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NEWS

Air Pollution
EPA on Track to Propose Ozone Transport Rule by Summer, McCabe Tells State Officials
The Environmental Protection Agency is on track to propose its rule to curb ozone pollution that crosses state lines in the East this summer, Janet McCabe, the agency's acting assistant administrator for air and radiation, told state...

Air Pollution
Wyoming, PacifiCorp Challenge EPA On Partial Rejection of Regional Haze Plan
PacifiCorp. and Wyoming are challenging the Environmental Protection Agency's partial rejection of the state's plan for addressing regional haze (PacifiCorp v. EPA, 10th Cir., No. 14-9534, 3/31/14; Wyoming v. EPA, 10th Cir.,No....

Budget
House Republicans Target Climate Change Spending in FY 2015 Budget Resolution
A fiscal year 2015 budget plan developed by House Republicans aims to reduce funding for federal climate change programs....

Climate Change
EPA Proposal to Regulate Carbon Dioxide From Existing Plants Under OMB Review
The White House is reviewing an Environmental Protection Agency proposal that would set the first carbon dioxide emissions limits for existing power plants....

Climate Change

Republicans Target EPA Power Plant Rules, Push LNG Exports, Keystone in Amendments
Senate Republicans filed amendments April 1 to a pending unemployment insurance bill to block the Environmental Protection Agency's carbon dioxide limits for power plants and to force the Obama administration to ratchet up exports...

Drilling
Eight Democrats Ask EPA to Stay Involved In Three Water Cases Near Shale Gas Sites
Eight House Democrats sent a letter April 1 to the Environmental Protection Agency asking Administrator Gina McCarthy "to take any and all steps within your power" to address three much-publicized cases of water contamination near...

Drilling
Study Examines Colorado Fracking Ban
A statewide hydraulic fracturing ban in Colorado would result in 93,000 fewer jobs, $12 billion in lost gross domestic product and a reduction of $985 million in tax revenues for state and local governments between 2015 and 2040, according...

Energy
FERC Conference Highlights Problems Of Using Natural Gas for Electric Generation
High natural gas prices in the record-breaking 2013-2014 winter season cost the Mid-Atlantic power pool a half-billion dollars in additional payments to generators in order to keep the lights on for a 13-state region, a regional grid executive...

Energy
Four Lawmakers Seek EPA Insight Into Renewable Fuel Standard 'Challenges'
Four lawmakers asked the Environmental Protection Agency to describe any "statutory challenges" that impair its ability to administer the renewable fuels standard....

Energy
Grassley Expects Vote on Amendment To Extend Renewable Energy Tax Credit
Sen. Chuck Grassley (R-Iowa) said April 1 he has filed an amendment to extend the renewable energy production tax credit to be considered during a markup of tax extenders legislation scheduled for April 3 by the Senate Finance Committee. ...

Energy
Michigan Cuts Taxes on Technique Using Carbon Dioxide to Extract Oil, Natural Gas
Drilling companies that use carbon dioxide to enhance oil- and gas-well production will see lower taxes under legislation signed April 1 by Lt. Gov. Brian Calley (R)....

Energy
Ryan Budget Calls for Cutting Clean Energy Spending, Expanding Fossil Development
A House fiscal year 2015 budget plan released April 1 by House Budget Committee Chairman Paul Ryan (R-Wis.) recommends ending billions of dollars in "wasteful spending" on renewable energy programs and expanding oil and gas development...

Energy
Vermont Governor Signs Bill to Expand

Program for Buying Power From Households
Vermont Gov. Peter Shumlin (D) signed a bill April 1 to expand a program that allows residents to sell home-generated alternative energy to utilities....

Enforcement
Lawmakers Tell Stoner to Clarify Clean Water Order
Sens. David Vitter (R-La.), John Barrasso (R-Wyo.), Mike Enzi (R-Wyo.) and Rep. Cynthia Lummis (R-Wyo.) on April 1 called on the Environmental Protection Agency to clarify the terms and purpose of an administrative compliance order that...

Enforcement
Office of Surface Mining Adjusts Civil Penalty Fees
The Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSM) will adjust civil monetary penalty fees for inflation, effective May 2, as required at least every four years, according to a final rule to be published April 2. Fee adjustments,...

EPA
Senate Committee to Consider Nomination
Of McCabe to Head EPA Air Office on April 8
The Senate Environment and Public Works Committee will consider the nomination of Janet McCabe to head the Environmental Protection Agency's air office April 8, Sen. Jim Inhofe (R-Okla.) and a committee aide told Bloomberg BNA. ...

Hazmat Transport
Canadian Rail Regulator Calls for Quicker
Tank Car Replacement After Lac-Mégantic
Canada's railways need to act more quickly to replace older DOT-111 tank cars that are still used to transport crude oil in response to the July 2013 derailment and explosion that devastated the Quebec community of Lac-Mégantic and...

International Issues
Chevron Allowed to Pursue Fraud Claims
Against Patton Boggs Over Ecuador Judgment
Chevron Corp. won permission from a federal court to sue law firm Patton Boggs LLP over its involvement in obtaining a $9.5 billion judgment in Ecuador that was ruled to be a product of fraud (Patton Boggs v. Chevron Corp.,S.D. N.Y.No. 1:12-cv-09176,3/31/14)....

Mining
Nonprofit Institute Sues EPA Over
Request for Documents on Selenium
The Environmental Protection Agency violated the Freedom of Information Act when it improperly required a not-for-profit center to pay document fees for a request regarding the agency's regulation of selenium, a pollutant associated...

Oceans
Comments Sought on Ocean Observation System
The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration has released a draft programmatic environmental assessment for planned expansion of the agency's Integrated Ocean Observing System. The observation system is meant to provide...

Pesticides
Agencies to Host Endangered Species Workshop
The four federal agencies tasked with protecting endangered and threatened species will hold a workshop April 22 on an interim three-step approach to assess the risks associated with pesticide

exposure. The Environmental Protection Agency,...

Pesticides
Consumer Goods Company Files Lawsuit Challenging Ban on Rat Poison in California
Reckitt Benckiser has filed a lawsuit in California court challenging the state's new regulation restricting the sale of certain rat poisons it markets under the d-CON brand (Reckitt Benckiser LLC v. California Dep't. of Pesticide...

Pesticides
EPA Says Registration Review Process Will Address Pesticide Spray Drift Concerns
The Environmental Protection Agency informed a coalition of environmental and farmworker groups that the agency intends to address concerns about the effects of pesticide spray drift on children during the pesticide registration review...

Pipeline Safety
PG&E Charged With 12 Safety Violations In Fatal Pipeline Explosion in California
PG&E Corp., owner of California's largest utility, was charged with 12 pipeline safety violations by the U.S. government for a 2010 natural gas explosion that killed eight people in San Bruno, Calif....

Pipeline Safety
Rangel Introduces Pipeline Modernization Bill
Rep. Charles Rangel (D-N.Y.) introduced legislation (H.R. 4338) that would require gas pipeline operators to accelerate the repair and replacement of high-risk pipelines. The Pipeline Modernization and Consumer Protection Act, introduced...

Radioactive Waste
Washington State May Pursue Dispute Resolution Over DOE Cleanup of Hanford
Washington state, following decades of delay by the Department of Energy in its cleanup of mixed radioactive and hazardous chemical waste at the Hanford Nuclear Reservation, is poised to invoke the dispute resolution clause of a consent decree...

Regulatory Policy
OIRA Chief Faces Tough Questions About Influence Over Federal Regulations
Howard Shelanski, the administrator of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, faced tough questions by public interest advocates expressing concerns that the agency exercises delaying tactics and undue influence over the federal...

Toxic Substances
EU Chemicals Agency Publishes REACH Substance Evaluation Final Decisions
The European Chemicals Agency on April 1 published a batch of REACH substance evaluation decisions, which for the first time create obligations for companies in the European Union to carry out tests and provide further data on substances that...

Trade
Actions Targeting Renewable Energy Products Taking Toll on Environmental Goods Trade
A surge in antidumping and countervailing duty actions targeting renewable energy products has the effect of reducing trade in these green goods by almost $14 billion a year, according to a report

issued by a United Nations agency....

Water Pollution
Advocates Ask Supreme Court to Reject
Los Angeles County's Stormwater Petition
Environmental advocates asked the U.S. Supreme Court to reject a petition by the Los Angeles County Flood Control District to review a decision holding the agency liable for Clean Water Act permit violations, contending the permit is unique...

Water Pollution
Citizen Suit on California Irrigation Project
Allowed to Proceed by Federal Court
A federal court ruled that a Clean Water Act citizen suit against the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and a California water authority may proceed because it alleged that an irrigation project's discharges are not composed entirely of return...

Water Pollution
EPA Proposes Withdrawal of Its Criteria
For Nutrient Pollution in Florida Waters
The Environmental Protection Agency is proposing to withdraw its numeric nutrient criteria for Florida lakes, springs and flowing waters now that the federal agency has approved state standards for the waters....

Water Pollution
West Virginia Bill With Stricter Rules
For Above-Ground Storage Tanks Signed
Gov. Earl Ray Tomblin (D) signed legislation April 1 to regulate above-ground storage tanks (S.B. 373) following a chemical spill earlier this year that polluted drinking water for 300,000 West Virginians. ...

Water Resources
Financing Plan Pushed for Water Infrastructure Bill
More than 130 water utility leaders lobbied April 1 for the proposed Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act as part of water infrastructure legislation pending in Congress. The Senate included WIFIA in its Water Resources Development...

Water Resources
Most U.S. Companies in Survey
Face Water-Related Challenges
More than three out of four U.S. companies are facing water-related challenges today, while four out of five companies expect to face such challenges in the next five years, according to a survey of 51 U.S. companies....

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