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NEWS

Air Pollution
As China Reels From Air Pollution, Government Continues Policy Rollouts
Beijing municipality issued its most severe "blue" air pollution warning on Jan. 15 when the air quality index showed readings of small particulate matter (PM-2.5) above the top level of 500 micrograms per cubic meter, prompting...

Air Pollution
D.C. Circuit Vacates EPA Air Quality Rule Covering Non-Reservation Indian Lands
A federal appeals court has vacated the Environmental Protection Agency's final rule establishing new source review programs in Indian country with respect to non-reservation lands (Okla. Dep't of Envtl. Quality v. EPA, D.C. Cir.,...

Air Pollution
Judges Consider Uniformity Requirement For EPA Regions in Air Permitting Case
Federal appeals court judges indicated Jan. 17 that the Environmental Protection Agency may have overstepped its authority when it required regional offices to apply different air permitting requirements in different states (Nat'l...

Biotechnology
Advocates Urge President to Require GMO Labeling
A coalition of more than 200 environmental, food safety and pro-organic organizations and companies has called on President Barack Obama to require nationwide labeling of food that contains genetically modified organisms. In a letter dated...

Climate Change
Energy Efficiency, Reducing Consumption
Key to Meeting California Goals, Report Says
California must step up efforts to increase the energy efficiency of buildings and implement pricing and other mechanisms to reduce demand for electricity during peak periods to achieve the state's long-term climate goals and meet future...

Climate Change
Notice on Energy Policy Act Compliance
In EPA Power Plant Rule Under OMB Review
The White House is reviewing additional information provided by the Environmental Protection Agency after concerns were raised that its proposed carbon dioxide performance standards for new power plants violates the Energy Policy Act...

Drinking Water
Company Allegedly Responsible for Spill
In West Virginia Files for Bankruptcy
The company allegedly responsible for contaminating drinking water supplies for 300,000 West Virginians has filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy (In re Freedom Industries, Bankr. S.D. W.Va., No. 2:14-bk-20017, filed 1/17/14)....

Emergency Response
Senators Reach Deal on Legislation
For Stronger Protections After W.Va. Spill
The head of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee and two West Virginia senators announced Jan. 17 that they have reached a deal on drafting legislation to bolster federal drinking water protections in the wake of the Jan. 9 chemical...

Energy
Advocates Say Obama's Energy Policy
Needs More Emphasis on Climate Change
A coalition of environmental advocacy groups is calling on President Barack Obama to put greater emphasis on combating climate change in his energy policy, pressing the administration as it weighs approving the Keystone XL pipeline....

Energy
European Union Faces Key Juncture
In Drive to Boost Renewable Energy
The European Union’s drive to make renewable energy a mainstay in its overall energy mix faces an important crossroads Jan. 22 when a proposal is due on whether to adopt new binding long-term targets for power sources such as wind and solar....

Energy
Kerry Offers No Timetable for Keystone,
Calls for Expanded North American Trade
Secretary of State John Kerry declined Jan. 17 to set a timetable for making a decision on a presidential permit for the Keystone XL crude oil pipeline, saying more time is needed for the environmental analysis....

Energy
Rep. Duncan Introduces EXPAND Act
As Republican Solution to Energy Strategy
Rep. Jeff Duncan (R-S.C.) has introduced a bill with 18 Republican co-sponsors that includes provisions on energy development, repeal of energy tax subsidies and rewriting environmental

regulations for power plants....

Energy
Russian Environment Ministry Cites Concern
About Impacts of Ukraine Shale Gas Projects
A Russian ministry has requested a meeting with Ukrainian officials over concerns that some of Ukraine's new shale gas projects could have negative environmental consequences for Russian border areas....

International Issues
Canadian Appeals Court Stays Claims
By Ecuadoreans Against Chevron Assets
The Ontario Court of Appeal on Jan. 16 stayed its approval of a lawsuit by a group of Ecuadorean citizens to seize Chevron Corp.'s Canadian assets to satisfy an Ecuadorean judgment, pending the Supreme Court of Canada's decision...

Invasive Species
Shipowners Ask Court to Review EPA Policy
On Deadline for New Ballast Water Systems
The Canadian Shipowners Association has petitioned a federal appeals court to review the Environmental Protection Agency's Jan. 1, 2014, deadline for implementing best available technology for ballast water management systems (Natural...

Mining
Trade, Sports Fishing Groups Urge EPA
To Block Pebble Mine, Protect Bristol Bay
More than 1,000 businesses, trade associations and sporting conservation groups have urged Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Gina McCarthy to use the Clean Water Act to block dredge-and-fill permits for a large gold and copper...

Pesticides
EPA Permitted Emergency Neonicotinoid Use
The Environmental Protection Agency allowed nine states to make unregistered applications of neonicotinoid insecticides on an emergency basis in 2013, according to a notice published Jan. 17 in the Federal Register (79 Fed. Reg. 3,201)....

Recycling
Coke Oven Gas Condensate in Tanks Not RCRA Waste
The federal government failed to show that benzene-containing coke oven gas condensate (COGC) in a West Virginia coke plant's drip tanks is subject to regulation as a hazardous waste under Subtitle C of the Resource Conservation and Recovery...

Russia
Official Calls Environmental Requirements
Biggest Barrier to Russia's OECD Accession
The need to impose new environmental requirements across the economy is the biggest barrier to Russia joining the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, a top Russian official said, as the country looks to conclude the accession...

Toxic Substances
BPA Threatens Human Health, Warrants
Lower Exposure Limit, European Agency Says
The widely used chemical bisphenol A (BPA) has the potential to cause damage to the human kidney, liver and mammary gland and should be subject to a greatly reduced tolerable daily intake

rating in the European Union, the European Food Safety...

Toxic Substances
Carper, Shimkus Pledge to Examine
Chemical Safety After West Virginia Spill
Sen. Tom Carper (D-Del.) and Rep. John Shimkus (R-Ill.) have joined an expanding group of lawmakers pledging to examine chemical safety and security laws and regulations in light of the spill of chemicals from a Freedom Industries Inc. complex...

Toxic Substances
New CDC Warning on Chemical Spill
Raises Alarms for West Virginians
A Centers for Disease Control and Prevention warning to pregnant women in West Virginia has raised alarms because officials, relying on the agency's guidance, had been assuring residents that their tap water was safe after a chemical...

Trade
European Court Rejects BP Challenge
To Anti-Subsidy Duties on U.S. Biodiesel
The European Court of Justice has rejected BP North America's challenge to antidumping and anti-subsidy duties imposed on some biofuel that is from the U.S. but shipped into Europe via a third country....

Trade
Kerry Says TPP Agreement is 'Next Tier'
To Expand North American Trade Network
U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry told reporters Jan. 17 that while the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) was the vanguard of trade globalization, the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) represents the "next tier" of expanding...

Transportation
Highway Agency Issues New Solicitation
For Projects to Use Sustainability Tool
The Federal Highway Administration has issued a second call to state departments of transportation, metropolitan planning organizations, and Federal Lands Highway divisions for projects that can utilize the FHWA Infrastructure Voluntary...

Water Pollution
Water Quality Trading Network Will Seek
To Promote Consistency Among Programs
A coalition of government officials and representatives of environmental advocacy groups has set up a national network on water quality trading that will show how water quality improvements can be achieved at a lower cost through market-based...

SPECIAL REPORT

India
New Environment Minister's Pro-Business
Stance Worries Indian Advocacy Groups
A change of guard at the helm of India's environment ministry promises to revive business confidence by speeding up the issuance of environmental permits for projects, but environmentalists foresee further setbacks to the country's...

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