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January 22, 2025



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TODAY'S NEWS

Trump's permitting order could affect water, air quality

President Donald Trump has issued an executive order directing federal agencies to accelerate permitting in the US and weakening the Council on Environmental Quality's authority in the matter. It also asks the CEQ to weigh pulling back rules under the National Environmental Policy Act and consider replacing them with nonbinding guidance. Some experts are concerned the approach could lead to a patchwork of regulations, legal challenges and a drop in air and water quality.

Full Story: [Bloomberg](#) (1/21), [Bloomberg Law](#) (1/21)

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Biosolids and PFAS

On January 14, EPA released its Draft Sewage Sludge Risk Assessment for PFOA and PFAS, which represents the agency's first step towards addressing the potential hazards related to PFAS in biosolids. [Learn more about what our experts say about PFAS in biosolids.](#)



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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Outdated infrastructure puts a strain on Fla. city

Bradenton, Fla., discharged about 450,000 gallons of partially treated wastewater into the Manatee River earlier this month due to overwhelmed filters at its Bradenton Water Reclamation Facility. Efforts are underway to correct related issues and the city has allocated \$100 million toward improvements, including a \$13 million injection well to manage wastewater more effectively.

Full Story: [Sarasota Herald-Tribune \(Fla.\)](#) (tiered subscription model) (1/22)

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INFRASTRUCTURE WATCH

Ontario city uses cured-in-place for water main rehab

The city of Richmond Hill, Ontario, used cured-in-place pipe technology to rehabilitate a water main under a major road, minimizing disruptions and environmental impact. The project, which involved 8,200 feet of cast iron pipe, was completed on time and under budget, serving as a case study for future infrastructure projects. **Full Story:** [Trenchless Technology](#) (1/17)

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FUNDING AND FINANCING

Ark. earmarks \$66.5M for water infrastructure

Eight counties in Arkansas are set to receive \$66.5 million in state funding aimed at enhancing water and wastewater infrastructure, Gov. Sarah Huckabee Sanders says. The support is part of an Arkansas Natural Resources Commission initiative to improve water quality and resource management. **Full Story:** [KFSM-TV \(Fort Smith, Ark.\)](#) (1/16)

   

STORMWATER

Study links climate change to global megadroughts

New research published in the journal Nature indicates that climate change is exacerbating megadroughts in many parts of the world, including regions like Chile, Mongolia and southeastern Australia. Megadroughts can disrupt ecosystems in many ways, for example resulting in drier conditions that helped fuel the recent wildfires in California. "The extent at which these droughts are increasing in area per year is the size of Switzerland, roughly," said lead author Liangzhi Chen of the Swiss Federal Institute WSL. **Full Story:** [Carrier Management/Bloomberg](#) (1/22)

   

RESEARCH, INNOVATION & TECHNOLOGY

Glacier preservation is crucial for planet, UN warns

The UN has launched its International Year of Glaciers' Preservation campaign, highlighting the importance of protecting the world's 275,000 glaciers against accelerated melting caused by climate change. Glaciers play a critical role in global climate regulation and provide fresh water supplies for over 2 billion people around the world, the World Meteorological Organization warns.

Full Story: [The News International \(Pakistan\)/Agence France-Presse](#) (1/22)

   

NIH grant to investigate effects of PFAS on child health

The NIH awarded the Arkansas Children's Research Institute a \$3 million grant to study the effects of PFAS on infant and child development. The research, led by Aline Andres, will explore how prenatal and postnatal exposure to these forever chemicals affect health and the potential benefits of exercise in mitigating these effects. **Full Story:** [KATV-TV \(Little Rock, Ark.\)](#) (1/20)

   

WORKFORCE

A lack of creativity is on leaders, not the culture



A creative deficit in organizations is often a leadership issue rather than a cultural one, writes executive coach Art Petty, who contrasts two companies: ABC Company, where creativity is encouraged and flourishes, and XYZ Company, where a lack of creative energy stems from risk-averse management. Petty advises leaders to empower employees to address creativity barriers and to listen actively to their ideas. **Full Story:** [SmartBrief/Leadership](#) (1/21)

(mikroman6/Getty Images)

   

TODAY AT WEF

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