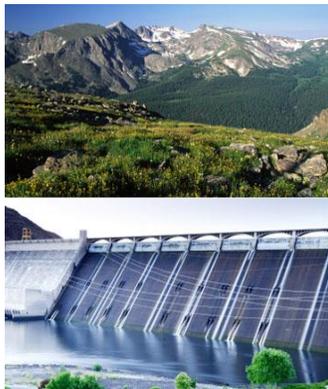




## Top Stories

**10/26/16** – The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has [published](#) its finalized Cross-State Air Pollution Rule Update, designed to reduce emissions of nitrogen oxides (NOx) from power plants in 22 predominately Eastern states that foster ozone formation downwind. EPA [estimates](#) up to \$880 million in benefits will come from this rule.

**10/26/16** – EPA [released](#) a white paper on the possible revisions to the Lead and Copper Rule. One option discussed was lead service line replacement to address lead-related drinking water contaminations, which EPA estimates could cost between \$16 billion and \$80 billion to replace.



**10/25/16** – The U.S. District Court of the Northern District of California [approved](#) the final settlement under *United States v. Volkswagen Group of America et al.* The settlement includes a commitment from Volkswagen to spend \$14.7 billion to remedy their use of “defeat devices.” Of this, \$2.7 billion will be used to establish an Environmental Mitigation Trust, which beneficiaries may use to invest in transportation projects that will reduce nitrogen oxides (NOx) emissions. Another \$2 billion will be used for Volkswagen-guided actions that will support increased use of zero emission vehicle (ZEV) technology in the United States. For more information, please see [NCSL’s Info Alert](#).

**10/18/16** – The U.S. District Court for the Northern District of West Virginia [ruled](#) the EPA violated the Clean Air Act by not adequately quantifying job losses and employment shifts tied to its regulations and ordered EPA to submit a plan for evaluating

employment effects broadly, and in the specific area of the effects of its regulations on the coal industry.

**10/15/16** – Parties to the Montreal Protocol [adopted](#) the Kigali Amendment, which sets the dates for phasing out hydrofluorocarbons used in air conditioning and refrigeration. The amendment aims to avoid a 0.5C warming by 2100. The U.S. Senate will likely need to approve the amendment, as amendments to the Montreal Protocol require ratification.

**10/13/16** – The U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA) [announced](#) that energy-related CO2 emissions for the first six months of 2016 are the lowest emissions level for the first six months of the year since 1991. EIA’s short term energy

outlook estimates that energy-related CO2 emissions will fall to 5,179 million metric tons in 2016, the lowest annual level since 1992.

**10/11/16** – The EPA [announced](#) five persistent, bioaccumulative and toxic (PBT) compounds that will undergo expedited rulemaking under the [Frank R. Lautenberg Chemical Safety for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Act](#) (TASCA). The deadline for EPA to propose action is June 22, 2019.

**10/6/16** – The International Civil Aviation Organization formally agreed to adopt the [Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation](#), which implements a market-based measure intended to address annual GHG emission increases from international civil aviation, setting airlines’ GHG emissions



in 2020 as the maximum amount of what carriers are allowed to release. [For more information, please see NCSL's Info Alert.](#)

## From Congress

**10/13/16** – Several members of the House Committee on Natural Resources [sent](#) a letter to U.S. Attorney General Loretta Lynch requesting a briefing from the Department of Justice on its decision not to take up the EPA's Office of Inspector General's recommendation of criminal charges in relation to the Gold King Mine Spill.

## From the Administration

**10/21/16** – The White House Council on Environmental Quality and the Office of Management and Budget [released](#) guidelines to facilitate the timely review and permitting of Gulf Coast environmental restoration projects and to collaborate to finalize projects in a timely manner. The guidelines come as \$16 billion in Deepwater Horizon settlement funds begin to be released, via the [RESTORE Act](#).

**10/20/16** – EPA's inspector general [stated](#) that the agency's Region 5 branch had enough authority to issue a Safe Drinking Water Act Section 1431 emergency order for Flint, Mich., as early as June 2015—seven months before the agency took action and released the order.

**10/20/16** – EPA [issued](#) final control techniques guidelines for reducing smog-creating volatile organic compound emissions from existing oil and natural gas equipment in processes in specific states and areas with smog issues.

**10/19/16** – The National Park Service [announced](#) a proposal to guide the service in taking the necessary actions to support resource stewardship to fulfill its mission in the current century, taking into account the need to address climate change, resource management and additional shortcomings.

**10/17/16** – The Bureau of Land Management [finalized](#) three rules to ensure the accurate measurement, proper reporting and accurate recordkeeping of oil and gas produced from federal and Indian leases to ensure that royalties due are paid.

**10/7/16** – EPA [recorded](#) a drop in methane emissions from the petroleum and natural gas sector to 70.3 million metric tons in 2015, down 3.8 percent from 73.1 million metric tons in the previous year. In addition, the industry's overall greenhouse gas (GHG) emission contribution dropped to 231 million metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub>, down 1.7 percent from 235.1 million metric tons in 2014.

**10/6/16** – The EPA [launched](#) an online portal that will allow local leaders in the nation's 40,000 communities to access information and tools to increase resilience to climate change.

**10/3/16** – **The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS)** and the National Fisheries Service [finalized](#) revisions to regulations that clarify and enhance the procedures to evaluate petitions under the Endangered Species Act (ESA.) Following that, the FWS [proposed](#) listing two insect species from Glacier National Park as 'threatened' under the ESA, as well as [extending](#) protections to 49 Hawaiian species and a Midwestern rattlesnake.

**10/3/16** – EPA [proposed](#) enhancements to its Renewable Fuel Standards (RFS) and other related fuel regulations to support the market growth of ethanol and other renewable fuels in the U.S.

**9/22/16** – EPA [released](#) a draft [Policy Assessment for the Review of Primary National Ambient Air Quality Standards for Nitrogen Dioxide](#), suggesting the agency keep the NO<sub>2</sub> standard. Comments are due by Dec. 8.

## Other

**10/3/16** – A report of the Public Lands Subcommittee of the Western Attorneys General Litigation Action Committee of the Conference of Western Attorneys General [found](#) states lack strong legal arguments for gaining control of federal lands within their boundaries.

## NCSL Resources

Register now for the NCSL Capitol Forum, Dec. 6-9, in Washington, D.C., to tackle critical state-federal issues, gain insight from national experts, and work with committees to craft the States' Agenda. [Registration and housing are now open; early bird deadline is Nov. 14.](#)