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NEWS

Air Pollution
EPA Seeks More Time to Review Refinery Standards
The Environmental Protection Agency needs three additional months to review air toxics standards for petroleum refineries, the agency said in a court filing Jan. 13 (Air Alliance Houston v. McCarthy, D.D.C., No. 12-1607, motion filed 1/13/14)....

Air Pollution
Illinois Issues Emergency Rules Requiring Full Enclosure of Petcoke Operations
Illinois Gov. Pat Quinn (D) took aim at bulk storage companies that have gathered huge piles of petroleum coke, or "petcoke," along the Calumet River, issuing emergency administrative rules Jan. 13 that will require the...

Air Pollution
North Carolina Says EPA's 2010 Baseline Penalizes State for Improved Air Quality
The baseline date of 2010 in the Environmental Protection Agency's particulate matter rule is unfair, as it fails to take into account recent improvements in North Carolina's air quality, according to the state Department of Environment...

Air Pollution
Southern California Air Quality Agency Approves Stricter Battery Recycling Rules
The South Coast Air Quality Management District has adopted tough new standards to reduce emissions of arsenic and other toxic air contaminants from two large lead-acid battery recycling facilities in Los Angeles County....

Budget
Climate Agenda Intact With Limited Riders In Appropriations Bill, White House Says
Democrats beat back efforts from Republicans to include provisions in a fiscal year 2014 appropriations package that would have limited President Barack Obama's ability to implement his climate action plan, according to the White House....

Budget
Omnibus Funding Bill Would Increase EPA Spending From Post-Sequester Levels
The Senate and House Appropriations Committees have reached a compromise on an omnibus spending bill that would fund the Environmental Protection Agency at a rate of $8.2 billion for the rest of fiscal year 2014, an increase of approximately...

Budget
Omnibus Legislation Increases Funding For Energy, Water Programs in Fiscal 2014
An omnibus funding bill would appropriate $34.1 billion funding for energy and water programs in the remainder of fiscal year 2014, a $777 million increase from current funding levels....

Budget
Spending Bill Boosts Interior Funding to Help Protect Wildlife, Develop Natural Resources
The Interior Department would receive a funding increase of almost half a billion dollars for fiscal year 2014 under the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2014 (H.R. 3547) worked out by Senate and House appropriations leaders, according...

Climate Change
Comment Period Extended on Fluorinated Gas Rule
The Environmental Protection Agency is extending the public comment period on a proposed rule that would ease some greenhouse gas emissions reporting requirements for fluorinated gas producers until Feb. 20, according to a notice scheduled...

Climate Change
EU Must Revitalize Carbon Sequestration Policy to Reduce Emissions, Parliament Says
The European Union should reinvigorate its flagging policy on carbon sequestration as part of its armory of tools to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 80 percent to 95 percent by 2050, according to a resolution adopted by the European Parliament...

Climate Change
European Parliament Sends 2020 Carbon Cap For Light Vans to EU Council for Finalization
Carbon dioxide emissions from light vans sold in the European Union starting in 2020 would be capped at 147 grams per kilometer (g/km, or 237 grams per mile), under a regulation approved by the European Parliament Jan. 14....

Climate Change
House Subcommittee Clears Bill to Block EPA Rules to Limit Power Plant Carbon Dioxide
A House Energy and Commerce subcommittee approved legislation Jan. 14 to stop the Environmental Protection Agency from limiting greenhouse gas emissions from power plants, with the Republican majority clearing the bill over objections...

Climate Change
Massachusetts Governor Says State to Invest $52 Million to Prepare for Climate Impacts
Massachusetts Gov. Deval Patrick (D) has unveiled plans to devote more than $50 million to secure the state's energy resources, coastal regions and transportation infrastructure against the impacts of climate change....

Climate Change
Senate Democrats Launch Caucus to Push Climate Legislation, Defend Obama Plan
In a bid to better defend President Barack Obama's plans to set limits on power plant greenhouse gas emissions, 16 Democrats and two independents launched a new Senate caucus Jan. 14 that they hope will also pave the way for future congressional...

Climate Change
Senate Republicans Seek to Bar Use, Extend Comment Period on Social Cost of Carbon
Senate Republicans are asking the White House to bar federal agencies from using the revised social cost of carbon figure in their regulations until it can be finalized following a more extensive public comment period....

Drilling
EU Plans Shale Drilling Guidelines That Could Facilitate Fracking Operations
The European Union plans guidelines for shale drilling under proposals that may facilitate oil and gas extraction using the technique that's brought the U.S. toward energy independence....

Energy
China's Energy Consumption Rose 7.5% in 2013
China consumed 5.322 trillion kilowatt-hours (kWh) of energy in 2013, 7.5 percent more than the year before, the National Energy Administration said on its website Jan. 13. Service industries led the rise with 627 billion kWh consumed for...

Energy
Chinese Catalogs Promote Industrial Technologies That Save Energy, Pollute Less
China's top planning body and Ministry of Environmental Protection have released catalogs to promote the use of new technologies to reduce energy consumption, carbon dioxide emissions and pollution and spur the development of a so-called...

Energy
Maine Utilities Commission Approves Pilot Floating Wind Power Project Off Coast
The Maine Public Utilities Commission approved a 12-megawatt, floating offshore wind project Jan. 14 to sell electricity in the state. ...

Energy
Murkowski Continues to Push Obama To Remove Restrictions on Crude Oil Exports
Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska) sent a letter to President Barack Obama urging him to lift the prohibition on exporting crude oil produced in the U.S....

EPA
Attorney, Former Mayor Selected

As Administrator of EPA Region 4
Heather McTeer Toney, an attorney and the former mayor of Greenville, Miss., has been selected as the Environmental Protection Agency's Region 4 administrator....

Hazardous Waste
No Supreme Court Review of Mass Action Case
The U.S. Supreme Court declined Jan. 13 to review an appeals court decision denying removal of claims as a mass action under the Class Action Fairness Act of 2005 where plaintiffs were exposed to hazardous substances from a refinery site for...

Mining
Maine Environmental Board Approves
Proposed Rules to Regulate Metal Mining
The Maine Board of Environmental Protection (BEP) has approved proposed rules that would regulate metal mining in the state....

Right to Know
TRI Trade Secret Claim Instructions Revised by EPA
The Environmental Protection Agency has published revised instructions for companies that want to make trade secret claims for chemicals reported under the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act, according to a Jan. 14 e-mail...

Security
Chemical Security Measure to Be Introduced
Shortly With Bipartisan Support, McCaul Says
Rep. Michael McCaul (R-Texas) told Bloomberg BNA he will introduce a measure later this week or next week that would reauthorize the Homeland Security Department's chemical security program for two additional years. ...

Security
Chemical Working Group Pledges Plan
To Modernize Regulations by End of May
Despite delays caused by the October government shutdown, an interagency chemical safety working group will deliver a plan on updating regulations and policies to the White House by the end of May, government officials said during a Jan. 14...

Security
Regulations, Guidance 'All in the Mix' to Deal
With Chemical Security, EPA Official Says
An interagency working group has yet to make any decisions about how to improve chemical safety and security, but new regulations and guidance are "all in the mix" for addressing the issue in light of the West, Texas, explosion in April...

Superfund
GE Drops Claims That Niagara Mohawk
Should Share in Hudson River Cleanup Costs
General Electric Co. settled its federal lawsuit against Niagara Mohawk Power Corp., agreeing to dismiss its claims that the utility should contribute to the cost of dredging polychlorinated biphenyls from the Hudson River (General Electric...

Superfund
High Court Ruling on CERCLA Preemption
May Have Large Effect on Product Litigation
The outcome of a superfund preemption case on the U.S. Supreme Court's docket is unlikely to

affect superfund litigation but could have "considerable impact" on toxic tort product liability litigation, an environmental law...

Sustainability
New Index to Show Fossil Fuel-Free Companies
S&P Dow Jones Indices is working with the Natural Resources Defense Council to develop a new financial market index of companies that are fossil fuel-free to encourage more investment in alternative energy sources. Alka Banerjee, managing...

Toxic Substances
EU Considering Ban on Five Additional Substances From Electronic, Electrical Goods
The European Commission plans to propose before the summer an amendment to the European Union's 2011 Restriction of Hazardous Substances Directive (RoHS Directive, 2011/65/EU), which bans certain substances from electronic and electrical...

Water Pollution
Arizona Makes Water General Permit Available
A new streamlined general permit is available for Arizona wastewater treatment facilities that process sewage sludge for application as fertilizer, the state Department of Environmental Quality announced Jan. 13. The department said...

Water Pollution
Chicago Water District to Spend $3.7 Billion To Resolve Violations, Upgrade Infrastructure
A federal judge has given final approval to a consent decree between the Environmental Protection Agency and the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD) that requires the district to address untreated sewage discharges...

Water Pollution
Judge Vacates Own Ruling on Water Testing Around Former Steel Plant Near Baltimore
A plan to investigate contamination in waterways around Sparrows Point, a former industrial site near Baltimore, was vacated Jan. 13 by the same federal judge who approved it in 2012, and the environmental groups that had appealed the original...

Water Pollution
Manchin Plans Chemical Spill Legislation, Environment Committee to Hold Hearings
Sen. Joe Manchin (D-W.Va.) said Jan. 14 he plans to introduce legislation related to the chemical spill that fouled the Elk River in West Virginia, and the chairman of the Senate environment committee said hearings on the incident are planned...

Water Pollution
West Virginia Legislative Committee Launches Investigation Into Elk River Chemical Spill
West Virginia lawmakers have launched an investigation into the Elk River chemical spill that triggered a "do not use" order for 300,000 water consumers. ...

Water Resources
Stormwater Capture Imperative to Address California Water Challenges, Speakers Say
Weaving the pressing needs of global warming impacts into their comments, speakers on the looming water crisis in Southern California said stormwater capture policies can alleviate supply

and environmental problems if the money and institutional...

Wetlands
China's Wetlands Falling Victim to Urban Encroachment, State Forestry Agency Says
China's total wetlands area has decreased 8.82 percent compared to 10 years ago, largely due to rapid urbanization in its now well-developed eastern coastal provinces, according to a five-year study released Jan. 13 by the State Forestry...

OUTLOOK 2014

Brownfields
EPA's Program to Focus on Developing Sites for Manufacturing, Top Official Says
The Environmental Protection Agency's brownfields program in 2014 will focus on turning brownfields into manufacturing sites, the head of cleanup programs at the Environmental Protection Agency told Bloomberg BNA....

Drilling
Fracking Likely to Change With Decisions From Interior, EPA, States, Towns, Courts
The first big item on the agenda for Interior Department regulation of oil and natural gas in 2014 will be a final rule updating Bureau of Land Management regulations for drilling and production on federal lands, with a primary focus on hydraulic...

Drinking Water
EPA Focusing in 2014 on Infrastructure, Climate Change, Program Chief Says
The Environmental Protection Agency faces some "very significant" challenges in 2014, including aging infrastructure and the effects of climate change, according to the head of the agency's drinking water office....

Energy
Keystone, Leadership Changes, Production Revolution at Center of 2014 Energy Debate
President Barack Obama may make a decision this year on the Keystone XL oil pipeline, which means disappointing either his environmental supporters who see the project as a climate disaster or labor unions and business groups that Democrats...

Natural Resources
Stream Protection Rule, EPA Lawsuits Top 2014 Mining Agenda; Forest Bill Pending
Revisions to a contentious stream-protection rule will be a regulatory priority for the mining industry in 2014....

Radioactive Waste
Assessment of Yucca Mountain Suitability By Congress, NRC, DOE to Continue in 2014
Congress, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and the Department of Energy will continue work in 2014 to determine the suitability of the Yucca Mountain site in Nevada as a suitable underground repository for the permanent disposal of high-level...

Solid Waste
EPA to Act on Definition of Solid Waste, Coal Ash Rulemaking, RCRA Initiatives
Completing revisions to a Bush-era rule deregulating certain wastes, advancing a coal ash rulemaking through a legal agreement and beginning initiatives to revitalize the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act will be top Environmental...

Superfund
EPA Hopes to Issue Final Guidance on Vapor Intrusion; Funding Woes Threaten Cleanups
Final guidance addressing vapor intrusion at contaminated sites may be released in 2014, a senior Environmental Protection Agency official told Bloomberg BNA....

Water Pollution
Jurisdiction Rulemaking Expected in 2014; Deadlines Loom on Stormwater, Power Plants
A rule to potentially expand Clean Water Act protections to include certain natural and artificial tributaries, lakes, ponds and wetlands that could affect the health of downstream waterways is expected to be proposed by the Environmental...

CALENDAR

LEGISLATIVE CALENDAR

PRESIDENT'S CALENDAR

REGULATORY AGENDA

Comment Deadlines

JANUARY 14 FEDERAL REGISTER

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