

Region 3 News

[Pa. shale site stops work after temblor](#)

[Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#) (4/27)

Hilcorp Energy voluntarily stopped work at a shale well in Lawrence County, Pa., after a small earthquake nearby. The state Department of Environmental Protection and Department of Conservation and Natural Resources are investigating the quake. ...

[PennEast pipeline faces separate review by river basin authority](#)

[The Morning Call \(Allentown, Pa.\)](#) (4/26)

PennEast's proposed 108-mile natural gas pipeline will get an independent review from the Delaware River Basin Commission, which initially had asked to join the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's review. A DRBC statement said the separation is due to the "high level of interest" in the Pennsylvania-to-New Jersey pipeline, which would run across some reservoir and recreational areas of the Delaware River watershed.

New DNREC YouTube Channel video details how model cleanup operation comes first for NVF Yorklyn site's revitalization

[DNREC Public Affairs Office](#)

DNREC's remediation of the NVF Yorklyn site YouTube videoDOVER (April 22, 2016) – A new DNREC YouTube Channel video about the redevelopment of the old National Vulcanized Fiber mill in Yorklyn shows how far the remediation of the site has come – and how much remains before it becomes the centerpiece of a model public and private venture environmentally transformed and repurposed as commercial, residential and community space. ...

[Pa. commission endorses updated rules for oil, gas drilling](#)

[Statelmpact](#) (4/21)

A review commission gave its blessing to proposed changes in state rules for Pennsylvania's oil and natural gas industry, voting 3-2 in favor of the regulations. The updated rules would include changes to the permitting process, namely identification of drilling's potential effects on water supplies and waste storage. ...

Reagan Airport to Have Major Emergency Exercise This Weekend

By Dan Taylor, [Patch](#)

If you hear sirens and helicopters in a remote part of Ronald Reagan National Airport this Saturday, don't be alarmed -- it's just a drill. Reagan National Airport will be conducting a full-scale emergency preparedness exercise from 9 a.m. to noon on April 30, according to a statement from the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority. ...

[The battle for the Atlantic: Wind, oil fight for influence](#)

The Hill

The Atlantic has long been seen as a spot for potential oil drilling. ... If the Atlantic Coast suffered a similar **oil spill**, "the fish could be poisoned and ...

[Pa. regulators plan more natural gas air monitoring](#)

[Statelmpact](#) (4/27)

Pennsylvania state regulators plan to spend \$1.56 million over the next five years to broaden air quality monitoring at natural gas infrastructure sites in the Marcellus Shale. The project will add sensors to track fine particulate air pollution near clusters of large natural gas compressor stations.

News for U.S. and Canada

[HR 1684, Foreign Oil Spill Protection Act of 2016](#)

Congressional Budget Office

H.R. 1684 would expose owners and operators of **oil** production facilities located offshore and outside of the United States to liability for cleanup costs ...

[EPA rule on oil, gas methane leaks coming soon, McCabe says](#)

[The Hill](#) (4/27)

The Environmental Protection Agency is collecting data on methane leaks and preparing to issue regulations for the oil and gas industry, according to acting Assistant Administrator Janet McCabe. The industry said it has made advances in curbing methane emissions through voluntary measures and that new rules would be costly and unnecessary. ...

ERG Android App updated to 2016 ERG

<https://goo.gl/TAJQqx> The long URL says "2012" but it is the 2016 App.

[Pipeline Safety Update: Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration Rulemakings](#)

...

The National Law Review

The bill does not require the submission of **oil spill** response plans to congressional committees and does not lower the criminal liability standard ...

[EPA: Clean Air Act gives us authority on CPP](#)

[Argus Media](#) (4/25)

Broad language in the Clean Air Act gives the Environmental Protection Agency the authority to enact the Clean Power Plan, the agency said in a court brief filed Friday. The act, for example, says the EPA may look beyond existing policies to determine the "best system of emission reduction." The US Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit is scheduled to hear oral arguments in June. ...

[Regulators Relax Monitoring of Decade-Old Gulf Oil Leak](#)

ABC News

Federal regulators have relaxed a **pollution** monitoring requirement for a company responsible for a decade-old **oil** leak in the Gulf of Mexico, ...

[Five times as much oil spewing in Gulf of Mexico oil spill as first thought](#)

The Wilderness Society

'As a sheen of **oil** moved closer to the Louisiana coast Wednesday, officials with [NOAA] revised their estimates ... from 1,000 barrels a day to up to ...

Safety tool released on tornado anniversary

By Maggie Smolka, [WCYB](#)

Washington County, Virginia's emergency notification system is getting an upgrade.

The new system allows public safety agencies to talk to residents in real-time using Facebook, Twitter and YouTube in addition to voice, email and text messaging. ...

Active hurricane season likely

By Rob Lenihan, [Business Insurance](#)

Property owners should brace for a potentially active Atlantic hurricane season this year, but the long-term trend points to a slowdown in storm activity, according to a hurricane forecast released Wednesday.

The Weather Company, an Andover, Massachusetts-based unit of IBM Corp., predicts that 2016 will be the most active tropical season since 2012, with 14 named storms, of which eight would be hurricanes and three major hurricanes. ...

FEMA tunes into social media for operations

By Adam Mazmanian, [FCW](#)

Social Media Tree

A distress call made on Twitter could bring a rescue courtesy of the Federal Emergency Management Agency. The disaster agency will use public-facing social networks as an operational tool to supply information to first responders in situations of dire need, under a newly announced policy.

The FEMA program is not intended as an emergency response system or virtual 911, but the new policy outlined in a Department of Homeland Security privacy impact assessment publicly posted on April 25 does allow for watch center personnel to relate "in extremis" information to first responders. ...

[The First Drone to Complete a Delivery in the US Is On its Way to the Smithsonian](#) // Mike Murphy

It was a "Kitty Hawk moment" for the drone industry. ...

[Removing a Whale Carcass Can Be a Vexing Local Governmental Headache](#) // Michael Grass

Disposing of a smelly, decomposing whale isn't a simple process, as many localities discover when blubber starts to ooze out on the beach. ...

Subject: important-- new proposed Public Asst. Standards-- comment by May 23 2016

On April 21, FEMA posted new proposed Public Assistance standards on the Federal Register. Comments are due by **May 23, 2016**.

This policy language requires applicants to apply nationally accepted hazard-resistant codes and standards to buildings located in hazard prone areas under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster and Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (Stafford Act) § 323, 42 U.S.C. § 5165(a).

The proposal states--*When using Public Assistance funds to repair, replace or construct buildings located in hazard-prone areas, applicants would use, at a minimum, the hazard-resistant standards reflected or referenced in the International Building Code (IBC). Costs associated with meeting these standards would be eligible. The proposed policy language would replace Chapter 2:VII.C.2 of the Public Assistance Program and Policy Guide (PAPPG), available at <http://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/111781>.*

The proposed policy does not have the force or effect of law. FEMA seeks comment on the proposed policy, which is available online at <http://www.regulations.gov> in docket ID FEMA-2016-0007. Based on the comments received, FEMA may make appropriate revisions to the proposed policy. Although FEMA will consider any comments received in the drafting of the final policy, FEMA will not provide a response to comments document. When or if FEMA issues a final policy, FEMA will publish a notice of availability in the **Federal Register** and make the final policy available at <http://www.regulations.gov>. The final policy will not have the force or effect of law. [the link to the Federal Register](#).

[Latest Aliso Canyon oil and gas leak due to failed rubber seal](#)

LA Daily News

A failed rubber seal on a device is what caused some 80 gallons of **oil** to **spill** from a well Saturday at the Aliso Canyon field near Porter Ranch, state ...

[New report tracks heavy oil shipments in Puget Sound](#)

KIRO Seattle

A Coast Guard spokesman pointed out the barges are double-hulled, and said the risk of **oil spills** is well-managed with navigational advisories and a ...

Webinar on Next Generation Earth System Prediction: Strategies for Subseasonal to Seasonal Forecasts

Wednesday, May 4 at 3:00 PM EDT

Register now to join a free webinar to explore the recent report *Next Generation Earth System Prediction: Strategies for Subseasonal to Seasonal Forecasts*, which presents a 10-year research agenda to strengthen subseasonal to seasonal weather and ocean predictions (those made two weeks to 12 months in advance). Extending weather and ocean forecasts to predict Earth system conditions weeks to months in advance promises to help decision makers plan ahead to save lives, protect property, and increase economic vitality—but, currently, the accuracy, skill, and scope of such extended forecasts is limited.

Join members of the report's authoring committee for a presentation and discussion on proposed research strategies for increasing the skill of forecasts, including expanding the breadth of forecasted variables; improving the prediction of extreme and disruptive events; and bringing researchers and decision makers together to develop more actionable forecasts. ...

[BSEE Tests Technology for Oil Spill Exercise in Arctic](#)

Rigzone

With the Arctic expected to be a major source of oil and natural gas, the development and testing of technologies to detect and clean-up Arctic **oil spills** ...

USA--Transportation Rail Incident Preparedness and Response (TRIPR)

The Transportation Rail Incident Preparedness and Response, Flammable Liquid Unit Trains resource materials were developed to provide critical information on best practices related to rail incidents involving hazard class 3 flammable liquids, such as crude oil and ethanol. A key component of this initiative is to learn from past experiences and to leverage the expertise of public safety agencies, rail carriers, and industry subject matter experts in order to prepare first responders to safely manage incidents involving flammable liquid unit trains. These training resources offer a flexible approach to training the first responders and emergency services personnel in pre-incident planning and response. Each module contains a PowerPoint presentation, Student Workbook, and Instructor Lesson Plan. In addition to these materials, there are three interactive scenarios with animation and introduction videos to help instructors lead tabletop discussions. Click on the link below to download the TRIPR materials. <http://phmsa.dot.gov/hazmat/osd/emergencyresponse/TRIPR>.

BSSE announces new regulations that affect oil and gas industry

Marine Log

Six years after the Deepwater Horizon explosion, the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement has

announced final well control regulations to reduce the risk of an offshore oil or gas blowout that could result in the loss of life, serious injuries or substantial harm to the environment. [Read More »](#)

Can naturally occurring enzymes replace harsh industrial cleaners?

Newsweek

Life has been found in just about every crevice, nook and cranny of the Earth that's been explored, from the deep ice of Antarctica to the superheated thermal vents far under the ocean floor. [Read More »](#)

Field experiment aims to uncover new clues about how oil, other pollutants move in ocean

University of Delaware

On the sixth anniversary of the Deepwater Horizon **oil spill** in the Gulf of ... Huntley: Oil really concentrates in a very thin layer at the ocean surface, ...

Report highlights risks of oil spills from barges

The Seattle Times

A report prepared for Friends of the Earth spotlights the **oil-spill** hazards posed by barges that move crude through Puget Sound to state refineries. ...

Comments Due: May 9, 2016; Reply Comments Due: June 8, 2016

On April 8, 2016, the FCC released a Public Notice seeking comment on technical aspects of the Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS) and its associated alerting systems, such as the Emergency Alert System (EAS) and Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA), as well as other alerting schemes. The purpose of this Public Notice is to gather input about different models for delivering earthquake early warning to the entire public in fewer than three seconds. Public input is also sought on how to better design and transmit such alerts to ensure that they are accessible to people with disabilities.

By September 18, 2016, the FCC must submit a report to Congress outlining all regulatory and statutory changes that would be necessary to ensure that earthquake-related emergency alerts can be delivered to and received by the public in fewer than 3 seconds. This report must include an analysis of alert signals, geographic targeting, and limitations on message length and content.

For links to the Public Notice:

Web: <https://www.fcc.gov/document/earthquake-early-warning-pn>

Word: https://apps.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-16-380A1.docx

PDF: https://apps.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-16-380A1.pdf

Comments may be filed online in PS Docket No. 16-32 at this link: <http://apps.fcc.gov/ecfs/>. For additional information, contact: Gregory Cooke, Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau, at (202) 418-2351, email: Gregory.Cooke@fcc.gov. For those using videophones and fluent in American Sign Language, you may call the ASL Consumer Support Line at 844-432-2275.

Senate passes energy bill

A broad energy bill that would ease some liquefied natural gas export projects and support a range of energy fuels has been approved by the Senate. The bill must be reconciled with a House measure. ...

[The Associated Press](#) (4/20), [The Hill](#) (4/20)

Trans-Alaska Pipeline shut for 9 hours due to fire

A pump station fire forced the shutdown of the Trans-Alaska Pipeline for nine hours Wednesday. Alyeska Pipeline said no injuries or environmental contamination resulted from the fire at Pump Station 5, near Coldfoot. ...
[Alaska Dispatch News \(Anchorage\)](#) (4/20)

FERC finds limited environmental impact from 2 Columbia Pipeline projects

Construction and operation of two proposed Columbia Pipeline projects would have "limited adverse environmental impacts," federal regulators said. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission released draft environmental impact statements on the Leach Xpress Project in Ohio and West Virginia and the Rayne Xpress Expansion Project planned for Kentucky. ...
[Morning Consult](#) (4/21)

International News

Emergency declared after oil spill in Mediterranean

Independent – 2/24/16

A local emergency has been declared on the north-west Italian coast after hundreds of tonnes of oil from a spill at a refinery reached the Mediterranean. There are fears the oil, originally spilled a week ago, might wash up on the beaches of either the Italian or French rivieras just as the tourist season opens. "The situation is complicated. We do not know how much crude could end up in the sea," a local civil protection officer, Gianni Crivello told local media.

The mayor of Genoa said efforts to contain the spill appeared to have been successful. "The situation is delicate but under control," said the Italian transport minister, Graziano Delrio. A leak at a refinery near Genoa last Sunday allowed a large amount of oil into the River Polcevera. Barriers erected to stop the oil reaching the sea failed after heavy rain on Saturday. New barriers were erected today. Italian officials said they were watching the progress of a slick two kilometres long and 500 metres wide which appeared to be floating slowly westwards towards France. ...

Oil by Rail and Pipeline

[Montana to create rail safety plan after critical audit](#)

Bakken.com – 4/20/16

Montana's Public Service Commission hopes to come up with a rail safety plan within six months after a report criticized the agency for having never written one, even as the train traffic carrying volatile crude from the Bakken oil patch has increased. ...

Shale Oil and Shale Gas and Fracking

[US shale companies planning to export LNG to Mexico](#)

Financial Times ([tiered subscription model](#)) (4/25)

In what could curtail a surplus of liquefied natural gas from a warm winter, US shale producers are looking to Mexico as the next exporting opportunity. ...

[Contamination in North Dakota linked to fracking spills](#)

Science Daily

"Unlike **spilled oil**, which starts to break down in soil, these **spilled** brines consist of inorganic chemicals, metals and salts that are resistant to ...

[Toxic ND: Fracking related spills cause pervasive soil & water contamination](#)

Bakken.com

In situ burn at a crude **oil spill** on a wetland in Mountrail County, North Dakota. A recent Duke University study found widespread contamination of ...

Other News

[The Arctic's Global Appeal](#)

Maritime Executive – 4/24/16

Last week experts from around the world gathered for the Arctic Shipping Forum in Helsinki. Much of the discussions relating to the growing cruise industry in the Arctic focused on equipment and not on rescuing passengers from icy water. ...

[Ballast Water Treatment: The Regrowth Problem](#)

Maritime Executive – 4/24/16

The issue of the potential for in-tank organism regrowth after ballast water treatment was raised with IMO Secretary-General Kitack Lim during last week's Marine Environment Protection Committee meeting in London (MEPC 69). ...

[New Report: Tar sands/dilbit crude oil movements within the Salish Sea](#)

Friends of the Earth – April 2016

Friends of the Earth released a new report "Tar Sands/Dilbit Crude Oil Movements Within the Salish Sea" which documents the transits between the Kinder Morgan oil terminal in Burnaby, British Columbia and the U.S. Oil and Refining Co. in Tacoma, Washington from 2010 to 201 ...

[Report highlights risks of oil spills from barges](#)

Seattle Times – 4/22/16

A [report](#) prepared for Friends of the Earth spotlights the oil-spill hazards posed by barges that move crude through Puget Sound to state refineries. ...

[Study: Arctic Platforms Can Survive Sea Ice](#)

Maritime Executive – 4/22/16

The U.S. Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE), in partnership with the University of Alaska, recently completed a research study that examined the ability of current offshore structural designs to successfully survive sea ice demands under extreme Arctic conditions. ...

[First Methanol-fueled Tanker Launched](#)

Maritime Link – 4/21/16

Launched at the Hyundai Mipo dockyard in Ulsan, South Korea, the newly built Lindanger is the world's first methanol fueled ocean-going vessel. ...

[We almost always underestimate the size of oil spills](#)

Grist – 4/20/16

In early April, TransCanada reported that a leg of the Keystone pipeline, running from Alberta, Canada, to Cushing, Okla., had leaked 187 gallons in a South Dakota field. But that was just an estimate based on the amount of oil that had seeped to the surface. By the following week, after digging up and excavating the line, TransCanada revised the reported spill size by almost 9,000 percent to 16,800 gallons. ...

Public Health Updates

Why Republicans Are Opposing President Obama's Request For Zika Funding

By Mike Debonis, [Washington Post](#)

In February, President Obama asked Congress for \$1.9 billion in emergency funds to address the growing threat of the mosquito-borne Zika virus, which has been linked to serious birth defects, has already overtaken much of South America and the Caribbean, and is expected to threaten the United States this summer. ...

First Commercial Zika Virus Test Gets FDA Approval

By Maggie Fox, [NBC News](#)

The first commercial U.S. test to diagnose Zika virus won emergency use authorization from the Food and Drug Administration Thursday. It's a rare piece of good news as states and the federal government struggle to get out ahead of the Zika virus epidemic as it makes its way north to the U.S. ...

NASA Maps Zika's Potential Spread In The US

By Sandee Lamotte, [CNN](#)

Houston, we have a problem. It's a Zika-carrying mosquito.

OK, nobody in space is saying that. But it is true that NASA scientists have created a map to better target future search-and-destroy missions for the deadliest animal on the planet, the female *Aedes aegypti* mosquito. The blood-sucking females are responsible for the spread of dangerous diseases such as yellow and dengue fevers, chikungunya and now Zika. ...

[Zika funding battle steals states' public health emergency money](https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/to-your-health/wp/2016/04/25/zika-funding-battle-steals-states-public-health-emergency-money/)

By [Johnnie Purify](#), MBA, B.S., A.A., A.A.S.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/to-your-health/wp/2016/04/25/zika-funding-battle-steals-states-public-health-emergency-money/>

Senator Warns Zika Is About To Get Real: “The Mosquitoes Are Coming”

By Laura Barron-Lopez, [Huffington Post](#)

WASHINGTON — Democrats spent much of Wednesday reminding Republicans that mosquitoes carrying the Zika virus are now spreading to the U.S. In fact, there are already a good number present in 30 states.

“The mosquitoes are coming,” Sen. Barbara Mikulski (D-Md.) told reporters. “The mosquitoes are already here. You can’t build a fence to keep them out, and the mosquitoes won’t pay for it. The mosquitoes are here — this is not a [President Barack] Obama fantasy.” ...

Baltimore Unveils Zika Virus Preparedness Plan

[WBAL](#)

Baltimore Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake said an effective response to the Zika virus will require a multi-agency approach to protect city residents.

That was her response during a news conference with city Health Commissioner Dr. Leana Wen Tuesday to announce Baltimore's Zika preparedness plan to educate the public about the virus and coordinate a citywide response to help prevent it from spreading. ...

How The United States Is Bracing For Zika

By Alexandra Sifferlin, [TIME](#)

A mosquito’s buzz is barely audible, but it’s enough to keep scientists up at night. By 8 a.m. on Wednesday morning, disease detectives at the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) are busy manning the agency’s Emergency Operations Center (EOC), the public health equivalent of mission control, where top U.S. scientists in every expertise, from infectious disease to birth defects, are trying to get a handle on the mysterious Zika virus. For decades the virus appeared to result in just benign infection, but all that changed in a matter of months when it was linked to microcephaly and other brain and autoimmune disorders. ...

Deepwater Horizon Updates

[Six Years After, BP Oil Spill Impact Worse Than Scientists Thought](#)

Natural World News – 4/21/16

On April 20, six years ago, the world watched in shock as the largest oil spill in U.S. history unfolded before our very eyes. Disaster struck as the BP Deepwater Horizon exploded and sank, resulting to 11 people missing and never found and barrels of oil spilling for 87 days before it was finally capped in June. Six years after the tragedy, a new study reveals that the negative impact of the largest accidental marine oil spill is worse than scientists originally thought. ...

[Jellyfish are dying from Deepwater Horizon cleanup efforts](#)

Palm Beach Post – 4/21/16

The use of chemicals to disperse oil after the Deepwater Horizon explosion in 2010 caused moon jellyfish to lose their purplish hue, change shape and die, according to a new study from Florida International University. ...

[BP Oil Spill Was Even Bigger Than Previously Thought](#)

Huffington Post

The BP Deepwater Horizon **oil spill** wrecked even more coastline than scientists previously believed, according to a new study. In the six years since. ...

[Field experiment aims to uncover new clues about how oil, other pollutants move in ocean](#)

University of Delaware

9:41 a.m., April 20, 2016--It's been six years since the **Deepwater Horizon** oil spill occurred in the Gulf of Mexico and scientists are still working to ...