

# Duke Energy Sued for 2014 Coal Ash Spill Environmental Harm

## *News*

Duke Energy pleaded guilty to federal environmental crimes in 2015 and agreed to pay \$102 million.

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# Environmental Lawyers Probing Water Contamination from 'Forever Chemicals'

## *News*

Environmental trial lawyers at Dallas-based Fears Nachawati Law Firm are investigating water contamination cases on behalf of states, counties and cities across the nation.

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# Fracking Companies Lost on Trespassing, But a Court Just Gave Them a Different Win

## *News*

A week after the West Virginia Supreme Court unanimously

upheld the property rights of landowners battling one natural gas giant, the same court tossed out a challenge filed by another group of landowners against a different natural gas company.

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## **PG&E Ordered to Prove New Board is Fit to Serve**

### ***News***

PG&E has seen a cascade of management-level changes following the deadly November 2018 Camp Fire that burned more than 18,000 buildings and ruined the town of Paradise, according to Courthouse News Service.

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## **Groundwater Law Can Bring Some Unwelcome Surprises to Property Owners**

### ***Insight***

Gray Reed provides some analysis of the state of groundwater law in Texas and discusses some of the effects of a Texas Supreme Court case that should now be a concern to land purchasers in every transaction.

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# **Bayer Bets on ‘Silver Bullet’ Defense in Roundup Litigation; Experts See Hurdles**

## ***News***

Bayer has a better shot if a business-friendly U.S. Supreme Court takes up the case, experts said.

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# **Judge Orders PG&E Directors to Visit Town Destroyed by Wildfire**

## ***News***

The judge said he wanted the energy company executives to “see the gravity of what happened up there” and indicated he likely will join the tour.

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# Outcry Over EPA Proposal to Weaken Standards for Cleanup of 'Forever Chemicals'

## *News*

The proposal would lower existing requirements for addressing groundwater contamination at military bases where large amounts of contamination have been documented.

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# Food Regulatory Lawyer Joan Baughan Joins Steptoe

## *News*

Joan Baughan has joined Steptoe & Johnson LLP as a partner based in the Washington office.

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# Landowners, Energy Companies Seek to Capture Court's Ruling in Historic Hydraulic Fracking Case

## *News*

The Supreme Court of Pennsylvania has agreed to hear a case to

consider whether the rule of capture applies to hydraulic fracking, reports The Hydraulic Fracking Blog of Norton Rose Fulbright.

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## **Ford Says Feds Have Opened Criminal Probe Into Its Emissions Certifications**

### ***News***

CNBC is reporting that the Justice Department has launched a criminal investigation in a matter relating to Ford Motor's emissions certification process.

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## **Haynes and Boone Issues Energy Roundup for Spring 2019**

### ***Insight***

Haynes and Boone's Spring 2019 Energy Roundup highlights an evolving United States oil and gas industry responding to recent commodity price volatility, the firm said on its website.

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# Judge Dismisses Pipeline Operator's Racketeering/Defamation Suit Against Greenpeace

## *News*

"Posting articles written by people with similar beliefs does not create a RICO enterprise," a federal judge wrote in his dismissal order.

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# Appeals Court Allows Quick-Take of Land for Mountain Valley Pipeline

## *News*

Landowners objected to a lower-court ruling granting immediate possession of the disputed land before deciding how much each property owner should be compensated.

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# Border Wall Needs Private Property. But Some Texans Won't Give Up Their Land Without a Fight.

## News

Previous eminent domain attempts along the Texas border have led to more than a decade of court battles, according to *The Washington Post*.

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# Federal Judge Blocks Keystone Pipeline XL in Major Blow to Trump Administration

## News

*The Washington Post* characterized the order as a major defeat for President Trump, who attacked the Obama administration for stopping the project in the face of protests and an environmental impact study.

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# Former Partner Sentenced to

# Five Years in Prison for Scheme to Bribe Alabama Lawmaker

## **News**

A former partner at Balch & Bingham has been sentenced to five years in prison for a scheme to bribe an Alabama state legislator to oppose expansion of a site designated for an environmental cleanup, reports the *ABA Journal*.

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# Energy Attorney Christopher J. Townsend Joins Freeborn

## **News**

Christopher J. Townsend has joined Freeborn & Peters LLP's Chicago office as a partner and co-leader of the firm's Environment and Energy Practice Group.

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# PA Court Rejects Fracking Company's Appeal In 'Rule Of Capture' Decision

## **News**

A Pennsylvania appeals court rejected a request by a natural



gas production company to rehear a case whose outcome could affect drillers across the country, reports WSKG.

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# Subcontractors Sue Valero Over Explosion at Texas City Refinery

## **News**

The workers are seeking damages based on claims that they suffered orthopedic injuries and hearing loss from the accident and are dealing with post-traumatic stress disorder, reports the *San Antonio Business Journal*.