk River just upstream from the intake pipe of a water treatment plant serving...

Water Pollution
EPA Gets Time to File Brief Appealing Nutrient Ruling
An appeals court has given the Environmental Protection Agency until Feb. 20 to file its opening brief to appeal a lower court decision requiring the agency to determine within six months whether states need to adopt numeric nutrient criteria...

Water Pollution
EPA to Miss Deadline for Issuing
Final Cooling Water Intake Rule
The Environmental Protection Agency confirmed Jan. 10 that it will not meet the Jan. 14 court-ordered deadline to issue final regulations governing cooling water intake structures at power plants and industrial facilities....

Wetlands
Sierra Club Challenges Parking Expansion
Proposed by California Coastal Commission
The Sierra Club's San Diego Chapter has filed a lawsuit challenging the proposed expansion of parking at the Del Mar Fairgrounds, alleging the California Coastal Commission broke state law in issuing the permit requested by the 22nd District...

OUTLOOK 2014

Air Pollution
EPA Readies New Pollution Transport Rule
While Awaiting Court Decisions on Authority
The Environmental Protection Agency in 2014 will prepare a new proposed rule to address the interstate transport of air pollution even as the agency waits for the U.S. Supreme Court to rule on its prior regulation....

Climate Change
California to Focus on Carbon Market,
Updating Climate Change Policies in 2014
California kicked off 2014 by formally linking its year-old carbon market with Quebec's greenhouse gas emissions cap-and-trade program....

Climate Change
EPA Moves to Regulate Carbon Emissions
From Power Plants; U.S. Looks to Paris Deal
The Obama administration is expected to move ahead in 2014 with new limits on power plant carbon dioxide emissions, a significant step toward fulfilling the president's pledge to address climate change in his second term in the absence...

Energy
Best Chance for Action on Renewables,
Efficiency Could Come From Administration
With little chance of congressional passage of major energy legislation in 2014, the best prospects for action on renewables and energy efficiency may lie with the executive branch....

Sustainability

Companies Likely to Focus on Improving Quality of Sustainability Reporting in 2014

Companies are expected to place a stronger emphasis on improving the quality of their disclosures of greenhouse gas emissions, water use and other environmental data in 2014, according to corporate sustainability analysts....

CALENDAR

LEGISLATIVE CALENDAR

PRESIDENT'S CALENDAR

REGULATORY AGENDA

Comment Deadlines

JANUARY 10 FEDERAL REGISTER

JANUARY 13 FEDERAL REGISTER

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