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NEWS

Air Pollution
Deadline for Issuing Air Toxics Standards For Brick and Ceramics Kilns Extended
Just days before the Environmental Protection Agency's deadline to propose air toxics standards for brick and ceramics kilns, the agency and the Sierra Club agreed to a six-month extension in the deadline for issuing the rule (Sierra...

Chesapeake Bay
Attorneys General of 21 States Urge Third Circuit to Invalidate Bay TMDL
The attorneys general of 21 states filed a joint amicus brief urging the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit to invalidate the Environmental Protection Agency's mandatory restoration program for the Chesapeake Bay (Am. Farm Bureau...

Climate Change
European Parliament Seeks Binding Targets

On 2030 Emissions, Renewables, Efficiency
The European Parliament voted Feb. 5 in favor of the European Union's adopting binding greenhouse gas reduction, renewable energy and energy efficiency targets for 2030, a position that puts it at odds with the European Commission and...

Climate Change
Inhofe Bill Would Allow States to Opt Out of EPA Power Plant Regulations
States could opt out of Environmental Protection Agency regulations to set limits on the carbon dioxide emitted by power plants under a bill introduced Feb. 4 by Sen. James Inhofe (R-Okla.)....

Climate Change
Northeast Democrats Tout RGGI, Urge EPA To Provide Flexibility in Power Plant Rules
House Minority Whip Steny Hoyer (D-Md.) and 40 other House Democrats are touting a regional effort to cap greenhouse gas emissions from power plants as a model for limiting carbon dioxide emissions from existing plants nationwide....

Climate Change
Obama, Vilsack Establish 'Climate Hubs' To Increase Resiliency of Farms, Forests
President Barack Obama is taking executive action to help farmers, ranchers and rural communities combat climate change and adapt to the extreme weather and the damage it causes, a White House official said....

Drilling
Ceres Reports on Shale Gas Producers With Highest Water Sourcing Risk
Anadarko Petroleum Corp., Encana Corp., Pioneer Natural Resources Co. and Apache Corp. have the highest exposure to water sourcing risk among shale energy producers in the United States and western Canada, according to a new report from the...

Drilling
University of Toronto Report Says Better Monitoring of Oil Sands Emissions Needed
A study from the University of Toronto released Feb. 3 said officially reported emissions of certain air pollutants in Alberta's oil sands have been greatly underestimated....

Drinking Water
Researcher Offers Small Systems Tips On Writing Contracts for Partnerships
Small drinking water systems that want to control costs by forming successful partnerships should consider a variety of issues as they develop contracts for these partnerships, a University of North Carolina researcher said during a webinar...

Drinking Water
Water Safe to Drink, Governor Tells West Virginians Affected by Spill
West Virginia residents affected by the recent Elk River chemical spill should trust federal regulators' assurances that their drinking water is safe, according to Gov. Earl Ray Tomblin (D)....

Energy
EPA Defends Decision Not to Reduce Renewable Fuel Volumes in 2013 Rule

The Environmental Protection Agency defended its decision not to reduce the overall renewable fuel blending requirements for 2013 as a justifiable use of the agency's discretion under the Clean Air Act (Monroe Energy LLC v. EPA, D.C....

Energy
EU Approves Joint Control of 9 Wind Energy Plants
Axpo CKW France SAS and EDP Renewables France may proceed with plans to jointly control nine wind energy plants in France after obtaining approval from the European Commission on Feb. 5. Axpo France, controlled by AXPO Holding AG of Switzerland,...

Energy
Interior Advances What Could Be West Coast's First Offshore Wind Project
The Interior Department announced Feb. 5 it has given a "green light" to a Seattle-based company to move forward with plans to build what could be the nation's first offshore wind project off the West Coast. ...

Energy
Keystone Dropped From Debt Ceiling Talks; Sierra Club Sues Corps; Salazar Says Build
House Republicans have decided not to seek approval of the Keystone XL oil pipeline as a condition for raising the debt ceiling in late February or early March, aides to lawmakers said following a Feb. 5 party caucus....

Energy
Republicans Urge BLM to Ease Regulation Of Oil, Gas, Move on Production Proposals
The Bureau of Land Management is costing the U.S. billions of dollars and hundreds of thousands of jobs that could come out of oil and gas production on federal lands, House Republicans and energy advocates said Feb. 5....

Energy
Two Canadian Cabinet Ministers Ask Agencies to Review Propane Market
Canadian Natural Resources Minister Joe Oliver and Industry Minister James Moore Feb. 4 asked the Competition Bureau and the National Energy Board to collaborate in reviewing prices and product scarcity in the propane market....

Enforcement
EPA Waives $3 Million Fine Against Charter Communications Because of Self-Disclosures
The Environmental Protection Agency has agreed to waive more than $3 million in fines against Charter Communications Inc. for violating environmental laws because the company disclosed the violations itself. ...

Enforcement
PHMSA Proposes Fines for Three Companies Over Improper Classification of Bakken Crude
The Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration is proposing to fine three companies over the improper classification of crude oil transported from the Bakken Shale region by rail....

International Issues
U.S., Panama Boost Environmental Dialogue
The U.S. and Panama plan to set up a U.S.-Panama Secretariat for Environmental Matters to

receive public submissions charging that either the U.S. or Panama isn't effectively enforcing its environmental laws, according to a joint communique...

Mining
Court Should Rule Undisclosed Discharges Limit Permit Shield, Environment Groups Say
A federal district court correctly determined A&G Coal Corp.'s selenium discharges aren't protected under the Clean Water Act permit shield, environmental groups said in a brief filed in a federal appeals court (S. Appalachian...

Natural Resources
Yukon Groups Say Government Ignored Land-Use Plan in Decision on Development
A coalition of Canadian aboriginal and conservation groups is suing the Yukon territorial government over its decision to open a vast region of the Canadian north to mining and industrial development in a land-use plan released Jan. 21 (First...

Pesticides
EPA, Wildlife Service Release Draft Agreement on Migratory Bird Protection
The Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Pesticide Programs released a draft document outlining an agreement with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to promote the conservation of migratory bird populations....

Pesticides
EPA to Implement Certification Plan for Restricted Use Applicators on Tribal Lands
The Environmental Protection Agency will release a final plan for certifying pesticide applicators to use restricted-use pesticides on tribal lands, according to a notice scheduled for publication Feb. 6....

Regulatory Policy
EPA Considering Methods to Assess Economywide Costs of Air Regulations
The Environmental Protection Agency is soliciting public input on how to assess the economywide costs and benefits of air pollution regulations (79 Fed. Reg. 6899)....

Regulatory Policy
Republicans Accuse EPA of Regulatory Overreach in Air, Water, Climate Rules
Witnesses and Republican members of the House slammed Environmental Protection Agency regulations to address air pollution, water pollution and climate change as regulatory overreach and said the regulations weren't based on sound...

Superfund
W.R. Grace Pays $63 Million to Clean Up Superfund Sites Across 21 States
W.R. Grace & Co., a global supplier of specialty chemicals, has paid more than $63 million to the U.S. government to resolve claims for environmental cleanups across 21 states, the Justice Department and the Environmental Protection...

Toxic Substances
Electronics Industry Group Asks Congress To Exempt Byproducts From Amended TSCA

The Association Connecting Electronics Industries recently asked a House subcommittee to exempt their recycled byproducts from certain Toxic Substances Control Acts reporting requirements....

Toxic Substances
FDA Bisphenol A Study Finds No Toxicity
Following Rats' Exposure to Seven Low Doses
A study the Food and Drug Administration conducted to examine whether low doses of bisphenol A caused harm—as many academic studies have shown—found seven low doses did not do so. ...

Toxic Substances
Legislators Seek Copy of Joint TSCA Reform
Memo From Manufacturers, Health Advocates
Two leading Democrats on the House Energy and Commerce Committee have asked the American Chemistry Council and Safer Chemicals, Healthy Families to share a 2011 memorandum in which the two organizations described points of agreement they...

Water Pollution
Duke Energy Battles to Halt Leak
From Coal-Ash Pond Into Dan River
Duke Energy Corp. is still battling to halt a leak from a coal-ash pond into the Dan River in North Carolina, in the latest incident to draw attention to how power plant waste is regulated....

Water Resources
EPA Launches Hotel Conservation Challenge
The Environmental Protection Agency launched a campaign Feb. 5 to help hotels save water and money and to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The WaterSense H20tel Challenge asks hotels to take a pledge to assess water use and opportunities for...

Water Resources
Federal Agencies Pledge $34 Million to Fund
California Conservation, Management Plans
The federal Bureau of Reclamation and the Natural Resources Conservation Service announced Feb. 5 the availability of up to $14 million for California water districts and farmers to use to improve water management and conservation....

Water Resources
Hearing Considers Water Storage Bills
To Address Red Tape, Financing Concerns
Bills to cut red tape and allow more flexibility on funding for water reservoir construction received a hearing Feb. 5 by the House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Water and Power....

Water Resources
House Approves California Drought
Relief Bill, but Senate Backing Unlikely
The House approved legislation Feb. 5 that would enable greater quantities of water to flow into the parched San Joaquin Valley in California while rolling back environmental laws and protections. ...

CALENDAR

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