

From: Hinson, Alex
Bcc: lori_mashburn@ios.doi.gov
Subject: DOI Daily Report
Date: Wednesday, December 20, 2017 9:57:02 AM

INTERIOR DAILY COMMUNICATIONS REPORT

NEWS TO SHARE:

[Reuters: U.S. sees foreign reliance for 'critical' minerals as security concern](#)

“The United States needs to encourage domestic production of a handful of minerals critical for the technology and defense industries, and stem reliance on China, U.S. Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke said on Tuesday. Zinke made the remarks at the Interior Department as he unveiled a report by the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), which detailed the extent to which the United States is dependent upon foreign competitors for its supply of certain minerals.”

[Seattle Times \(Associated Press\): Interior Dept. says US relies on China for critical minerals](#)

“The Interior Department says in a new report that the United States is reliant on China and other nations for the overwhelming majority of critical minerals used by the military and for manufacturing everything from smartphones to wind turbines and cars. The report released Tuesday by the U.S. Geological Survey says the U.S. relies on foreign sources for a majority of all but two of the 23 minerals identified as critical. The minerals are produced in China, Russia, South Africa, Brazil and other countries. Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke called the report troubling and said the reliance of imported minerals, especially by the military, poses a ‘very real national security risk.’”

[The Business Times \(CO\): Colorado gets \\$92 million in federal disbursements](#)

“Colorado received a total of more than \$92 million in federal energy and mineral production disbursements, according to figures from the Interior Department for the 2017 fiscal year. The total constitutes an increase of more than \$8 million from the previous fiscal year. The funds come from oil, natural gas and minerals extracted from federal and Indian lands. Colorado ranked third for federal revenues for the 2017 fiscal year. Nationwide, Office of Natural Resources Revenue disbursements totaled \$7.11 billion, an increase of nearly \$1 billion from the previous year.”

OTHER TOP STORIES:

[Washington Post: Rock Creek National Park? Norton wants a new name for nation’s oldest urban park.](#)

“The official list of national parks is filled with iconic places: Yellowstone, Yosemite and the Grand Canyon, to name a few. Rock Creek Park, which was created by Congress in 1890 and runs through the heart of the nation’s capital, is nowhere on that list. Instead, the National

Park Service has relegated Rock Creek to the category of “other designations.” D.C. Del. Eleanor Holmes Norton (D) wants to change that. Norton is asking Congress to rename it “Rock Creek National Park,” which would move the country’s oldest urban park into the big leagues, where she says it belongs. Redesignating and renaming the park would make its historical significance clear to visitors and members of Congress, Norton said. And that might help her when she lobbies for funding to maintain the park, which has a nearly \$53 million maintenance backlog.”

Bloomberg: Tax Bill Opens Arctic Refuge for Oil, But Years of Delay May Follow

“Congress is close to lifting a 40-year-old ban on energy development in Alaska’s Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, but drilling for oil in that frozen wilderness may still be years away as the effort faces exhaustive environmental reviews and likely lawsuits. It could be a decade or more before any well is drilled, following required environmental scrutiny and permit reviews -- and then the inevitable lawsuits from local communities and environmental groups opposed to any development in that rugged wilderness. “It’s still an open question about whether drilling will ever happen there,” said Matt Lee-Ashley, a senior fellow at the Center for American Progress and former Interior Department official. “It’s hard to image that drilling will occur in the next 10 years -- or ever.” The House voted Tuesday for a tax bill that includes a provision mandating that the Interior Department hold lease sales in the so-called 1002 area of the Arctic Refuge, a coastal portion of the 19-million-acre federally protected wilderness area. The refuge is estimated to contain 11.8 billion barrels of technically recoverable crude.”

U.S. News and World Report: Official: North Cascades Grizzly Bear Recovery Work Halted

“Work to restore grizzly bears to the North Cascades Ecosystem has been stopped by Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke's office, a national parks official told a Montana newspaper. But Zinke spokeswoman Heather Swift told The Associated Press Tuesday that Zinke did not direct a stop work order on the environmental review. Swift didn't provide further details. North Cascades National Park Superintendent Karen Taylor-Goodrich told the Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee last week that her staff had been asked to halt work on its environmental review, the Missoulian reported . She said the order also stalls discussions with Canadian wildlife managers who oversee a similar grizzly recovery process in British Columbia.”

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Alex Hinson

Deputy Press Secretary
Department of the Interior

From: Hinson, Alex
Bcc: lori_mashburn@ios.doi.gov
Subject: DOI Daily Report
Date: Wednesday, December 27, 2017 9:59:24 AM

INTERIOR DAILY COMMUNICATIONS REPORT

NEWS TO SHARE:

[Natural gas Intelligence: New Interior Survey Shows Huge Increase in Alaska Onshore, Offshore Reserves](#)

“Alaska's onshore and offshore collectively hold about 17.6 billion bbl of oil and more than 50 Tcf of natural gas, according to an updated assessment conducted by Department of Interior (DOI) agencies, which also reported a nearly six-fold increase in onshore oil resources. The DOI last week said the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) was the lead agency for the survey of onshore areas, while its Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) led the offshore survey, with data contributed by its Bureau of Land Management (BLM). The USGS estimated that the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska (NPR-A), as well as adjacent state and native lands, hold an estimated mean of 8.7 billion bbl of oil and 25 Tcf of natural gas, resources which were classified as undiscovered, technically recoverable. The latest survey marked a near six-fold increase in oil from a previous assessment conducted in 2010, which found a mean of 1.5 billion bbl.”

[Guam Daily Post: DOI awards \\$1.5M for new playgrounds at island schools](#)

“Thousands of the island's elementary and middle school students received a Christmas gift from the Department of Interior as the Calvo administration announced securing a \$1.5 million grant. The funds will be used to purchase new playground and gym equipment and improve multipurpose courts and fields. Gov. Eddie Baza Calvo stated that playtime is crucial to fostering creativity in children. “On playgrounds, children run, swing, and climb – strengthening their bodies. They play together and learn how to take turns, how to follow and lead their peers. These are life skills that strengthen their character and build them up to be the forward thinkers of our island,” Calvo stated in a press release. Roughly \$1.3 million will go to fund elementary school playground upgrades, while \$200,000 will go to middle schools for field improvements and equipment.”

[Washington Examiner: Rob Bishop: Congress must cement Trump's public lands agenda into law](#)

“Rep. Rob Bishop, who chairs the House Natural Resources Committee, says he's thrilled to finally be working with a president who supports the idea of returning the control of federal land to states and localities. But in an interview with the Washington Examiner, he said Congress needs to work quickly to make sure President Trump's decisions to roll back national monument designations are locked into place, so a future president can't reverse those moves. “What they are doing has go to be put into some type of statutory language to

actually give some finality to it," Bishop said. "Otherwise, everything Trump is doing now can be changed by the next president." Bishop said the issue is a challenge, however, because he argues that environmentalists and other opponents are misrepresenting the intent of the monument reforms, and the broader Trump public lands agenda."

[Albuquerque Journal: Zinke undaunted after busy, divisive 2017](#)

"On his first day on the job – clad in jeans and a black cowboy hat – Zinke rode a U.S. Park Police horse to his swearing-in. He continued to make splashy news throughout the year, whether it was for his plans to reorganize the Interior Department and slash its workforce by as many as 4,000 employees, his stated intent to open more federal lands to both oil drilling and recreation, or his admonishing a national park superintendent for tweets about climate change. No issue loomed larger in the interior secretary's first year in office than his contentious and controversial review of 27 national monuments for possible downsizing or other changes. Two of those monuments – Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument near Las Cruces and Rio Grande del Norte National Monument near Taos – became a national rallying cry for land conservationists. Zinke spent two days in New Mexico in late July meeting with public officials and others, and even took a horseback ride with the state's two Democratic U.S. senators. Despite intense public skepticism about his intentions, Zinke recommended no changes to the monuments' boundaries in New Mexico – only management changes."

OTHER TOP STORIES:

[Wall Street Journal: Regulators Propose Rollbacks to Offshore Drilling Safety Measures](#)

"Regulators in the Trump administration are proposing to roll back safety measures put in place after the 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil spill, a revision that would reduce the role of government in offshore oil production and return more responsibility to private companies. The Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement, which regulates offshore oil and gas drilling, estimates its proposed changes could save the industry more than \$900 million over the next 10 years and reverse some risk-reduction measures that drillers consider burdensome. Among the changes, the proposed rule would relax requirements to stream real-time data on oil-production operations to facilities onshore, where they currently are available for review by regulators."

[U.S. News and World Report: US Senate Approves New Mexico Wilderness Proposal](#)

"A measure that would further protect thousands of acres within the Rio Grande del Norte National Monument in northern New Mexico has won approval from the U.S. Senate. The Cerro del Yuta and Rio San Antonio Wilderness Act passed the Republican-controlled chamber late last week with unanimous support. The bill now heads to the House for consideration. The measure would establish two new wilderness areas within the monument that would cover more than 21,000 acres (8,500 hectares). Sen. Martin Heinrich says setting aside the areas as wilderness would further complete the vision of stakeholders who fought to

protect the monument during a recent federal review. He said the legislation calls for preserving traditional practices. Heinrich and fellow New Mexico Democrat Tom Udall first introduced the wilderness proposal years ago. They revived it earlier this year.”

Washington Examiner: Trump's energy agenda hits its stride in 2018, but pitfalls lurk

“President Trump’s energy dominance agenda and overthrow of the Obama administration's environmental regulations will hit its stride in 2018 after a year of pushing a pro-growth agenda that seeks to boost fossil fuel production. Industry groups, conservative think tanks and left-leaning activist group are all trying to sift through the administration’s forceful deregulation push to understand where to target their lobbying and litigation in the new year. The Interior and Energy departments are pushing forward with a number of new rules while continuing 2017's theme of pulling back on regulations to reduce costs and spur economic growth. The agenda, known as "energy dominance," isn't going away anytime soon.”

Denver Post-Opinion: Why not move the BLM headquarters west?

“Much is appealing from where we sit in Colorado, surrounded by millions of acres of public lands, about the possibility of the Bureau of Land Management headquarters coming to the West. We are thrilled Sen. Cory Gardner, R-Yuma, and Rep. Scott Tipton, R-Cortez, have sparked a conversation within the Department of Interior and top Colorado officials about moving the BLM headquarters out of the Beltway and into the heart of 245 million acres of public lands it manages. Most BLM employees are already decentralized in offices across America. According to the agency, 503 full-time employees work in the Washington, D.C., headquarters and 8,403 are employed in the field. That makes sense for an office responsible for managing public use and private leasing of nearly 10 percent of the nation’s surface lands and a third of America’s mineral resources. We are eager to see if it makes sense to move the rest of those employees closer to the lands and natural resources they manage.”

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Alex Hinson

**Deputy Press Secretary
Department of the Interior**

From: Hinson, Alex
Bcc: lori_mashburn@ios.doi.gov
Subject: DOI Daily Report
Date: Thursday, December 28, 2017 11:30:01 AM

INTERIOR DAILY COMMUNICATIONS REPORT

NEWS TO SHARE:

[Reuters: Italy's Eni begins drilling oil well in Alaska's Beaufort Sea: BSEE](#)

“Italian oil producer Eni this week began drilling a new well in U.S. waters off the north coast of Alaska, becoming the first company to do so since 2015, federal regulators said on Wednesday. The oil and gas firm is working from an artificial island in the Beaufort Sea about three miles off Oliktok Point in the Arctic Ocean. The well is expected to run more than 6 miles (10 km) long. The project could result in 20,000 barrels a day of oil production, according to regulator U.S. Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE), which said it sent employees to the site to ensure compliance with federal regulations and safety standards...According to BSEE, Eni plans to use extended-reach drilling techniques to tap a formation on the Outer Continental Shelf that regulators approved a year ago. Eni is exploring the formation in partnership with Royal Dutch Shell Plc.”

[Forbes: The State Of The U.S. Oil And Gas Industry Is Strong As 2017 Comes To A Close](#)

“All things considered, 2017 produced a veritable sea-change in the outlook for the U.S. oil and gas industry, a true turnaround from the bleak years of 2014-16... While it's not a return to the heady days of \$100 oil or \$12 natural gas - two things we are unlikely to see again for a generation, perhaps ever - the relative health of the industry today as compared to a year before is dramatically improved, and really more than any industry participant could have reasonably hoped for.”

[Casper Star Tribune: Wyoming oil and gas lease revenue increases by 800 percent in 2017](#)

“Revenue from leasing land to oil and gas companies in Wyoming jumped by more than 800 percent from 2016 to 2017. It's no secret that the industry stalled when crude prices fell into the \$30 range. The number of oil rigs operating in the state dropped to single digits and companies big and small laid off workers. Lease buying, when operators stake land claims for future development, also slowed. But the price of oil now hovers around \$60 a barrel, a generally low price, but better than the bottom of the downturn. A new presidential administration has embraced energy development and loosened environmental regulations. The combination has resulted in an online bidding war for state and federal leasing agencies. “I'm hopeful that we are looking at a trend: that the market is stabilizing in the state of Wyoming,” said Jason Crowder, assistant director for the Office of State Lands and Investments, Trust Land Management Division.”

OTHER TOP STORIES:

Capital Press: Senators question USFS role in sage grouse review

“Thirteen Democratic senators, including Oregon Sens. Ron Wyden and Jeff Merkley, are questioning what role the U.S. Forest Service played in the Trump administration’s recent decision to review protections for the greater sage grouse. In a letter sent Dec. 20 to USFS Chief Tony Tooke, the senators pose a list of 10 questions stemming from federal orders to review the 2015 sage grouse plans, which sought to keep the peculiar bird off the Endangered Species List. Those plans, the senators argue, were the hard-won results of negotiations between farmers, ranchers, sportsmen, conservationists and government officials to preserve sage grouse habitat while balancing rural economies. On June 7, however, Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke issued an order to re-examine the plans to see if any provisions might hinder job creation and energy development.”

Bloomberg: Westmoreland Wasn't Cleared to Expand Coal Mine, Interior Says

“Westmoreland Coal Co. hasn’t received federal approval to expand a Montana mine, the U.S. Interior Department said Wednesday, a day after the miner’s shares surged on a report the project had been cleared. “A previous statement by the Department that it had approved the expansion of the mine was incorrect and was the result of an internal miscommunication,” Heather Swift, a spokeswoman, said by email. Interior is taking the next step in the process to make a draft environmental impact statement available and opening up a period for public comments, Swift said. She was correcting her statement that appeared in an Associated Press article last week that Westmoreland had been cleared to expand the facility, potentially unlocking 60 million tons of coal production there. Westmoreland jumped as much as 49 percent in intraday trading on Tuesday, the most since 1998. The company did not respond to voice and email requests seeking comment Wednesday.”

NPR: Accidentally Killing Birds Isn't A Crime, Says Trump Administration

“The Trump administration says it will no longer criminally prosecute companies that accidentally kill migratory birds. The decision reverses a rule made in the last weeks of the Obama administration. A legal memo from the Department of the Interior posted Friday declares that the Migratory Bird Treaty Act applies only to purposeful actions that kill migratory birds, and not to energy companies and other businesses that kill birds incidentally. "Interpreting the MBTA to apply to incidental or accidental actions hangs the sword of Damocles over a host of otherwise lawful and productive actions, threatening up to six months in jail and a \$15,000 penalty for each and every bird injured or killed," the memo says. The memo is written by Daniel Jorjani, Interior's principal deputy solicitor, a longtime adviser to libertarian billionaire Charles Koch.”

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Deputy Press Secretary
Department of the Interior

From: Nachmany, Eli
Bcc: lori_mashburn@ios.doi.gov
Subject: DOI Daily Report 12/26
Date: Tuesday, December 26, 2017 11:07:37 AM

Note: Bulletin Intelligence will not be sent today, but will resume tomorrow

INTERIOR DAILY COMMUNICATIONS REPORT

NEWS TO SHARE:

[ALBUQUERQUE \(NM\) JOURNAL: Zinke talks OMDP, climate change in year-end interview](#)

"I love my job," the Interior secretary declared last week during an interview in his office, which boasts jaw-dropping views of the Washington Monument and National Mall. "I'm passionate about public lands."

[LAS VEGAS \(NV\) REVIEW-JOURNAL EDITORIAL: Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke seeks to rebuild public trust in the rural West](#)

"It's nearing five years now and Ash Springs remains closed. On Thursday, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke told the Review-Journal that the incident highlights why many rural Westerners don't trust the agencies charged with managing federal lands. 'This is exactly why the federal government needs to clean up our act,' he said. 'I'm not in the business of locking the public out.' Mr. Zinke insisted that Ash Springs will again be open for use and chided the BLM for taking so long to resolve the issue."

[WASHINGTON EXAMINER: A phony green 'watchdog' group is attacking Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke](#)

"An anti-development pressure group with close ties to organized labor and environmental activists is scandalized because 'industry-friendly' individuals have been selected to serve in President Trump's Interior Department. While it's fair game to debate the merits of nominees who have been tapped to fill key positions, it's not fair or honest to posture as champions of the public interest when in reality you are advancing the policy preferences of narrow special interests. But that's what a group known as the Western Values Project has been doing since the time of its inception in 2013."

[DULUTH \(MN\) NEWS-TRIBUNE: Twin Metals gets federal mining leases back](#)

"The move by the Trump administration reverses a decision to hold back the federal mineral leases that was made one year ago by the outgoing Obama administration. The U.S. Interior Department's Bureau of Land Management withdrew mineral lease agreements from Twin Metals last year, essentially ending the company's effort to build a more-than-\$2.8 billion mine that would employ up to 850 people."

[REUTERS: Accidentally killing migratory birds not a crime, Trump administration says](#)

"In the legal opinion issued late Friday, the Interior Department's principal deputy solicitor, Daniel Jorjani, said that a 1918 law that officials have used to prosecute those who kill birds 'incidentally' as part of doing business was really aimed at preventing poaching and hunting without a license. The Migratory Bird Treaty Act 'applies only to direct and affirmative purposeful actions that reduce migratory birds, their eggs, or their nests, by killing or capturing, to human control,' Jorjani wrote."

[KTOO \(AK\) PUBLIC MEDIA: New oil estimate for NPR-A: It's 'HUGE'](#)

"Congress just passed a law to allow oil development in the northeastern Arctic, in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Now, the Interior Department has announced a new assessment of the northwestern Arctic, in the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska. It suggests a "HUGE" increase in oil and gas resources in NPR-A. The government press release actually says it in all caps: 'HUGE.' Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke has called for more energy production in the reserve, and Friday's announcement could serve as a marketing brochure."

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Sincerely,
Eli Nachmany
Writer, U.S. Department of the Interior
Office of Communications

(202) 706-9285

From: Nachmany, Eli
Bcc: lori_mashburn@ios.doi.gov
Subject: DOI Daily Report for 09/27
Date: Wednesday, September 27, 2017 11:19:26 AM

INTERIOR DAILY COMMUNICATIONS REPORT

NEWS TO SHARE:

[Fresno Bee: Empire Fire in Yosemite shows that not all wildfires are bad. It is 'a good fire'](#)

“U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke on Sept. 12 released a memo directing staff to ‘take a serious turn from the past’ by working to prevent forest fires ‘through aggressive and scientific fuels reduction management.’ Zinke’s memo was welcome direction for Shive. ‘We feel encouraged by it because we’ve been doing what amounts to very active fire management for a long time,’ Shive says. ‘And I think that memo is correct, but this has not been widespread practice. There’s a handful of places in the Western U.S that have been doing this for a very long time. Most places have not.’”

[E&E News: Trump's energy focus raises hopes in Alaska](#)

“Alaska Gov. Bill Walker (I) first grasped the dramatic changes in store for his state under the Trump administration when he attended an inaugural event early this year. As Walker and his wife began to leave a late-night reception, they bumped into Ryan Zinke, whom President Trump had already selected to head the Interior Department. As Walker recalled at a recent business forum, ‘We were introduced, and [Zinke] said, ‘You’re the governor of Alaska?’ And I said, ‘Yes I am.’ He grabbed my hand and said, ‘You’re going to love me.’”

[The Daily Republic: Fishing for a Problem](#)

“Fortunately for all anglers/hunters/recreational shooters, President Donald Trump appointed Ryan Zinke as the new Secretary of the Interior. On March 2, 2017, Zinke reversed Order 219. Zinke said, and I will quote, ‘After reviewing the order and the process by which it was promulgated, I have determined that the order is not mandated by any existing statutory or regulatory requirement and was issued without significant communication, consultation or coordination with affected stakeholders.’ Zinke, of Montana, has asked federal agencies to promote outdoor recreation, and regarding this he has said, ‘It worries me to think about hunting and fishing becoming activities for the land-owning elite.’ Let’s hope that he continues to think along these lines.”

[Flathead Beacon: Don’t Let Fake Narrative Block Monuments Review](#)

“Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke has made an admirable attempt to solicit input from Montanans about how national monuments have affected our state. It’s unfortunate that effort has been drowned out by fake advertisements aimed at misleading Montanans and funded by out-of-state environmental groups. Opposition to the monuments review centers on the

ridiculous claim that it will result in the federal government selling federal land to private entities. Not only is that the direct opposite of Secretary Zinke's stated objective, it's illegal for the federal government to sell public land."

Correcting the Record:

[L.A. Times: Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke calls his staff disloyal in speech to oil industry](#)

"Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke walked into a big gathering of the National Petroleum Council on Monday already facing at least two government probes for his management of the department's workforce of 70,000 — but that didn't stop him from bashing his employees. Zinke told the gathering that he figured upon taking his post that nearly a third of the people at the department were disloyal. The comment may have shed light on the secretary's reasons for directing department officials to reassign approximately 50 top managers in June, as soon as the move may have been legally permissible."

TALKING POINTS

- The media reports were incomplete and mischaracterized the Secretary's analogy.
- The Secretary is a Navy man and used the analogy of seizing a ship in battle and changing policies and procedures.
- The "flag" was not a literal comparison to the flag of the U.S. or even the Administration. In the military structure, to which the Secretary was alluding, the flag represents the command of an organization and the policies and procedures it seeks to implement
- The Secretary led with the fact that Interior is full of "really good people" but that a small minority are hesitant to changing policy and reforms. This includes the bad actors who are frequently the subject of IG reports who resist any change because they know it will lead to accountability.

[Washington Post: No, we can't -- and shouldn't -- stop forest fires](#)

"The American West is burning, Sen. Steve Daines (R-Mont.) tells us in his recent Post op-ed. He and officials in the Trump administration have described Western forest fires as catastrophes, promoting congressional action ostensibly to save our National Forests from fire by allowing widespread commercial logging on public lands. This, they claim, will reduce forest density and the fuel for wildfires. But this position is out of step with current science and is based on several myths promoted by commercial interests."

TALKING POINTS

- Dead and dying timber from previous fires, and disease infestation, plague our forests and make them more prone to catastrophic fires. By thinning these fuels, fires do not gain in intensity and grow as quickly. This makes them safer and

more manageable to battle.

- The Trump Administration is taking aggressive and preemptive measures to prevent wildfires and combat their spread through active fuels management versus the previous administration's (and these authors') more "naturalist" approach. The naturalist approach allows fuels to build up and forests to thicken, making them more prone to wildfires that are more difficult and dangerous to suppress.
- The Secretary's forest management Secretarial Order does not allow commercial timber harvests in National Parks. It does, however, order preemptive fuels management, like what already happens in parks like Yosemite and Sequoia Kings Canyon National Parks. Secretary Zinke recently visited Montana with Secretary Sonny Perdue of the Department of Agriculture to view the wildfires in the West.

[Washington Post: The National Park Service showed that its bottled water ban worked — then lifted it](#)

“Long before the Trump administration rescinded a ban on the sale of disposable water bottles in select national parks, the Interior Department was aware of a report from the National Park Service that the program worked. The report was quietly made public at the end of the day Friday after organizations submitted Freedom of Information Act requests for its release. In 2011, the parks initiated a water bottle sales elimination program to reduce pollution and the costs of recycling plastic. It resulted in yearly savings of up to two million water bottles, according to an estimate in the report, and ‘demonstrates the commitment of the [National Park Service] to environmental stewardship.’”

TALKING POINTS

- The policy was discontinued to expand healthy hydration options for recreationalists, hikers, and other visitors to national parks. The ban removed the healthiest beverage choice at a variety of parks while still allowing sales of bottled sweetened drinks.
- The Department's changes will improve the visitor experience.
- We will continue to encourage the use of free water bottle filling stations as appropriate, but ultimately it should be up to our visitors to decide how best to keep themselves and their families hydrated during a visit to a national park, particularly during hot summer visitation periods.
- The change in policy came after an NPS internal review of the policy's aims and impact in close consultation with Department of the Interior leadership.

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Sincerely,
Eli Nachmany
Writer, U.S. Department of the Interior
Office of Communications

From: POLITICO Pro
To: lori_mashburn@ios.doi.gov; [POLITICO subscriptions](#)
Subject: Dourson at risk of rejection as more Republicans lean no
Date: Thursday, November 16, 2017 6:06:08 PM

Dourson at risk of rejection as more Republicans lean no

By Nick Juliano and Anthony Adragna

11/16/2017 05:55 PM EDT

President Donald Trump's nominee to a key chemical safety job at the EPA is at risk of rejection after Republican senators balked amid accusations that he is too eager to cover for companies peddling dangerous products.

North Carolina's two GOP senators have said they will vote against confirming Michael Dourson as an EPA assistant administrator, citing a record that included work on a chemical linked to cancer deaths near a Marine Corps base in their home state. And Maine Republican [Susan Collins](#) said Thursday that she is leaning no as well — a vote that would be enough to sink his nomination.

Democrats are optimistic about turning four additional Republicans who they believe should be in play based on contamination issues back home.

Republican leaders have not decided what to do about Dourson's nomination, Senate Majority Whip [John Cornyn](#) (R-Texas) said Thursday.

"We'll have to see whether it's a viable nomination, and with two against him obviously that doesn't leave us a lot of room," Cornyn told POLITICO. "We haven't made a decisions on that yet, but we'll be revisiting it."

Critics say Dourson, a former industry-funded toxicologist, regularly downplayed the risks of chemicals such as PFOA and trichloroethylene that are contaminating soil and water in communities across the country. Dourson has already begun working at EPA as a senior adviser to Administrator Scott Pruitt, an arrangement Democrats have condemned as improper.

"There are all these local contamination issues across the country that have been bubbling up recently or have been out there for years, and because Dourson is this hired gun ... he's almost by nature of his job been working on these really controversial chemicals," said Jack Pratt, chemicals campaign director for the Environmental Defense Fund, which opposes Dourson's nomination.

Republican North Carolina Sens. [Thom Tillis](#) and [Richard Burr](#) said Wednesday that they could not support Dourson because of his past work as a toxicologist who was frequently hired by industry to rebut public health concerns about chemicals. Collins said Thursday that she is "leaning against" confirming him.

A legislative aide said Democrats are eyeing Republican Sens. [Jeff Flake](#) of Arizona, [Lisa Murkowski](#) of Alaska, [Bob Corker](#) of Tennessee and [Pat Toomey](#) of Pennsylvania, although Flake, Toomey and Corker told POLITICO they're still undecided.

"Sen. Toomey remains concerned about the PFOA issue in Bucks County and Montgomery County and remains dedicated to addressing it," a spokesman for the Pennsylvania Republican said, naming two Philadelphia-area counties where [toxic firefighting chemicals](#) leached into the ground from [two closed naval bases](#). Toomey is reviewing the nomination "with these concerns in mind," but the spokesman did not say how he plans to vote.

However, even if the nomination is pulled or rejected, Dourson will still be able to influence EPA's implementation of a major chemical safety law because he has already started working at the agency. Democrats have criticized that arrangement, though EPA says previous administrations allowed people to begin working there before being confirmed.

EPA's chemical safety office, which Dourson has been nominated to lead, has a heavy workload after Congress in 2016 passed a bipartisan law updating the Toxic Substances Control Act for the first time in nearly 40 years. The office has been charged with evaluating the safety of chemicals already in use and determining how to test new chemicals before they are allowed into the marketplace.

The near-universal support TSCA reform won in Congress last year may help explain the wariness among lawmakers about giving chemical industry allies too much of a foothold in EPA.

"They wanted to give the public some assurance that the products on their shelf are safe, and when you put the chemical industry in charge that's not going to happen," said Madeleine Foote, a legislative representative with the League of Conservation Voters.

Tillis and Burr stopped short of calling for Dourson to step down from his existing position at the agency. "I'll leave that up to the EPA to decide," Tillis told POLITICO.

Sen. [Joe Manchin](#) (D-W.Va.), who has supported several Trump nominees, said he would vote against Dourson but not object to him continuing to work at EPA.

Before joining EPA last month, Dourson was a professor at the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine's Risk Science Center, and he founded the nonprofit Toxicology Excellence for Risk Assessment, which was often conducted industry-funded research. He also previously worked at EPA from 1980 to 1995. Past clients of Dourson and his research group have included Dow Chemical, Koch Industries and Chevron, according to [the Associated Press](#).

Critics say Dourson's research routinely concluded that chemicals were safer in far higher concentrations than those recommended by agencies like EPA, putting communities at greater risk of finding toxic substances like perchlorate, TCE or PFOA in their air or drinking water.

Pratt said Dourson's work followed a pattern.

"Over and over again these chemical companies would hire him, he'd look at the research, and say the standard that EPA or whatever regulatory body has is too strict — it should be looser," Pratt said.

Dourson told the Environment and Public Works Committee at his confirmation hearing last month that he did not have a thumb on the scale.

"I can give you as many or more examples of situations where the science that we brought forward as a team actually lowered the safe dose or risk position for various sponsors," Dourson told Sen. [Tom Carper](#) (D-Del.) at the hearing. "If confirmed, I will rely on the guidance of EPA ethics officials."

Tillis and Burr said they could not support Dourson based on his record and North Carolina's history of chemical pollution problems, such drinking water at Camp Lejeune that was contaminated for decades by chemicals including trichloroethylene. TCE is one of the first 10 chemicals EPA must evaluate under the new safety law, but Dourson has previously endorsed health standards that are 1.5 to 15 times less protective than those backed by other researchers, [according to EDF](#).

Retired Marine Corps Master Sgt. Jerry Ensminger, whose daughter died of leukemia linked to the contaminated water at Camp Lejeune, met with Tills and aides to Burr to urge their opposition, according to the [Wilmington Star News](#).

Among his other industry-funded work, Dourson [appeared](#) before an EPA scientific advisory panel session concerning the pesticide chlorpyrifos on behalf of CropLife America. He led a 2008 [paper](#) on acrylamide, which can form during high-temperature cooking of some starchy foods, that received funding from major food companies like Burger King, Frito-Lay and McDonald's. And he [studied](#) 1-bromopropane, a solvent linked to some neurological and reproductive disorders, in 2004 with funding from Albemarle Corp. and Ameribrom Inc.

In all cases, he recommended standards many factors less protective than public health and EPA research suggested.

He also has done work for industry-friendly state governments. In the early 2000s, Dourson helped West Virginia set drinking water guidance limits for PFOA, also known as perfluorooctanoic acid or C8, at 150 parts per billion. That was 150 times less protective than manufacturer DuPont's own internal standard of 1 part per billion and more than 2,000 times less protective than EPA's [recommendation](#) of 70 parts per trillion.






During his confirmation hearing, Dourson argued that the research had evolved significantly since his recommendation to West Virginia, saying that "the science has progressed, significantly advanced since the time of 2004 and the new science indicates a lower level." And he defended the integrity of his work overall.

"Throughout my career — with EPA, TERA and now with the University of Cincinnati — I have been objective in my work and applied sound science to come to my conclusions," Dourson said.

To view online:

<https://www.politico.com/agriculture/article/2017/11/dourson-at-risk-of-rejection-as-more-republicans-lean-no-167056>

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From: POLITICO Pro Energy Whiteboard
To: lori_mashburn@ios.doi.gov; [POLITICO subscriptions](#)
Subject: Durbin lifts some Interior holds after Zinke meeting
Date: Wednesday, November 15, 2017 3:15:20 PM

By Anthony Adragna

11/15/2017 03:13 PM EDT

Senate Minority Whip [Dick Durbin](#) told reporters today he's lifting holds on two Interior nominees after a meeting Tuesday in which Secretary Ryan Zinke walked five senators through his decisions on national monument designations.

"He went through his reasoning on each one of them," Durbin (D-Ill.) said. "I thought it was terrible reasoning on Bears Ears." He didn't offer further details.

Also attending the meeting with Zinke were Democratic Sens. [Catherine Cortez Masto](#) of Nevada, [Martin Heinrich](#) of New Mexico, [Jeff Merkley](#) of Oregon and [Tom Udall](#) of New Mexico, according to Durbin.

A spokesman clarified Durbin lifted his hold on Joseph Balash's nomination to be assistant secretary for land and minerals management and would also lift his hold this afternoon on Brenda Burman to lead Interior's Bureau of Reclamation.

Durbin and Zinke got into a [war of letters](#) last week over holds on two additional nominees besides Balash and Burman: Ryan Nelson to be agency solicitor and Susan Combs to be Interior's assistant secretary for policy, management and budget.

WHAT'S NEXT: Lifting the holds could clear the way for fast floor consideration of Balash and Burman.

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<https://www.politicopro.com/energy/whiteboard/2017/11/durbin-lifts-some-interior-holds-after-zinke-meeting-095740>

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Subject: E&E Article
Date: Wednesday, October 04, 2017 2:30:57 PM

BLM
Former Utah Hill aide named deputy director
Scott Streater, E&E News reporter
Published: Wednesday, October 4, 2017

The Bureau of Land Management has appointed Utah Republican Rep. Chris Stewart's former chief of staff as the agency's new deputy director of programs and policy.

Brian Steed, who served as Stewart's chief of staff since 2013, has already started the job, according to sources. He is listed in the position on an organizational chart on the agency's website.



Brian Steed. Steed/LinkedIn
Steed's connection to Utah and its Republican-led congressional delegation is no accident. His appointment comes as Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke has recommended that President Trump reduce the size of the Grand Staircase-Escalante and Bears Ears national monuments in Utah. Grand Staircase-Escalante is managed by BLM, and Bears Ears is overseen by BLM and the Forest Service.

Stewart and other members of Utah's congressional delegation have been vocal critics of those national monument designations by Presidents Clinton and Obama, respectively. Steed would likely be in charge of overseeing any changes in management if both monuments are reduced in size or eliminated altogether.

BLM's deputy director of programs and policy position is a political appointment and separate from acting Deputy Director of Operations John Ruhs, a career Senior Executive Service employee who oversees the day-to-day functions of the agency's roughly 10,000 employees.

It's not clear what Steed's specific duties will be, though he is expected to help the agency carry out Trump administration priorities, including

increasing oil and gas drilling and mining activities on federal lands.

As a political appointee, Steed likely will be heavily involved in the ongoing effort by the Interior Department to reorganize BLM and other agencies. That reorganization effort has already resulted in the removal of three BLM state directors in Alaska, Colorado and New Mexico.

A BLM spokeswoman declined to answer questions about Steed, referring inquiries to Interior. The department's communications staff did not respond to requests for comment on this story in time for publication.

But Steed was introduced to members of BLM's executive leadership team during a conference call this week, and sources said he made a positive first impression on the career employees.

Prior to becoming Stewart's chief of staff in January 2013, Steed served as the congressman's campaign manager, according to his LinkedIn profile.

Before that, he taught economics at Utah State University's Jon M. Huntsman School of Business, as well as political science at the university. He served as deputy county attorney in Iron County, Utah, from May 2003 to August 2005, according to the LinkedIn profile.

Steed was the co-author with other Utah State University researchers of a [paper](#) published in the fall 2016 edition of the *Journal of Private Enterprise* titled "Boon or Bust: Wilderness Designation and Local Economics."

Its authors concluded there is "no evidence that wilderness land designations result in positive economic outcomes for local economies." Rather, wilderness designations "impose costs on local economies" that call for the need to develop "a consensus-building approach to new wilderness area designations."

He earned a doctorate in public policy from Indiana University Bloomington in 2010 and a law degree from the University of Utah in 2002.

Sources said it is unusual for the agency to name a

permanent top political deputy prior to the appointment of a permanent director.

BLM is currently being led by acting Director Mike Nedd.

Steed's duties are likely to be similar to his predecessor in the Obama administration, Linda Lance.

Lance was heavily involved in energy policy, helping BLM develop a rule regulating hydraulic fracturing on federal lands and mitigation plans for large-scale solar power projects.

Lance had decades of Beltway policy experience that was the polar opposite of Steed's.

She was senior counsel for former Senate Energy and Natural Resources Chairman Jeff Bingaman (D-N.M.) before joining BLM. She was associate director at the White House Council on Environmental Quality during the Clinton administration and, after that, a lobbyist for the Wilderness Society from 2001 to 2008 ([Greenwire](#), Jan. 14, 2014).

While at CEQ, Lance worked with then-Chairwoman Kathleen McGinty on the Clinton administration's designation of the 1.7-million-acre Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument.

Laura Keehner Rigas
Communications Director
U.S. Department of the Interior
(202) 897-7022 cell
@Interior

From: POLITICO Pro Energy
To: lori_mashburn@ios.doi.gov; [POLITICO subscriptions](#)
Subject: Energy Regulation Watch: 10th Circuit leaves federal fracking authority in limbo — EPA, greens both try to switch courts
Date: Friday, September 22, 2017 2:15:45 PM

By Alex Guillén | 09/22/2017 02:13 PM EDT

With help from Ben Lefebvre, Darius Dixon, Eric Wolff and Emily Holden

FRACKING RULING LEAVES OPEN LEGAL QUAGMIRES: The 10th Circuit Court of Appeals this week [said](#) "thanks, but no thanks" to getting involved in the thorny legal question of whether the Interior Department has any authority to regulate fracking on public lands. Judges decided it would be inappropriate to get involved given the Trump administration's work to undo the regulation.

The panel's Thursday ruling dismissed the legal challenges — but also quashed the lower court's ruling that Interior cannot regulate fracking, reopening that legal question for a future battle. It's less clear whether companies are on the hook for complying; the Western Energy Alliance is [advising](#) member oil and gas companies to not immediately follow the rule. Parties get at least 45 days to ask for a rehearing, giving Interior more time to work on its repeal effort.

"There will be some legal maneuvering between now and when the Circuit Court's ruling goes into effect, but the bottom line is the BLM fracking rule is not in effect," said Kathleen Sgamma, president of the Alliance. "I wish to assure all producers operating on federal and tribal lands that yesterday's ruling does not mean they must suddenly comply with the ill-conceived fracking rule."

Refresher: The 2015 rule strengthened well testing standards and required companies to publicly disclose their fracking fluids. A federal judge in Wyoming last year declared it unconstitutional after finding various laws preclude Interior from regulating fracking, which is generally left to states and, to a lesser extent, EPA. The more technical details of the rule were never litigated since it was tossed on a broad legal matter.

Good timing: Comments on BLM's proposed repeal of the fracking rule [are due Sept. 25](#).

EPA, GREENS BOTH TRY TO SWITCH COURTS FOR TSCA SUITS: EPA and environmental groups are tussling over which court will hear legal challenges to key Toxic Substances Control Act implementation rules. Green groups say the cases should be heard in the San Francisco-based 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, while EPA would prefer the challenges be consolidated in the 4th Circuit, which meets in Richmond, Va. After greens sued in three different circuits, challenges to the prioritization rule were [randomly consolidated](#) into the 9th Circuit while the evaluation rule was assigned to the 4th Circuit.

EPA [argues](#) that the 4th Circuit would be "more convenient" because lawyers from all sides are based in Washington or New York. The agency also argued that the two rules have "overlapping issues" that would benefit from being in the same court, and said that the 4th Circuit "will likely be able to rule on the petitions more quickly" because of the two circuits' respective caseloads.

The green groups, meanwhile, [argued](#) that the 9th Circuit would be the appropriate venue to hear both cases because in the original suits, 11 organizations chose the 9th Circuit for their suit while just three sued in the 4th Circuit. The groups also argue that the 9th Circuit suits were filed a day before the 4th Circuit suits, giving more credence to moving things out West. Neither court has yet ruled on the matter.

KEEP TRACK OF THE ENERGY POLICY REGULATIONS that matter most with [the Regulation Watch Tracker](#). Any tips, comments and suggestions? Send them to EnergyRegWatch@politicopro.com, and follow me on Twitter at [@alexsguillen](#). And don't forget our other helpful online tools. Check out the [Document Drawer](#) and peek in on the latest chatter in the energy world at the [Energy Insider Tweet Hub](#).

EPA NOMINEE TO ARGUE IN COURT AGAINST OSHA RULE: William Wehrum, the nominee to run EPA's air office, will argue in federal court next week that judges should nullify an Obama-era rule setting stricter limits for workers' exposure to respirable silica. As an attorney at Hunton & Williams, Wehrum has represented several industry groups since last year in the challenge to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration regulation, including the National Stone, Sand & Gravel Association and the Brick Industry Association. Read [more](#) on what Wehrum will argue on Tuesday.

— "The case is a challenge to an OSHA workplace exposure limit for respirable silica. It has absolutely nothing to do with EPA or with any of Mr. Wehrum's duties or responsibilities with regard to his EPA nomination," said EPA spokeswoman Liz Bowman.

— Wehrum's nomination hearing had been scheduled for this week but was postponed when the Senate adjourned for Rosh Hashanah. No new date has been announced.

UTILITIES SEEK NARROW CPP REPLACEMENT: Thirteen utilities are asking the White House to replace — not just withdraw — the Clean Power Plan. The Coalition for Innovative Climate Solutions in a [meeting](#) earlier this month asked the OMB and EPA to write a new rule that would focus on carbon emissions reductions that coal plants could achieve individually, including by improving efficiency. In a [paper](#) shared with OMB, the coalition said a replacement rule would provide companies regulatory certainty and acknowledge states' authority over the power mix. EPA is planning to leave the door open for that strategy, sources previously [told](#) POLITICO.

NOW AT OMB — OZONE DESIGNATIONS: EPA on Thursday sent the OMB its nonattainment area classifications under the 2015 ozone standard. Administrator Scott Pruitt had initially said he would delay by a year making these determinations, but later withdrew that following lawsuits from environmentalists and Democratic attorneys general. Observers expect EPA will delay designations for at least some areas that aren't clearly in or out of attainment.

PRUITT FORMS NSR TASK FORCE: Pruitt [said](#) he has formed a task force to explore potential reforms to the agency's New Source Review permitting rules. Pruitt said EPA's NSR permitting program has chilled industry investments on upgrades to their facilities over concerns about permitting-related burdens. But he didn't elaborate on the task force's membership, agenda or timeline. An agency spokeswoman confirmed "there is a team looking into the program and opportunities for reform," but didn't share any other information.

WOTUS REWRITE COMING 2018: Pruitt said this week that the Trump administration's

new version of the Waters of the U.S. rule will be proposed "sometime in the first quarter of next year." That's later than his past estimates of when the proposed rewrite will be rolled out. [More](#).

ELGs ON HOLD: EPA has finalized a [rule](#) delaying by two years the key compliance dates for a 2015 regulation limiting toxic discharges in power plants' wastewater streams while it reconsiders those standards. EPA specifically is delaying deadlines related to limits on discharges of flue gas desulfurization wastewater and bottom ash transport water, two waste streams associated with burning coal for electricity. [More](#).

PRUITT TO RECONSIDER PARTS OF COAL ASH RULE: EPA will reconsider key portions of the 2015 coal ash rule in response to requests from a Puerto Rican utility and the umbrella industry group Utility Solid Waste Activities Group. One of the major requested changes stems from a December 2016 law changing the enforcement scheme; the industry argued that the rule subsequently needs new management options based on site-specific risk analyses rather than the broader requirements currently in the rule. More [here](#).

Meanwhile, EPA has [asked](#) the D.C. Circuit to put off oral arguments slated for next month as it retools the rule. Environmental groups challenging parts of the rule [oppose that request](#), arguing that the rule has been too long delayed and that EPA did not demonstrate the requisite "extraordinary cause" to postpone arguments. EPA can reconsider the rule after the court rules, they added.

POCKET DOCKET: Updates on new and ongoing lawsuits.

HFCs: The Natural Resources Defense Council today [asked](#) the D.C. Circuit for an en banc rehearing of last month's decision striking down an EPA rule limiting use of hydrofluorocarbons. The group believes the majority in the 2-1 decision erred in its determination that the law was clear and did not require agency interpretation. A spokeswoman for Honeywell, a U.S. manufacturer, said the company is also "likely to pursue an appeal." The suit was originally brought by a Mexico-based HFC manufacturer.

Truck emissions: The Truck Trailer Manufacturers Association soon will ask the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals to stay part of the Obama-era Phase 2 heavy-duty truck emissions rule, it revealed in a Monday [court filing](#). Although EPA has granted the group's request to reconsider the part of the rule regulating trailers for the first time, TTMA says its companies "face imminent compliance deadlines, given that the Final Rule's greenhouse gas emissions provisions will take effect on January 1, 2018." EPA has not indicated if or when it will act on the group's request for an administrative stay of those deadlines.

Air conditioner efficiency standard: The NRDC [sued](#) the Energy Department in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York last week over the agency's effort to delay new testing procedures for central air conditioners and heat pumps several days after they went into effect. The Trump administration had already delayed the procedures twice from an [original effective](#) date of Feb. 6 before publishing a [stay](#) on July 13 — eight days after the rule was in place — because Johnson Controls had challenged it in court. NRDC argues that DOE neither explained the reason for the stay nor does the agency have the authority to stop a rule after the effective date passes.

CO2 in NEPA reviews: BLM ran afoul of the National Environmental Policy Act when it said a Wyoming mine expansion would not result in higher carbon dioxide emissions, the 10th

Circuit Court of Appeals has ruled. The [decision](#) overturns a lower court ruling and potentially opens the door to more lawsuits against coal projects BLM approved following similar environmental reviews. [More](#) from Ben Lefebvre.

On-road emissions: Eight states have [sued](#) the Trump administration for suspending a Transportation Department rule finalized in the final days of the Obama administration that would have required states to track and create reduction goals for highway-related greenhouse gas emissions. Environmental groups in July [sued](#) over the same issue in federal court in New York. More [here](#).

CAFE penalties: Five states have [sued](#) the Trump administration today for delaying an Obama-era increase of civil fines for automakers who violate CAFE fuel economy standards. Three environmental groups had previously [sued](#). [More](#).

Utah haze: The 10th Circuit Court of Appeals has [put on hold](#) an EPA rule requiring certain coal plants in Utah to install new equipment for reducing nitrogen oxide emissions, part of a plan to address emissions from the state that form haze and hurt visibility. EPA is now reconsidering that rule, and the court found it "appropriate in the circumstances" to ice the rule in the meantime, despite opposition from environmental groups. The court also put the lawsuit itself on hold pending EPA's new action.

Water transfers: A coalition of states and one Canadian province has [asked](#) the Supreme Court to review a January ruling out of the 2nd Circuit [upholding](#) EPA's water transfers rule. The 2008 regulation let water managers move supplies between different waterways and bodies of water without having to run pollution controls. The states argue that the rule violates the Clean Water Act by allowing potentially polluted water to be shifted around without even obtaining a permit, and the 2nd Circuit ruling upholding the regulation "cannot be reconciled with the unambiguous meaning and purpose of the Clean Water Act." The appeal to the Supreme Court was brought by New York, Connecticut, Delaware, Illinois, Maine, Michigan, Washington and Manitoba. EPA's response is due Oct. 19.

SOX DOCS: EPA has [released two documents](#) it is using in its ongoing review of the sulfur oxides standard, including a draft exposure and risk analysis and a policy assessment meant to help Pruitt contextualize the current science before making a decision. Comments on both are due by Oct. 18. EPA staff recommended in August making no changes to the 2010 SOx standard. EPA is under a court order to propose something — likely calling for no change — by May 25, 2018, and finalize that by Jan. 28, 2019.

NODA ON MY WATCH — OMB REVIEWING MORE RFS DATA: The OMB website shows EPA sent over a notice for the Renewable Fuel Standard volumes, but don't be fooled: It's not the final rule for RFS volumes. An EPA source tells POLITICO that it's a request for public comment on supplemental data the agency plans to use in developing the final rule. Both Pruitt and agency spokespeople have said in the past that a rule by the Nov. 30 deadline is their ultimate goal, but the clock is ticking, and this Notice of Data Availability has to go through both interagency review and a public comment period.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Sept. 25: Comments due on EPA's [proposal](#) to retain the 2010 nitrogen oxides standards without change.

Sept. 25: Comments due on BLM's [proposal](#) to rescind the 2015 fracking rule.

Sept. 26: The D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals holds oral arguments in the challenges to OSHA's respirable silica rule. *North America's Building Trades Unions v. OSHA*, 16-1105

Oct. 5: The D.C. Circuit hears arguments in a challenge brought by Delaware to a one-year deadline extension EPA granted to the Philadelphia region to comply with the 2008 ozone standard. *Delaware v. EPA*, 16-1230

Oct. 5: Comments are due on EPA's [proposed designations](#) under the 2010 sulfur dioxide standard.

For a roundup of the latest regulation news, sign up for Energy Regulation Watch [here](#). And check our [regulation tracker](#) for updates.

To view online:

<https://www.politicopro.com/tipsheets/energy-regulation-watch/2017/09/10th-circuit-leaves-federal-fracking-authority-in-limbo-024732>

Stories from POLITICO Pro

TSCA rule lawsuits to head to different courts [Back](#)

By Alex Guillén | 09/01/2017 03:51 PM EDT

Lawsuits over two key EPA rules for implementing the revised Toxic Substances Control Act will play out in two separate courts.

Various challenges were filed last month over EPA's prioritization rule, which determines how the agency chooses which substances it will focus on immediately, and its evaluation rule, which describes how EPA will review substances. Public health and environmental groups argued that both rules skewed in favor of industry interests.

Lawsuits over the rules were filed in the 2nd, 4th and 9th Circuits. EPA had asked for all the lawsuits to land in the same court, but each rule's challenges will proceed in a different court. The lawsuits over the prioritization rule [will move forward in the 9th Circuit](#), while the [4th Circuit will handle](#) challenges to the evaluation rule.

The decisions were made randomly by the Judicial Panel on Multidistrict Litigation, a group of seven judges who consolidate similar lawsuits that are filed in disparate courts.

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EPA air nominee to argue against OSHA silica rule [Back](#)

By Alex Guillén | 09/19/2017 11:27 AM EDT

William Wehrum, the nominee to run EPA's air office, will argue in court next week that an

Obama-era rule setting stricter limits for workers' exposure to respirable silica should be nullified, according to a court filing.

As an attorney at Hunton & Williams, Wehrum has represented several industry groups since last year in the challenge to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration regulation, including the National Stone, Sand & Gravel Association and the Brick Industry Association.

Wehrum confirmed today in a routine court filing that he will argue on behalf of the industry groups on Sept. 26. His nomination hearing before the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee is Wednesday.

The D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals [said](#) in August that Wehrum, whose nomination to EPA was [announced](#) on Sept. 7, will be allocated 12 minutes to argue that OSHA has not proven that there is a "significant risk" of health problems at exposures of 100 micrograms per cubic meter of air, or that any such risk would be reduced by the new limit of 50 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$. Wehrum will also argue that the brick industry should have been excluded from the regulation.

Other attorneys will handle the remaining arguments against the rule. The arguments are slated to last 90 minutes total, and will be heard by Chief Judge Merrick Garland and Judges Karen LeCraft Henderson and David Tatel.

Neither Wehrum nor the industry groups immediately returned requests for comment today.

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Pruitt says EPA formed task force to revamp new source review permitting [Back](#)

By Alex Guillén | 09/19/2017 01:17 PM EDT

EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt said today he has formed a task force to explore potential reforms to the agency's New Source Review permitting program, which is meant to prevent power plants and other emitters from making major equipment changes that could increase emissions.

Speaking at the Concordia Annual Summit in New York, Pruitt said EPA's NSR permitting program has chilled industry investments on upgrades to their facilities over concerns about permitting-related burdens.

"That's really a disincentive to achieving good environmental outcomes," Pruitt said. "And so we're engaged in an NSR task force to find out how do we provide certainty there, how do we provide encouragement and incentive to companies to spend literally billions of dollars to achieve good environmental outcomes in the air quality space, but also give them certainty long-term that they're not going to lose their permit to operate."

Pruitt did not elaborate on the task force's membership, agenda or timeline.

The Energy Department's August electric grid study recommended considering NSR reforms at EPA. But as POLITICO [reported](#), several attempts to change the permitting program under

George W. Bush were largely struck down by the courts.

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Pruitt: New version of WOTUS to be proposed next year [Back](#)

By Alex Guillén | 09/19/2017 12:47 PM EDT

EPA's timeline to write a new version of the Waters of the United States rule appears to have slipped slightly.

EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt said at the Concordia Annual Summit in New York today that the Trump administration's new version of the rule will be proposed "sometime in the first quarter of next year."

That's later than his past estimates of when the proposed rewrite will be rolled out. Pruitt said in August that hoped for an unveiling by the end of this year.

EPA is also separately working to repeal the Obama administration's 2015 WOTUS rule, which determines which waterways fall under federal versus state jurisdictions.

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EPA delays parts of power plant toxic discharge rule [Back](#)

By Alex Guillén | 09/13/2017 03:35 PM EDT

EPA has finalized a [rule](#) delaying by two years the key compliance dates for a 2015 regulation limiting toxic discharges in power plants' wastewater streams while it reconsiders those standards.

The delay provides "relief from the existing regulatory deadlines while the agency revisits some of the rule's requirements," EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt said in a statement.

Following industry requests, EPA specifically is delaying deadlines related to limits on discharges of flue gas desulfurization wastewater and bottom ash transport water, two waste streams associated with burning coal for electricity. EPA estimates the two-year delay of those requirements will provide annualized utility cost savings between \$27.5 million and \$36.8 million.

The agency said it will not revisit new standards for other types of waste streams — including fly ash transport water, flue gas mercury control wastewater and gasification wastewater — and will leave deadlines associated with those streams in place.

The delay will take effect two weeks after it is published in the Federal Register, and is open to court challenges.

The Obama administration said the overall rule, known as effluent limitations guidelines or ELGs, ultimately would curb 1.4 billion pounds of aluminum, lead, mercury, arsenic and other toxic metals from entering waterways via discharge streams each year.

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Pruitt to reconsider parts of 2015 coal ash rule [Back](#)

By Alex Guillén | 09/14/2017 04:15 PM EDT

EPA will reconsider key portions of the 2015 coal ash rule, according to a [letter](#) from Administrator Scott Pruitt to industry officials released by Earthjustice.

Two petitions were filed in May by AES Puerto Rico and the Utility Solid Waste Activities Group, an umbrella group whose members include the Edison Electric Institute, National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, American Public Power Association and more than a hundred utilities and related companies.

Pruitt's letter does not specify which parts of the rule he plans to reconsider, but both USWAG and AES identified specific issues with the regulation.

[USWAG's petition](#) asked that pending deadlines be pushed back and called for the rule to be changed in the wake of a December 2016 law changing the enforcement scheme in order to accommodate new management options based on site-specific risk analyses rather than the original "burdensome, inflexible, and often impracticable requirements." USWAG also argued that various executive orders from President Donald Trump dealing with regulations justify cracking the rule open.

[AES' petition](#) focused on requirements for how power plants store their coal ash piles before they are moved off site to be disposed of or to make products such as concrete and wallboard.

Oral arguments at the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals over the rule are currently scheduled for Oct. 17, but EPA is likely to ask the case be put on hold while it reconsiders the rule.

WHAT'S NEXT: Pruitt will initiate a formal reconsideration process. Any actual changes to the rule will have to go through public comment and will be open to legal challenge.

To view online [click here](#).

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Court rejects BLM emissions calculations for coal mine expansion [Back](#)

By Ben Lefebvre | 09/15/2017 01:04 PM EDT

BLM ran afoul of the National Environmental Policy Act when it said a Wyoming mine expansion would not result in higher carbon dioxide emissions, a federal appeals court ruled today.

The 10th Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals [decision](#) overturns a lower court ruling and potentially opens the door to more lawsuits against coal projects BLM approved following similar environmental reviews, said Nathaniel Shoaff, a senior attorney with the Sierra Club, one of the lead plaintiffs on the case.

"The implications of the case is clear," Shoaff told POLITICO. "The agency has to be honest about the climate impacts of what it's doing. Every coal lease that BLM has issued in last five years can now be litigated on this precise issue."

The Sierra Club and WildEarth Guardians sued in 2012 to prevent BLM from approving leases for an additional 2 billion tons of recoverable coal from a pair of existing surface mines in Wyoming's Powder River Basin.

The green groups said BLM incorrectly assumed that buyers would have purchased the same amount of coal elsewhere if the mine expansions were not approved, rather than replacing coal-fired generation with cleaner sources.

The three judges on the 10th Circuit panel agreed, finding that BLM's "perfect substitution" argument lacked evidence and was "arbitrary and capricious."

The court said BLM must revise its environmental impact statement for the approvals, but did not overturn the leases themselves.

BLM and the Wyoming Mining Association, another defendant in the case, were not immediately available for comment.

WHAT'S NEXT: The U.S. District Court in Wyoming will now review the decision to find a possible remedy.

To view online [click here](#).

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States sue DOT over delay of greenhouse gas rule [Back](#)

By Alex Guillén | 09/20/2017 02:05 PM EDT

Eight states have [sued](#) the Trump administration for suspending a Transportation Department rule finalized in the final days of the Obama administration that would have required states to track and create reduction goals for highway-related greenhouse gas emissions.

The suit was filed by California, Iowa, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Oregon, Vermont and Washington in the U.S. District Court for Northern California. Environmental groups in July [sued](#) over the same issue in federal court in New York.

The rule was issued by the Federal Highway Administration on Jan. 18 with an effective date of Feb. 17, but the Trump administration delayed that several times before ultimately suspending the rule entirely without taking public comment.

Other performance measure rules on highway safety and infrastructure were allowed to take effect.

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States sue over NHTSA delay of increase in CAFE penalties [Back](#)

By Alex Guillén | 09/11/2017 11:49 AM EDT

Five states [sued](#) the Trump administration today for delaying an Obama-era increase of civil fines for automakers who violate CAFE fuel economy standards.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, acting on a 2015 law requiring that agencies hike civil penalties to account for inflation, finalized a rule last year that increased CAFE fines from \$5.50 per tenth of a mile per gallon to \$14 per tenth of an mpg, starting with model year 2019 vehicles.

But the Trump administration delayed the rule's effective date in July after [concluding](#) that the Obama administration did not consider "all of the relevant issues, including the potential economic consequences of increasing CAFE penalties by potentially \$1 billion per year," citing an industry estimate.

In their lawsuit, the states argue that NHTSA's delay violates the Administrative Procedure Act since the agency did not first take public comment, and they contend it violates the 2015 inflation adjustment law by reverting to the previous penalties.

The suit was filed in the 2nd Circuit Court of Appeals by New York, California, Vermont, Maryland and Pennsylvania. Three environmental groups also [sued last week](#) over the issue.

To view online [click here](#).

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Appeals court upholds EPA's Water Transfers rule [Back](#)

By Annie Snider | 01/18/2017 03:09 PM EDT

The 2nd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals has upheld a 2008 EPA rule allowing water managers to transfer supplies between different rivers and lakes without applying pollution controls, reversing a lower court decision.

The three-judge panel voted 2-1 to defer to EPA's judgment in promulgating the rule, with

Judge Denny Chin, an Obama appointee, dissenting.

The original case was brought by conservation groups who sought to challenge New York City's plan to bolster its water supply by transferring water from the upstate Schoharie reservoir to Esopus Creek, a more pristine water body popular and prime trout habitat. The Miccosukee Tribe of Indians separately challenged a water transfer plan from the South Florida Water Management District to pump polluted water into Lake Okeechobee at the top of the Everglades. A number of Western states, who rely on water transfers to supply cities and farmers, also joined the litigation in support of the rule.

"While we might prefer an interpretation more consistent with what appear to us to be the most prominent goals of the Clean Water Act, *Chevron* tells us that so long as the agency's statutory interpretation is reasonable, what we might prefer is irrelevant," the Judges Robert Sack and Susan Carney wrote in their [opinion](#).

Judge Chin argued in his [dissent](#) that "Congress did not intend to give a pass to interbasin transfers of dirty water."

The decision reverses a 2014 decision by U.S. District Judge Kenneth Karas in the Southern District of New York.

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Date: Friday, December 01, 2017 3:03:58 PM

By Alex Guillén | 12/01/2017 03:01 PM EDT

BETWEEN A ROCK AND A HARD PLACE: Today is the court-ordered deadline for EPA to sign a final rule under the Superfund law setting new bonding requirements for hardrock mining operations, and smart money is on a weakening of the Obama administration's proposed rule. The [proposal called for](#) about 220 U.S. hardrock mines to obtain financial assurances that they could clean up their mines once done, which is projected to cost \$171 million annually and save \$527 million in taxpayer-funded Superfund clean-ups over the next 34 years. Industry and Republican critics noted the costs outweigh the benefits, and argued that other programs adequately protect the environment.

It's not clear that EPA could get away with doing nothing here. The Superfund law says EPA "shall promulgate" financial assurance rules for risky facilities, and the 2016 court order setting these deadlines noted EPA was a solid three decades past due. But environmentalists are steeling themselves for a significantly weakened rule, including one that might make it easy for companies to use "self-bonding" rather than obtaining third-party assurances.

EPA did not respond to a request for comment on Friday. The final rule was sent to the Office of Management and Budget for review on Nov. 2.

What is hardrock mining? Hardrock minerals include metals like gold, copper, silver, uranium, zinc, magnesium and molybdenum, as well as non-metallic minerals like asbestos and sulfur. Coal is not considered a hardrock mineral, and already faces its own financial assurance requirements.

Still to come: The Obama administration also declared it would consider similar rulemakings for chemical makers, electric utilities and petroleum and coal products manufacturers, although it stopped short of promising to actually issue rules. That process is scheduled to take through 2024.

KEEP TRACK OF THE ENERGY POLICY REGULATIONS that matter most with [the Regulation Watch Tracker](#). Any tips, comments and suggestions? Send them to EnergyRegWatch@politicopro.com, and follow me on Twitter at [@alexsguillen](#). And don't forget our other helpful online tools. Check out the [Document Drawer](#) and peek in on the latest chatter in the energy world at the [Energy Insider Tweet Hub](#).

ICYMI — WHAT PRUITT'S DONE: Emily Holden and myself take a [deep dive](#) into what EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt said he would do — and what he's done so far.

TRUMP ADMIN DEFENDS SEALS STATUS: The Trump administration this week [urged](#) the Supreme Court not to overturn an endangered species listing based on climate change. The Obama administration declared bearded seals endangered because of anticipated habitat loss associated with higher temperatures, and the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals delivered environmentalists a major victory in 2016 by upholding that decision. Now, Trump's Justice Department says it agrees the decision was made properly. The Endangered Species Act

requires protections if the best data indicates a likelihood of endangerment in the "foreseeable future," DOJ wrote, even if the species is not presently endangered or suffering a decline. DOJ also rejected arguments that an ESA listing will hurt oil and gas development in the Arctic, noting that the seal already enjoys some protections under the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972. The Supreme Court likely won't act on the petition until next year.

KATSAS CONFIRMED TO D.C. CIRCUIT: The Senate this week approved Gregory Katsas, 53, to replace Janice Rogers Brown on the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals by a vote of 50-48. Katsas served as a deputy White House counsel. He had been at Jones Day since 2009, and before that was a senior Justice Department official under George W. Bush. It's unlikely he will get involved with the Clean Power Plan case given his very late arrival, but a litany of forthcoming lawsuits over various Trump administration environmental actions could well end up on his docket in the coming years.

NEW AT FERC: Rich Glick was sworn in as a FERC commissioner this week. Follow him on Twitter: [@RichGlickFERC](https://twitter.com/RichGlickFERC)

FRIDAY READING: From the Government Accountability Office: "[Federal Regulations: Key Considerations for Agency Design and Enforcement Decisions](#)"

INDUSTRY, INTERIOR, GREENS BATTLE OVER FRACKING RULE: The Trump administration, industry groups and environmentalists are tangling over whether the Obama-era fracking rule should go back into effect in the short time before the Interior Department can repeal it. All sides support the 10th Circuit's recent dismissal of a lawsuit questioning Interior's authority to regulate fracking. Interior and industry groups are OK with it since regulators will soon repeal the rule anyway; environmentalists like it because it erases a lower court ruling that said Interior did not have the authority, opening a door to potentially suing the Trump administration to act in the future. But if the court formally issues its decision before Interior finishes its repeal, the regulation will go back into effect for a short time, giving whiplash to companies that could face compliance issues. [Industry groups kicked this dispute off](#) last month when they asked for a rehearing, which would keep the appeal alive. [Environmentalists objected](#), arguing the industry groups were gaming the system to prevent the rule from taking effect. Meanwhile, [Interior suggested](#) avoiding the rehearing and instead asked the court to simply hold off on "issuing the mandate" until Jan. 6, a deadline that apparently would provide enough time to finalize the repeal.

RFS — EPA BOOSTS CELLULOSIC, AVOIDS BIODIESEL CUT: In its [final 2018 Renewable Fuel Standard rule](#), EPA raised the 2018 cellulosic ethanol volume mandate by 50 million gallons from its previous proposal, and kept ethanol volumes at the maximum set out under the law. EPA set next year's volume requirement for conventional biofuels, which are typically filled by corn ethanol, at 15 billion gallons, the statutory cap. Advanced biofuels must total 4.29 billion gallons, including 288 million gallons of cellulosic ethanol. Even with the increase from its July proposal, cellulosic ethanol is drastically below the figure laid out under the RFS, since industrial production of fuel has failed to meet expectations. The rule also left intact the 2018 biodiesel requirement of 2.1 billion gallons, and set the 2019 biodiesel requirement at the same figure. Ethanol producers were largely pleased, but biofuel backers had hoped for an increase in biodiesel volumes.

IT'S OFFICIAL — POINT OF OBLIGATION STAYS SAME: EPA decided [not to change the point of obligation](#) compliance requirement for the RFS, the agency confirmed last week in a move that rebuffs an effort from some independent refining companies and former

White House adviser Carl Icahn to ease refiners' requirements under the biofuels program. Eric Wolff reported back in August that EPA would keep it that way. More from Darius Dixon [here](#).

TEXAS GROUP PRODS EPA TO DIAL BACK SOOT STANDARD: The Texas Public Policy Foundation has filed a [petition](#) asking EPA to loosen the air quality standard for fine particulate matter, also known as PM2.5. TPPF represents several California companies who say a stricter standard implemented in 2012 hurt their business or caused them to close, and the group argues that the 2012 standards were based on "faulty assumptions" that require EPA to revisit the rule. TPPF is also one of the groups petitioning EPA to overturn the 2009 greenhouse gas endangerment finding.

RAPANOS STRIKES AGAIN: The 9th Circuit Court of Appeals reaffirmed its reliance on Justice Anthony Kennedy's definition of where the Clean Water Act applies in a [decision](#) this week upholding the conviction of a Montana man for discharging fill material into streams. The precedent could have implications for the Trump administration's rewrite of the Waters of the U.S. rule, if eventual lawsuits challenging that move end up in the 9th Circuit or one of its lower courts. Pruitt's rewrite of the WOTUS rule is expected to hew to an alternate jurisdictional test advanced by former Justice Antonin Scalia, whereas his predecessors wrote the rule with Kennedy in mind. As Pros will recall, the 2006 *Rapanos* decision created a confusing 4-1-4 ruling in which Kennedy joined the four conservative justices in the judgment, but wrote his own concurring opinion outlining a "significant nexus" test to determine what streams and wetlands fall under federal jurisdiction.

POCKET DOCKET: Updates on new and ongoing lawsuits.

Groundwater rights: The Supreme Court declined to get involved in a legal battle over tribal groundwater rights. The justices' decision leaves in place a ruling from the 9th Circuit that concluded Native Americans are entitled to rights to the groundwater beneath their reservations. Although it was a key legal victory for the tribe, lower courts still have a variety of technical issues to work out. [More](#).

Wastewater disposal: The D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled this week that North Dakota was not improperly shut out of a consent agreement reached last year between EPA and environmental groups that will have the agency consider revising long-standing oil and gas wastewater disposal rules. The state argued that it would be affected by any rule update, but the D.C. Circuit in a brief [judgment](#) disagreed, ruling that a "putative intervenor" does not have standing to object to a deadline for an agency to merely decide whether to write a rule. North Dakota can still participate in the rulemaking process, which may well end with EPA making no change.

Coal ash: Judges at the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals seemed skeptical at oral arguments last week that EPA would live up to its claim that it would enforce coal ash rules, raising the likelihood the court may reject the agency's bid to put the case on hold and instead move forward to rule issues raised by green groups. Eric Wolff has details [here](#).

TSCA: The 9th Circuit Court of Appeals has [denied](#) EPA's request to transfer to another court a lawsuit over one of the agency's prioritization rule under the reformed Toxic Substances Control Act. Still in the air is environmentalists' bid to get lawsuits over the TSCA evaluation rule moved out of the 4th Circuit to the 9th. The 4th Circuit told EPA to weigh in on the matter by Dec. 8. The court could choose to transfer its evaluation rule lawsuit to the 9th

Circuit or instead to keep it.

Copper mine: Conservation groups have [sued](#) the Forest Service for approving the open-pit Rosemont copper mine in Arizona, arguing it violates state and federal laws and endangers national forest land and water resources.

EPA WILL REVISE TSCA DEFINITION OF SMALL MANUFACTURERS: EPA said in a new Federal Register [notice](#) that it plans to change the definition under TSCA of the size of small manufacturers and processors, which determines who is subject to reporting requirements under the chemicals law. The review was required under the reformed TSCA law. EPA will subsequently launch a rulemaking to determine how to change the definition. EPA currently has two standards for small businesses under TSCA: One for companies with total annual sales below \$40 million unless production volume of a regulated substance exceeds 100,000 pounds per year, and one for any company with total annual sales below \$4 million, no matter production levels. A significant amount of inflation since those definitions were written in 1988 makes it appropriate to update them, EPA concluded.

DOJ SAYS ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGES ARE CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS: The Trump administration this week changed tacks in two pending Supreme Court cases challenging the validity of administrative law judges. In a [brief](#), the Justice Department argued that the government now believes that ALJs are, in fact, constitutional officers subject to a stricter hiring process than mere agency employees. Two lower courts disagreed on the matter, raising the likelihood that the justices will take the case, although a third party will have to represent the argument that ALJs are not officers given DOJ's new position.

The pending cases involve the five ALJs at the Securities and Exchange Commission, all of whom were [ratified](#) by the SEC's commissioners on Thursday to make them official officers. But the case has broader implications since ALJs are used at many federal agencies, including EPA (which has three ALJs, [according to OPM](#)), FERC (13), Interior (9) and the Federal Mine Safety and Health Review Commission (15).

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Dec. 4: EPA holds a [public hearing](#) at agency headquarters on the proposed repeal of the glider kit provision of the Phase 2 emissions rule for heavy-duty trucks.

Dec. 4: Comments due on EPA's [NODA](#) related to a review and potential update of emissions standards for the Portland cement manufacturing industry.

Dec. 7: Pruitt [testifies](#) before the House Energy and Commerce Environment Subcommittee.

Dec. 8: Comments due on EPA's [NODA](#) related to the proposed long-term stay of the methane emissions rule for new oil and gas wells.

Dec. 11: The 9th Circuit Court of Appeals holds arguments over whether the kids' climate lawsuit underway in an Oregon federal court can proceed to the trial phase.

Dec. 12: The Clean Air Act Advisory Committee [meets](#) at the Madison Hotel, 1177 15th St. NW.

Dec. 14: Court-ordered deadline for EPA to finalize the integrated science assessment for its

review of the sulfur oxides National Ambient Air Quality Standard, the first step toward finalizing the review by early 2019.

For a roundup of the latest regulation news, sign up for Energy Regulation Watch [here](#). And check our [regulation tracker](#) for updates.

To view online:

<https://www.politicopro.com/newsletters/energy-regulation-watch/2017/12/epa-between-rock-and-hard-place-on-mining-rule-038270>

Stories from POLITICO Pro

EPA proposes rule to ensure hardrock miners can clean up sites [Back](#)

By Alex Guillén | 12/02/2016 11:38 AM EDT

EPA today [proposed](#) a financial assurance rule to ensure hardrock miners can afford to clean up their shuttered operations.

"Far too often the American people bear the costs of expensive environmental cleanups stemming from hardrock mining and mineral processing," said EPA Assistant Administrator for Land and Emergency Management Mathy Stanislaus. He added that the rule will give mine operators "an economic incentive to use environmentally protective practices."

The proposal provides a formula to determine each company's financial responsibility and then requires them to obtain bonds or insurance or to self-assure for that amount.

EPA estimates that the industry's financial responsibility totals as much as \$7.1 billion. Annual costs to obtain third-party assurance could be as high as \$171 million. Over the next 34 years, that could save taxpayers up to \$527 million in projected Superfund spending for defaulted mine owners. EPA said it did not have enough data to model employment impacts.

Hardrock mining covers various metals — including gold, copper, silver, uranium and magnesium — as well as minerals like asbestos and sulfur. Coal mining is handled separately.

Such assurance rules were required by the 1980 Superfund law. EPA is under a court-ordered deadline to finalize the hardrock rule by Dec. 1, 2017.

The agency also [determined](#) that it will move toward similar rulemakings for chemical makers, electric utilities and petroleum and coal products manufacturers — though it did not promise to write rules for those industries. A court-ordered [timeline](#) will carry that process through 2024.

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Special report: What Pruitt promised — and what he's done [Back](#)

By Alex Guillén and Emily Holden | 11/19/2017 04:02 PM EDT

The EPA administrator came into office promising to discard his predecessor's "overreaching" focus on climate change and concentrate on what he called the agency's real mission: cleaning up the air, water and land.

But instead, Scott Pruitt has rolled back or stalled environmental protections, given the fossil fuel and chemistry industries more sway over public health decisions and taken steps that critics fear will undermine work on pollution cleanups, according to a POLITICO analysis of what he's accomplished to date. He says he will be tough on environmental crimes, but his agency is also easing up on enforcement and collecting far less in penalties than previous administrations, according to agency watchdogs.

Pruitt is the most unorthodox EPA administrator in decades, an avowed critic of the agency who has alienated much of his career staff. He's spent heavily on travel to meet with business executives and GOP leaders, who want to see a much weaker EPA and could back Pruitt in a future political campaign. He has declined to disclose his daily schedule, employs a large entourage of bodyguards and built a "privacy booth" for communications in his office. He has questioned man-made climate change and kicked respected scientists off his advisory boards, replacing them with representatives from the businesses and states he regulates.

Still, Pruitt, who regularly references his Christian faith, says God wants people to be stewards of the earth. And an agency spokesman said that so far, Pruitt has visited more than 25 states, taken action on major Obama-era regulations and the nation's most-polluted sites, and increased the number of EPA enforcement agents, which had declined under the previous administration.

"We're only 10 months on the job and eight years from today, Americans will be impressed with how President [Donald] Trump and Administrator Pruitt were able to protect the environment and American jobs," EPA spokesman Jahan Wilcox said.

But Judith Enck, a New York-based regional EPA administrator under former President Barack Obama, said Pruitt's rhetoric doesn't match his record.

"You can't have clean air and you can't have clean water if you're going to roll back crucial environmental rules and not enforce the rules we have on the book," said Enck, who recently returned from seeing hurricane damage in the Virgin Islands. "We'll see the effects very soon."

To get beyond the rhetoric and competing claims, POLITICO compared EPA's Federal Register filings for the first eight months of the Trump administration with the same period for Obama's presidency in 2009. They show a significant increase in how often the agency has withdrawn or delayed regulations this year, along with a decrease in new regulations. The data also show that Pruitt has sped up approvals of state plans to battle air pollution — a fact that his allies consider a sign of progress, but which environmentalists cite as evidence that he is rubber-stamping lax plans.

This article contains interactives. Click [here](#) to see the rest of the report.

Anthony Adragna contributed to this report.

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EPA rejects RFS changes requested by refiners, Icahn [Back](#)

By Darius Dixon | 11/22/2017 03:53 PM EDT

EPA has decided not to change compliance requirements for the Renewable Fuels Standard, the agency confirmed today, a move that rebuffs an effort from some independent refining companies and former White House adviser Carl Icahn to ease refiners' requirements under the biofuels program.

"Based on a wide range of stakeholder input and information provided as a part of the public comment period, the Agency has determined that changing the regulatory point of obligation for compliance with the RFS program is not appropriate," EPA spokesperson Liz Bowman said in an email.

The Trump administration decided in August to reject the request to move the "point of obligation" under the RFS, POLITICO [reported](#) at the time. But an official announcement did not come until today.

Bloomberg News first [reported](#) the decision earlier this afternoon saying that EPA denied the requests because it didn't believe the changes "would result in net overall benefits to the program," citing an 87-page document the organization obtained.

Earlier this month, Icahn Enterprises L.P. [acknowledged](#) that it had been subpoenaed by the U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of New York about Icahn's push to change the federal biofuels program.

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Supreme Court won't hear tribal groundwater appeal [Back](#)

By Alex Guillén | 11/27/2017 10:03 AM EDT

The Supreme Court today [declined](#) to get involved in a legal battle over tribal groundwater rights.

The justices' decision leaves in place a ruling from the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals that concluded Native Americans are entitled to rights to the groundwater beneath their reservations. That ruling was based on the *Winters* doctrine, a 1908 Supreme Court ruling that concluded the federal government reserved water rights in creating tribal lands.

This was the first time that doctrine was expanded to include groundwater as well.

The immediate dispute was between the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians in California and two water districts in the state.

WHAT'S NEXT: Lower courts still have a variety of issues to hash out, including a storage

space dispute, water quality measures and just how much groundwater the tribe can claim.

To view online [click here](#).

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Judges skeptical of EPA's coal ash claims on enforcement [Back](#)

By Eric Wolff | 11/20/2017 06:41 PM EDT

Judges at the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals seemed skeptical at oral arguments Monday that EPA would live up to its claim that it would enforce coal ash rules, raising the likelihood the court may reject the agency's bid to put the case on hold and instead move forward to rule on issues raised by green groups.

EPA has asked the court to remand on five key issues under the 2015 rule so it can address issues raised by industry groups, though the agency has said it would leave the rule in place while it reconsidered the issues. But environmental groups insist they want a ruling.

Environmental groups had already lodged legal challenges to parts of the rule before Congress amended it in 2016 by passing the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act, [S. 612 \(114\)](#). The new law tightened many coal ash standards while also enabling EPA to create a state-based permitting program for coal ash disposal. That new program was intended to replace enforcement that came as the result of lawsuits from citizens and non-profits.

Judge Patricia Millett, an Obama appointee, appeared to doubt that EPA was up to the task of implementing the 2016 change.

"You've already said states aren't lining up to set up permitting, and Congress hasn't appropriated money for EPA to establish a program," she said to Perry Rosen, the Justice Department lawyer representing the agency. And she was skeptical that EPA had the staff available to enforce new coal ash rules while the program got up and running.

Millett and Judge Cornelia Pillard, also an Obama appointee, peppered lawyers from both sides with questions on technical matters related to active and inactive coal ponds, lined and unlined storage, along with the enforcement issues. Judge Karen LeCraft Henderson, a George H.W. Bush appointee and the senior judge on the case, asked few questions.

Millett raised eyebrows from attorneys on all sides by repeatedly citing a portion of the WIIN Act that appeared to incorporate EPA's 2015 version of the rule. By doing so, she said, Congress "endorsed the regulation" exactly as it stood. That would resolve many of the legal questions, and none of the parties had raised the possibility in their legal briefs.

"Doesn't that foreclose on industry arguments and take care of your challenges?" she said to Thomas Cmar, an attorney for Earthjustice representing environmental groups. "What's good for the goose is good for the gander."

Cmar sought to deflect the argument in court, but afterward agreed the judges went pretty deep on the regulation.

"I don't get the sense that they are going to decline to rule" on the case, he told reporters after arguments.

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EPA proposes repealing 'glider kit' part of truck rule [Back](#)

By Alex Guillén | 11/09/2017 12:48 PM EDT

EPA today [proposed repealing](#) part of the Obama-era Phase 2 emissions rule for heavy-duty trucks that classified "glider kits" as new vehicles or engines that are subject to more stringent requirements.

Glider kits are new truck chassis with rebuilt engines and can cost significantly less than a new truck with a new engine. The proposal argues that EPA does not have the authority to regulate glider kits under the Clean Air Act.

In a statement, EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt said the Obama administration unlawfully tried to expand the Clean Air Act's reach. "Gliders not only provide a more affordable option for smaller owners and operators, but also serve as a key economic driver to numerous rural communities," he said.

Pruitt announced plans to revisit that part of the rule in August following a May meeting with and a July [petition](#) from Fitzgerald Truck Sales, the biggest U.S. manufacturer of glider kits.

WHAT'S NEXT: EPA will take public comment through Jan. 5 and hold a hearing on Dec. 4 at EPA headquarters in Washington.

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Pruitt to testify before House panel Dec. 7 [Back](#)

By Alex Guillén | 11/16/2017 12:00 PM EDT

EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt will [testify](#) before the House Energy and Commerce Environment Subcommittee on Dec. 7.

"We're looking forward to receiving a much-needed update from Mr. Pruitt on his priorities for the agency, including his stated policy of getting EPA 'back to the basics' and its impact on the agency's activity going forward," E&C Chairman [Greg Walden](#) and Subcommittee Chairman [John Shimkus](#) said in a joint statement. "Following EPA's controversial and expansive interpretation of its authorities during the past administration, it is past time for EPA to refocus on pursuing its important public health and environmental missions as Congress originally intended."

The appearance will be Pruitt's first before the Energy and Commerce Committee. Democrats on the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee are also seeking to have Pruitt testify soon, noting he has not appeared before that committee since his confirmation hearing on Jan. 18.

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Date: Friday, November 03, 2017 12:58:31 PM

By Alex Guillén | 11/03/2017 12:57 PM EDT

With help from Eric Wolff, Darius Dixon and Emily Holden

EPA'S METHANE RULE STAY COULD MORPH INTO PHASE-INS: EPA is considering longer phase-in periods for key requirements under the 2016 methane emissions rule for new oil and gas wells, rather than implementing an outright stay. In a [Notice of Data Availability](#) signed on Wednesday, EPA said that the American Petroleum Institute suggested that instead of a stay, EPA could extend the existing deadlines for the key provisions at issue here, including the leak detection and repair requirements, which the industry says will require significant new infrastructure. The NODA further updates the economic analysis for the proposed stay to include foregone climate benefits from the increased emissions of methane and volatile organic compounds, which was not included in the original proposal in June.

Should old regulation be forgot: Plenty of observers thought EPA would rush headlong into the new stay as early as September, but the NODA's 30-day comment period and the time required to process any new comments make it all but certain EPA won't take action until after the new year. In the meantime, the rule remains in effect.

Mark your calendars: A federal judge in Wyoming will hold a [hearing](#) over the Bureau of Land Management's separate methane waste rule on Dec. 18. This all happens even as Interior works to repeal the rule. A federal judge in California in October ruled that Interior's previous delay of the methane waste rule was illegal, and Interior is currently taking comment on a proposal for a new 18-month delay.

CPP — COUNTRY ROADS, TAKE ME HOME TO THE PLACE I BELONG: EPA will hold a public hearing about the proposal to withdraw the Obama administration's Clean Power Plan in West Virginia on Nov. 28 and 29. EPA said it will convene two daylong sessions at the state capitol in Charleston, but did not explain its decision to only schedule meetings in the coal-reliant state, rather than collecting input from around the country, including from green states and businesses who disagree with the rollback. The agency said it may extend the hearing to a third day and "may also hold an additional hearing to be announced at a later date." EPA also extended the comment period on the proposal to Jan. 16, 2018.

Caught our eye in the docket: Comedian Samantha Bee, who hosts "Full Frontal" on TBS, has put her mark on the CPP repeal thanks to two form letters viewers can sign and submit to EPA. Each opposes the CPP repeal, but one is for [those who love Bee](#) and the other is for [those who hate her](#). ("In order to continue despising Samantha Bee, I will require clean air and temperatures that can sustain human life.")

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chatter in the energy world at the [Energy Insider Tweet Hub](#).

RFS GOES TO WHITE HOUSE: EPA [sent](#) the final volumes for the Renewable Fuel Standard to the White House for interagency review last week. This is normally one of the last steps in the regulatory process, but EPA has already shown a penchant for rewriting RFS proposals after review. The deadline for a final rule is Nov. 30.

EPA WON'T EXPAND OZONE TRANSPORT REGION: EPA today published its [final decision](#) to reject a request from nine downwind states to add nine upwind states to the Ozone Transport Region, a move that would have required those new states to implement more stringent pollution controls, even if they already meet their local air quality standards. It's not a surprising outcome — the Obama administration proposed rejecting the petition in January. EPA cited ongoing efforts to reign in ozone pollution inside and outside the OTR, saying those external efforts "provide a better pathway for states and the EPA to develop a tailored remedy that is most effective for addressing any remaining air quality problems." It is not immediately clear whether any of the states would sue over the denial.

PRUITT 'SUE AND SETTLE' ORDER COULD AFFECT SUIT: EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt's recent directive targeting the so-called sue and settle practice for lawsuits against EPA could affect an upcoming case. North Dakota cited the directive recently, saying that it bolsters its effort to nullify a court order requiring EPA to review oil and gas wastewater rules. Environmental groups complained that EPA had not updated its oil and gas wastewater disposal rules since 1988, despite major changes related to the fracking boom and a statutory requirement that EPA reconsider the rules every three years. In December, they struck a deal that requires EPA to decide whether to update those rules by March 2019.

Pruitt's order "aligns with North Dakota's argument that the settlement in this case imposed obligations on U.S. EPA that go beyond" the law's requirements, the state wrote in a short [letter](#) to the court. In a [response](#), EPA says the issue at hand is whether North Dakota has standing to intervene, and that Pruitt's directive does not grant that. Green groups backed up EPA, [adding](#) that even if the directive was relevant, it can't affect a deal struck in the past. Oral arguments are Nov. 7.

McINTYRE PRIMED FOR THE HOT SEAT: It was always expected that Neil Chatterjee was keeping the chairman's seat warm at FERC until Kevin McIntyre got in place — and now that he's been confirmed there's plenty for the incoming chairman to get his head wrapped around. As a private citizen, McIntyre has been following FERC for decades and can read the hundreds of comments on DOE's NOPR flowing into the agency (reply comments are due Tuesday!) like everyone else. But now he'll be able to tap the vast technical experience of the staff and will be the face of whatever regulators decide to do with Energy Secretary Rick Perry's contentious grid pricing rule. The FERC chairman controls what gets voted on and when.

And we have so many questions! What staffing decisions does he make? Plenty of people in the energy world have been nervous about Chatterjee's hiring of Anthony Pugliese and James Danly, as his chief of staff and general counsel, respectively, so there's some eagerness to see whether McIntyre puts his own imprint on the agency's staff. What happens on enforcement reform? What are his priorities other than the FERC boilerplate of reliability and reasonable rates? Does he espouse an interest in particular energy sources? Where might he differ on issues from his fellow Republicans, or agree with Democrats?

A BURDENSOME ROUNDUP: Agencies have finally released their reports to the White House on regulations or agency policies that may "burden" domestic energy production. Here's a quick roundup.

EPA: The agency will review how its regulations and other actions affect employment across multiple sectors. EPA will also set up task forces to consider reforms to the New Source Review permitting program and the National Ambient Air Quality Standards. And EPA will continue with its "Smart Sectors" initiative that will boost coordination between EPA and key industries it regulates, which the agency rolled out earlier this month. [More](#).

Interior: The department is looking to speed up permitting for energy projects and minerals mining by tweaking policies designed to protect wildlife conservation areas. Interior's Fish and Wildlife Service is also re-evaluating whether laws establishing protections for migratory birds should apply to energy projects, and it's reviewing the Obama rule that gave wind developers 30-year permits to injure or kill protected eagles. More from Esther Whieldon and Ben Lefebvre [here](#).

DOE: The Energy Department plans to revisit how it handles the development of energy efficiency standards, the agency's central regulatory power. DOE is considering whether to issue a request for information specifically on how to amend its procedures for setting up new efficiency standards for consumer products. Details from Darius Dixon are [here](#).

FERC: Agency staff voluntarily reviewed four areas of FERC work: hydropower licensing, liquefied natural gas facility and gas pipeline siting, electric capacity policy in the three eastern power markets, and electric generator interconnection policy. [More](#).

POCKET DOCKET: Updates on new and ongoing lawsuits.

Air permitting: The Trump administration this week [urged](#) the Supreme Court not to wade into an appeal brought by DTE over New Source Review permits — specifically, EPA's enforcement action after the utility modified a coal plant in 2010 without getting the proper preconstruction permit. The 6th Circuit was right to rule that the enforcement can proceed even if EPA doesn't show that emissions in the real world increased following the modifications. The brief includes a footnote saying that EPA is reviewing its NSR policy in response to a presidential order, and that enforcement issues like this one are part of that review.

Ozone FIPs: The state of New York [says it will sue](#) EPA for missing a key deadline to issue a federal plan tackling smog-forming pollution that floats across state lines. EPA said in August 2015 that 24 states had not created strong enough plans to curb their ozone emissions to reduce pollution in downwind states. Five of those states contribute to New York's levels. But EPA missed an August 2017 deadline to issue federal implementation plans for those states. [More](#).

CAFE penalties: [Five states](#) and [several environmental groups](#) have asked a federal court in New York to restore higher civil penalties for CAFE violators, with the green groups calling the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's delay of the higher penalties "without statutory authority and in blatant disregard of the Administrative Procedure Act." Both coalitions asked the 2nd Circuit Court of Appeals for fast action so as not to "reward" NHTSA for an illegal action. The rule boosted the fines, which had not been indexed to inflation, from \$5.50 per tenth of a mile per gallon to \$14 starting with model year 2019 vehicles.

LNG exports: The D.C. Circuit ruled against the Sierra Club in three lawsuits the environmentalists had filed challenging the Energy Department's approval of liquefied natural gas exports to non-Free Trade Agreement countries. More [here](#).

Hot-spot guidance: The D.C. Circuit has [tossed out](#) a lawsuit brought by environmentalists over an Obama-era update to agency guidance on how to measure a transportation project's effect on both fine and coarse particulate matter levels. The three-judge panel raised issues over the groups' standing and said the guidance was not a final agency action subject to judicial review.

Stormwater discharge: The 9th Circuit [says](#) an environmental group can pursue a RCRA lawsuit against utility PG&E over a preservative used to treat wooden utility poles that drips into stormwater discharged into San Francisco and Humboldt Bays. The 9th Circuit panel said the suit was not barred by RCRA's "anti-duplication" provision, which excludes from that law's coverage things regulated under the Clean Water Act. EPA could, but does not, require PG&E to obtain a CWA permit for its stormwater discharges, and thus the anti-duplication protection is not triggered, the panel said in sending the case back to a lower court for further proceedings.

Formaldehyde emissions: The Sierra Club has [sued](#) EPA over a one-year delay of a formaldehyde emissions rule for composite wood products. A 2010 law required EPA to issue the limits by 2013, although it didn't do so until late 2016. Administrator Scott Pruitt then delayed the compliance deadline from Dec. 12, 2017, to Dec. 12, 2018.

Endangered species: Various California building interests have [sued](#) the Fish and Wildlife Service over how the agency defines "subspecies" under the Endangered Species Act. The groups are trying to get FWS to delist the coastal California gnatcatcher, a type of bird which it argues is not technically a subspecies and therefore "ineligible for listing."

International water: The Canadian province of Manitoba has [appealed](#) a district court judge's ruling upholding the Bureau of Reclamation's environmental study of a Northwest Area Water Supply project, which would move water from a Missouri River Basin reservoir to thirsty communities in North Dakota. This legal dispute has been ongoing since 2002, with Manitoba arguing that the BOR review violated NEPA over concerns that mixing water from the two basins could introduce invasive species into new habitats. A district court judge in D.C. in October dismissed the complaint, saying BOR's final 2015 supplemental EIS was satisfactory and ruling that while there is a "legitimate" policy debate, "it cannot be decided by a court."

IT'S BACK! After not updating the page since April, EPA has resumed posting [notices of intent to sue](#) that it receives — and there are quite a few of them. Just in October the agency received nine, including several that were previously reported, such as the ozone FIPs mentioned in the above "Pocket Docket" section, and the Center for Biological Diversity's complaint that delaying the steam electric ELG regulation violates the Endangered Species Act.

BLM SHEDS GHG GUIDANCE: The Bureau of Land Management last week officially rescinded its Obama-era instructions to consider climate change and greenhouse gas emissions before approving energy projects. Esther Whieldon has [more](#).

INTERIOR PLAN SKIPS CLIMATE CHANGE: A leaked draft of the Interior Department's five-year strategic plan omits any references to climate change and emphasizes

increasing energy production on federal lands, generating revenues, speeding up infrastructure approvals, increasing outdoor recreation opportunities and securing the U.S.-Mexico border. Esther [again](#).

PHILLY MEETS 2008 OZONE STANDARD: The Philadelphia region, which includes parts of New Jersey, Maryland and Delaware, meets the 2008 ozone standard, EPA [said](#) this week. The area is not yet re-designated as in attainment, as authorities still need to prove they can maintain those levels.

U.S. PULLES OUT OF EITI: The U.S. has withdrawn as an implementing member of the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative, a voluntary international program that set standards for public reporting of how much revenue governments receive from oil, gas and mineral extraction. More [here](#).

TRADE PANEL PROPOSALS NOT AS BAD FOR SOLAR AS THEY COULD HAVE BEEN: The U.S. International Trade Commission offered [three recommendations](#) to the president for how to protect the U.S. solar manufacturing industry: Two of the proposals suggested quotas with percentage tariffs around 30 percent for after the quota, and one suggested a quota set at current import levels with assistance for domestic manufacturer's. A White House source [told](#) Pro's Eric Wolff that the ITC recommendations would be important guide posts in President Donald Trump's decision, but they would not be the deciding factor. Commissioners will send their recommendations to the president by No. 13. Trump will then have 60 days to make a decision.

Who was happy, who wasn't: The Solar Energy Industries Association, which opposes all tariffs, called the recommendations "mixed" while Suniva, one of the original petitioners, said they did nowhere near enough to protect U.S. solar makers. Suniva and SolarWorld had both called for price-specific tariffs, a stronger protection in part because percentage tariffs are a lesser penalty as product prices decline.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Nov. 6-8: BLM state offices hold [public sessions](#) on possible changes to protections for greater sage grouse habitats.

Nov. 7: Reply comments [due](#) on FERC's grid resiliency pricing NOPR.

Nov. 7: House Natural Resources Committee hearing on a discussion draft of legislation overhauling onshore and offshore energy development regulations.

Nov. 7: The D.C. Circuit hears oral arguments in North Dakota's effort to intervene to block a consent decree between environmental groups and EPA setting a timeline to review oil and gas wastewater rules. 17-5010, *Environmental Integrity Project v. Pruitt*

Nov. 8: The Senate Environment and Public Works Committee holds a hearing on the nominations of Kathleen Hartnett White to run the White House Council on Environmental Quality and Andrew Wheeler's bid to be EPA deputy administrator.

Nov. 9: The D.C. Circuit holds oral arguments over EPA's brick MACT, including whether the case should be held in abeyance. 15-1487, *Sierra Club v. EPA*

Nov. 16: The D.C. Circuit holds oral arguments over EPA's incorporation of regional haze

rules into the Cross-State Air Pollution Rule. 12-1324, *Utility Air Regulatory Group v. EPA*

For a roundup of the latest regulation news, sign up for Energy Regulation Watch [here](#). And check our [regulation tracker](#) for updates.

To view online:

<https://www.politicopro.com/tipsheets/energy-regulation-watch/2017/11/epas-methane-rule-stay-could-morph-into-phase-ins-025380>

Stories from POLITICO Pro

EPA sends biofuel volumes rule to OMB [Back](#)

By Eric Wolff | 11/01/2017 10:12 AM EDT

EPA has sent the final volume requirements for the 2018 and 2019 Renewable Fuel Standard to the Office of Management and Budget for interagency review.

The RFS had caused a political rift, with nine senators led by Sen. [Ted Cruz](#) (R-Texas) pressing the White House to broker a meeting with seven Midwestern senators over the rule. Cruz wants new policies that would drive down the price of biofuel credits, a change sought by a group of refiners led by San Antonio-based Valero Energy.

The Midwestern senators, led by Iowa Republican Sens. [Chuck Grassley](#) and [Joni Ernst](#), forced EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt to commit to abandon plans to cut biodiesel volumes and drop discussions to allow exported biofuel to retain the RFS credits.

Pruitt had previously changed the proposed rule after OMB review in July, cutting proposed volumes for cellulosic ethanol.

That proposal left 2018 ethanol volumes at 15 billion gallons, the maximum set by law, and biodiesel volumes for 2019 at 2.1 billion gallons, though Pruitt suggested cutting biodiesel volumes in an August notice.

As of Tuesday, no one had contacted Grassley to set up a White House meeting.

WHAT'S NEXT: The final rule is due from EPA by Nov. 30.

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Interior outlines plan to speed permitting [Back](#)

By Esther Whieldon and Ben Lefebvre | 10/25/2017 07:39 PM EDT

The Interior Department said on Wednesday it was looking to speed up permitting for energy projects and minerals mining by tweaking policies designed to protect wildlife conservation areas.

Interior's Fish and Wildlife Service is also re-evaluating whether laws establishing protections for migratory birds should apply to energy projects, and it's reviewing the Obama rule that gave wind developers 30-year permits to injure or kill protected eagles.

"The federal government can and must be a better business partner," Vincent DeVito, counselor for energy policy to Secretary Ryan Zinke, said in statement accompanying the [report](#) that was written to comply with President Donald Trump's [executive order](#) calling on agencies to streamline the permit process for energy projects.

Interior said the Bureau of Land Management will examine whether to change procedures to speed up permitting, including how it grants rights of way through national monuments and other national conservation areas and for mineral leases near wild scenic rivers.

And within three months, FWS hopes to finalize new guidance on what FERC-licensed interstate pipelines should do to mitigate the damage they inflict on migratory birds and their habitat.

Interior has already taken steps on many of the rules listed in the report, including repealing a disputed Obama rule on hydraulic fracturing.

The department also made clear it was mulling loosening multiple rules governing drilling in Alaska.

The department could change or rescind numerous rules for offshore oil and gas drilling, such as eliminating the requirement that drilling companies have cap and flow systems and containment domes to stop oil spills within seven days' reach of well sites.

Another change would make it easier for BOEM to process permits for companies to conduct seismic testing offshore.

Another issue the report highlighted was a potential regulatory change to reduce the number of protests that challenge BLM lease sales. Those protests have risen sharply, the report said, and are typically focused on opposition to fracking or fighting climate change rather than parcel-specific protests.

"A regulatory change may be necessary to limit redundant protests that hinder orderly development," the report said.

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DOE to scrutinize efficiency rulemaking, LNG exports [Back](#)

By Darius Dixon | 10/25/2017 04:22 PM EDT

The Energy Department plans to revisit how it handles the development of energy efficiency standards, the agency's central regulatory power, according to a memo the agency released this afternoon.

In a [six-page document](#) responding to a White House [executive order](#) aimed at reducing rules that "unnecessarily encumber" energy development, Energy Secretary Rick Perry says the agency is focusing on four areas where it wants to shed burdensome regulations, particularly on energy efficiency.

The document says DOE is considering whether to issue a request for information specifically on how to amend its procedures for setting up new efficiency standards for consumer products. Commenters, the agency said, pressed DOE to extend the agency's so-called lookback provision, which mandates that each efficiency rule be revisited every six years for a potentially tighter standard. Although changing that timeframe would need congressional intervention, the memo states that DOE may conduct the necessary review but avoid establishing a more restrictive rule in order to give affected industries more time to comply.

Before it can sign off on a more aggressive standard, DOE rulemakers have to declare that a regulation is both "economically justified" and "technologically feasible." But DOE says economically justified "is subject to interpretation" and may seek to redefine the term.

Perry says DOE will look for ways to make the national labs "operate more efficiently" and it plans to build on its rulemaking effort to lower barriers for "small-scale" natural gas exports to non-Free Trade Agreement countries to potentially include "larger-scale exports."

WHAT'S NEXT: The document was sent to the White House but it didn't include a timeline for the review processes.

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FERC rule review recommends few changes [Back](#)

By Darius Dixon | 10/26/2017 11:05 AM EDT

FERC largely patted itself on the back in its response to the White House's executive order calling on agencies to sniff out rules potentially burdensome to domestic energy resources.

The [15-page document](#) says agency staff voluntarily reviewed four areas of FERC work: hydropower licensing, liquefied natural gas facility and gas pipeline siting, electric capacity policy in the three eastern power markets, and electric generator interconnection policy.

Hydropower licensing was the only subject staff said might benefit from reform, highlighting that the commission could consider allowing certain applications to be resubmitted if they're initially rejected.

When the agency explored its 180-day "pre-filing" process for LNG terminals, the report says that procedure may slow some projects but is worthwhile because it allows potential issues to be addressed early.

"Thus, although this regulation may result in delays or additional costs to the applicant early on in a project's development, its overall result is a more timely application review by considering all issues regarding a project concurrently," staff wrote. "As such, there is no need

for the Commission to consider any revision to this regulation."

When it came to generation interconnection policies, FERC listed a half-dozen orders the agency has issued to make the process as efficient as possible and said: "None of these orders materially burden the development or use of domestic energy resources."

WHAT'S NEXT: The report is a staff product and the report warns that it "does not specifically recommend actions nor indicate the timing of any potential action."

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New York to sue EPA over upwind ozone pollution [Back](#)

By Alex Guillén | 10/26/2017 01:12 PM EDT

The state of New York [says it will sue](#) EPA for missing a key deadline to issue a federal plan tackling smog-forming pollution that floats across state lines.

EPA said in August 2015 that 24 states had not created strong enough plans to curb their ozone emissions to reduce pollution in downwind states. Five of those states — Illinois, Michigan, Pennsylvania, Virginia and West Virginia — contribute to New York's levels. But EPA missed an August 2017 deadline to issue federal implementation plans, or FIPs, for those states.

"With this action, New York makes it clear that we will not stand idly by as other states shun their responsibility to keep our nation's air quality safe," Gov. Andrew Cuomo said in a statement. "It's critical that these states take the necessary steps to reduce their environmental impact for future generations and I urge them to follow New York's lead to secure a cleaner and greener tomorrow for all."

EPA also missed an Oct. 1 deadline to issue non-attainment designations under the 2015 ozone standard, leaving its implementation uncertain. New York and various other states previously said they will sue over that missed deadline as well.

WHAT'S NEXT: The Clean Air Act requires anyone suing EPA over a missed deadline to provide a least 60 days notice before suing.

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Federal court knocks down trio of LNG challenges [Back](#)

By Darius Dixon | 11/01/2017 09:17 AM EDT

A three-judge panel ruled against the Sierra Club this morning in three lawsuits the

environmentalists had filed challenging the Energy Department's approval of liquefied natural gas exports to non-Free Trade Agreement countries.

The court's decision to side with DOE in an earlier legal challenge regarding the Freeport LNG project "largely governs the resolution" of these more recent cases, the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals judges wrote in today's [four-page judgment](#).

All three cases, which challenged DOE's approval of the Cove Point, Sabine Pass and Corpus Christi LNG export applications, had their Oct. 18 oral arguments [canceled](#) early last month.

Environmentalists have argued that the agency didn't properly estimate how the gas shipments might increase prices domestically, potentially boost coal use in the power system or increase greenhouse gas emissions. DOE had defended itself by saying that producing the numbers Sierra Club is seeking would be so speculative as to be meaningless.

The decision isn't a big surprise after the Sierra Club [lost its Freeport LNG lawsuit](#) against the agency in August, *Sierra Club v. DOE*, 15-1489. The group did not appeal that decision.

WHAT'S NEXT: Sierra Club has a 45-day window to file for a rehearing on the court's decision.

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BLM rescinds Obama GHG guidance for energy projects [Back](#)

By Esther Whieldon | 10/25/2017 02:12 PM EDT

The Interior's Bureau of Land Management today officially rescinded its Obama-era instructions to consider climate change and greenhouse gas emissions before approving energy projects.

In a [memorandum](#) posted today, BLM Acting Director Mike Nedd said the agency "will no longer apply the provisions" BLM issued in the last days of the Obama administration that would have made the agency weigh the potential for increasing greenhouse gas emissions in National Environmental Policy Act reviews of energy development and production projects.

President Donald Trump in March [revoked](#) the Obama administration's Council on Environmental Quality's guidance that directed agencies to consider emissions and climate change in all NEPA reviews.

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Interior draft plan pushes energy development, omits climate change [Back](#)

By Esther Whieldon | 10/25/2017 01:39 PM EDT

A leaked draft of the Interior Department's five-year strategic plan omits any references to climate change and emphasizes increasing energy production on federal lands, generating revenues, speeding up infrastructure approvals, increasing outdoor recreation opportunities and securing the U.S.-Mexico border.

The [draft plan](#) for 2018 through 2022, which is dated Sept. 27 and was first reported by [The Nation](#), doesn't mention climate change, and instead calls for using the best available science to conserve water and land and to "safeguard communities against natural hazards."

The report stands in stark contrast to the Obama Interior's plan for 2014 through 2018, which mentioned climate change more than 40 times and included concrete targets for promoting solar and wind generation. The new draft report mentions renewables in the context of the agency's "all of the above" energy priorities and as part of the agency's review of rents and royalty rates.

On energy and infrastructure development, Interior is creating an "executive committee for expedited permitting" to help carry out Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke's related directive. And by Sept. 30, 2019, the Bureau of Land Management aims to eliminate its backlog of oil and gas drilling permit applications and to have processed 80 percent of expressions of interest for public land leases.

And the plan would have the Fish and Wildlife Service inform all of its Endangered Species Act listing designations using "input from state fish and wildlife agencies" that opt to participate in the process by the end of fiscal 2018.

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Trump administration pulls out of resource transparency initiative [Back](#)

By Alex Guillén | 11/02/2017 11:31 AM EDT

The U.S. has withdrawn as an implementing member of the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative, a voluntary international program that set standards for public reporting of how much revenue governments receive from oil, gas and mineral extraction.

In a [letter](#) today, Gregory Gould, the director of the Interior Department's Office of Natural Resources Revenue, told the EITI board chair in Norway that "U.S. laws prevent us from meeting specific provisions of the EITI standard."

"While the U.S. government remains committed to fighting corruption in the extractive industries sector... it is clear that domestic implementation of EITI does not fully account for the U.S. legal framework," Gould wrote in the letter, released by the advocacy group Publish What You Pay.

Jana Morgan, director of PWYP's U.S. chapter, said in a statement that the U.S.' participation in the EITI was "stymied" because most companies declined to disclose their tax payments.

"To be clear, U.S. law does not prevent oil, gas or mining companies from voluntarily disclosing their taxes — common practice in the dozens of EITI implementing countries," Morgan said in a statement.

The move comes on top of Republicans' use of the Congressional Review Act earlier this year to [nullify](#) a Securities and Exchange Commission regulation developed under the Dodd-Frank Wall Street reform bill that would have required public disclosure of payments made by fossil fuel extractors to foreign governments.

WHAT'S NEXT: The U.S. will remain a "supporting country" to the initiative, Gould said.

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Trade panelists recommend quotas, tariffs for solar imports [Back](#)

By Eric Wolff | 10/31/2017 12:43 PM EDT

Three members of a federal trade panel recommended on Tuesday that President Donald Trump establish both quotas and tariffs on imported solar cells and panels, while a fourth member called for only a quota on the foreign-made renewable energy equipment.

The four members of the U.S. International Trade Commission voted unanimously last month that low-cost solar imports have harmed U.S. solar manufacturing. The recommendations that the ITC will officially send to the White House next month will be important guideposts for Trump, who will make the final decision on what measures to take.

The proposals backed by three ITC members follows a suggestion by SolarWorld, one of the companies that filed the trade complaint, that the U.S. should institute both a quota and a tariff. None followed Suniva's recommendation of setting a price floor.

Commissioners Irving Williamson and David Johanson recommended an added 30 percent tariff on imports of solar cells to be imposed after a quota of 1 gigawatt of imports is reached, with the tariff declining 5 percentage points each year for four years. For solar modules, they recommended a similar tariff, but on all imports.

Commission Chairwoman Rhonda Schmittlein recommended a 10 percent tariff on the first 0.5 GW of solar cell imports, followed by a 30 percent tariff on imports above that quota, with the quota rising as the tariff decreases each year. She recommended a 35 percent tariff on all solar modules, declining each year.

Commissioner Meredith Broadbent offered the most lenient remedy: a cap on imports above 8.9 GW in the first year, rising by 1.4 GW each year. She suggested sale of licenses at a price of 1 penny per watt of imports. The money would then go to helping solar manufacturers, a recommendation made by the Solar Energy Industries Association. The quota amount is based on the amount of equipment imported last year, she said.

She was concerned that a quota-tariff combination like those recommended by her colleagues

would harm the U.S. solar industry.

"I am firmly of the view that damaging the domestic consumers, installers, and manufacturers supporting CSPV deployment is not an effective way to save domestic producers of CSPV products," she said.

The commissioners will formalize their recommendations and send them to the president by Nov. 13. Trump will have 60 days to make a decision.

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Source: White House sees solar manufacturing as national security issue [Back](#)

By Eric Wolff | 10/30/2017 07:03 PM EDT

The Trump administration is worried that foreign dominance in solar manufacturing could pose a national security threat, according to a White House source, a factor that could play a role in whether the U.S. implements import barriers on the clean energy technology.

A federal trade panel is set to vote Tuesday on the potential remedies it will recommend to President Donald Trump after it found last month that U.S. solar cell and panel manufacturers had been harmed by imports flowing into the country. Trump will make the final decision on whether to implement trade barriers against the solar equipment largely shipped from Asia.

White House staff view a domestic production base as essential to keeping the U.S. at the forefront of solar innovation, which they see as critical for military and space applications.

The two companies that brought the trade complaint, Suniva and SolarWorld Americas, have argued that a strong manufacturing base is essential for U.S. security, both for energy supplies and to drive technological innovation.

Suniva's Matt Card, executive vice president of commercial operations, said in a statement the innovation that comes from U.S. solar manufacturing is "crucial for U.S. national security, otherwise we will be reliant on China and its proxies, with their own agendas, for this technology that is a growing part of a diverse national energy solution."

But the industry lobby group Solar Energy Industries Association, which opposes trade barriers, says innovation can come from government support and a thriving market.

"Through investments in solar, the Department of Defense has been leading the way in making America's energy supply more secure. This case threatens that very progress," said SEIA CEO Abigail Ross Hopper. "It's hard to see how devastating the American solar industry supports national security or puts us at a competitive advantage against the rest of the world."

SEIA has sided with solar installers to argue that tariffs on solar equipment would jeopardize the fast-growing solar business in the United State by driving up prices, and putting nearly one-third of the 260,000 U.S. solar jobs at risk.

Solar backers were skeptical of some of the national security concerns, acknowledging that although NASA relies heavily on solar panels to power satellites and operate the International Space Station and potentially for [solar electric propulsion](#) to reach destinations far from Earth, its panels use a different technology than the crystalline silicon at issue in the trade case.

"Space technology is very different, and that's not impacted at all by the international trade commission case," said Todd Foley, senior vice president for policy for the American Council for Renewable Energy. The group has opposed the potential tariffs, arguing that higher prices would damage demand for solar panels in the U.S. and hurt the overall industry. "The key to a vibrant manufacturing sector is a vibrant domestic market," he said.

While Trump will make the final decision on whether to institute tariffs or a floor price for imported solar panels, he will be guided by the recommendations from the four U.S. International Trade Commission members. The group, which will reveal their tariff proposals at the Tuesday meeting, could send as many as four different recommendations to the president by the Nov. 11 deadline.

"My guess will be you'll see either a single or two recommendations," said Terry Stewart, managing partner at the trade law firm of Stewart & Stewart. Any competing recommendations will be included in the report that goes to the president that lays out logic behind the different options, he added.

The White House source said the current thinking favors a simple structure like a tariff or quota, since the administrative infrastructure already exists. Suniva, which is in bankruptcy protection, has proposed both a tariff as well a minimum price for imported solar cells. SolarWorld, whose German parent is in bankruptcy, has said it preferred a tariff along with a quota. Both companies have said a tariff alone wouldn't do enough to protect the U.S. manufacturing industry.

The two companies and SEIA have offered suggestions to divert some of the proceeds any tariffs from the Treasury Department to go directly to manufacturers, although SEIA's proposal calls for no quota or floor price and a far lower tariff. Suniva and SolarWorld also proposed assistance programs for the solar sector, but the White House prefers to avoid the complexity of setting up new programs.

Suniva and SolarWorld also hope the ITC will recommend the president issue an executive order requiring federal agencies use only U.S.-produced panels and begin a review of tax credit programs like the Investment Tax Credit that supports solar power.

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FERC declines to extend comment period on DOE pricing rule [Back](#)

By Darius Dixon | 10/11/2017 02:33 PM EDT

FERC [denied the requests](#) today of dozens of industry organizations seeking more time to comment on the DOE's grid resiliency pricing proposal.

Energy trade groups representing the oil, natural gas, solar and wind industries, as well as several power generators likely affected by DOE's rule, had asked for 90 days to comment on the plan and 45 days for reply comments. That would push the comment deadlines into 2018. Last week, FERC [said](#) it would accept initial comments for less than a month, and today's decision stuck to that timeframe.

"Upon consideration, the motions of the Energy Industry Associations, Independent Producers, and Industrial Energy Consumers of America for extension of time to file comments are hereby denied," FERC's notice states.






On Tuesday, the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners, which represents state regulators and tends to have significant influence with FERC, also requested a longer comment period, but their request wasn't cited in FERC's notice today.

WHAT'S NEXT: FERC is taking initial comments through Oct. 23 and reply comments through Nov. 7.

To view online [click here](#).

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Yes, very	Somewhat	Neutral	Not really	Not at all

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Subject: Energy Regulation Watch: Pruitt tips his cap at corn ethanol — EPA will revisit trailer requirements — Court stops Montana coal mine expansion
Date: Friday, August 25, 2017 2:33:35 PM

By Alex Guillén | 08/25/2017 02:29 PM EDT

With help from Annie Snider

PRUITT SUGGESTS RAISING RFS CAP FOR CORN ETHANOL: A brief comment from EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt during a recent radio interview in Iowa could raise a lot of eyebrows. Some lawmakers on both sides of the aisle have been telegraphing major heartburn over the Renewable Fuel Standard's corn ethanol mandate, which has now tapped out at 15 billion gallons a year under the annual targets passed by Congress. The problem, critics say, is that second-generation advanced biofuels like cellulosics have been much slower to develop than expected, meaning conventional ethanol — which has come under fire for reasons ranging from the effects on corn and food prices and greenhouse gas emissions — has maintained a dominance in the market.

In an [interview](#) with Radio Iowa, Pruitt said he would like to raise that conventional cap. "We're supposed to set volume obligations consistent with objective criteria. The most important of those criteria include, in my view, production levels and demand," he said. "That's why conventional, in my estimation, has really shone. That 15 billion [gallon] cap, maybe it needs to be reset above that." Although Pruitt may soon be able to lower the annual targets for the lagging mandates — cellulosic biofuels especially — increasing the corn ethanol cap would require an act of Congress. Given unusual disagreements that have more to do with regional than party differences, cracking open the RFS to boost the corn ethanol mandate borders on impossible.

We know what you're thinking: A Republican who told an Iowa radio station he wants to *increase* RFS corn ethanol requirements? [*insert siren emoji here*] ICYMI, Emily Holden [wrote](#) just last week that Pruitt sounds more like a political candidate than a regulatory bureaucrat.

Mark your calendars: Pruitt also promised to have the 2018 rule done by the Nov. 30 statutory deadline, despite concerns from observers that the proposed rule came out too late for that to happen.

KEEP TRACK OF THE ENERGY POLICY REGULATIONS that matter most with [the Regulation Watch Tracker](#). Any tips, comments and suggestions? Send them to EnergyRegWatch@politicopro.com, and follow me on Twitter at [@alexnguillen](#). And don't forget our other helpful online tools. Check out the [Document Drawer](#) and peek in on the latest chatter in the energy world at the [Energy Insider Tweet Hub](#).

VEHICLE EMISSIONS — EPA WILL REVISIT TRAILER REQUIREMENTS: EPA plans to revisit certain parts of the Obama administration's 2016 Phase 2 emissions rule for heavy-duty trucks. The rule set new standards for model years 2021-2027 of tractor trailers, school buses, delivery vans and other large workhorse vehicles. The Truck Trailer Manufacturers Association sued to block EPA's novel aerodynamic requirements for trailers, arguing the agency cannot set vehicle standards for a product without an actual engine, in the

only major legal challenge of the rule. Now the Trump administration is considering revisions to the trailer standards, but it will leave in place separate requirements for tractor engines. More [here](#).

Pruitt's review of the aerodynamic requirements has got the American Trucking Associations "concerned." ATA President and CEO Chris Spear said the industry is concerned that cracking open the federal rule for this one issue "has opened the door to California taking the lead, and a more aggressive track, in setting trailer standards." A California Air Resources Board spokesman [said](#) it is "premature" to discuss whether state rules in development will break from federal regulation.

NAAQS — EPA RELEASES MORE SO2 DESIGNATIONS: EPA has released its third round of designations under the 2010 sulfur dioxide standard. The agency has proposed designating almost all of the areas in this round as in attainment or unclassifiable, which means EPA isn't certain whether they meet the standard. The agency identified a dozen areas across eight states or territories that "may be violating" the standard. If those areas eventually earn a nonattainment designation, the states would have to take steps to address emissions from various power plants, smelters, fertilizer plants and other facilities. Click [here](#) for various documents, including the pre-publication Federal Register notice, a summary of EPA's proposals, letters to states and technical support documents.

WHAT'S NEXT: EPA is under a court order to finalize these designations by the end of this year, with the fourth and final round of designations, which should be a fairly small set of stragglers, due by the end of 2020.

OZONE — GREENS, STATES WANT DELAY LAWSUIT TO CONTINUE: Even though Pruitt changed his mind about a nationwide delay of the upcoming Oct. 1 ozone implementation deadline, [environmental groups](#) and a coalition of [states](#) say their lawsuit over his original delay should still move forward. Since Pruitt decided against the broad delay, EPA has asked that the case be ruled moot and dismissed, but the challengers argue that mootness means "that the challenged action cannot be reasonably expected to recur, and that its effects have been 'completely and irrevocably eradicated.'" Pruitt's notice earlier this summer notes indicates that he may still delay action on some areas. The challengers have asked the court to rule that Pruitt's delay was unlawful — which could provide ground to hold him accountable for any delays closer to Oct. 1 — or to keep this case on ice until later.

POCKET DOCKET: Updates on new and ongoing lawsuits.

RFS: The Obama administration in 2016 wrongly forced two small refineries in Wyoming to comply with the Renewable Fuel Standard, a federal court has ruled. A split panel from the 10th Circuit Court of Appeals said EPA overstepped its authority by concluding that the exemption could only be granted if complying with the RFS presented a long-term, "existential threat" to the refineries' survival. More [here](#).

TSCA: Environmental groups have filed a suite of lawsuits challenging a pair of chemical safety rules finalized by the Trump administration last month. The suits, filed by Earthjustice in the [9th Circuit](#) Court of Appeals in San Francisco, and Environmental Defense Fund in the [2nd Circuit](#) in New York, contest the two "framework rules" for implementing last year's bipartisan overhaul of the Toxic Substances Control Act. The rules govern how EPA will prioritize and conduct evaluations of tens of thousands of chemicals that are already on the market in the U.S. More [here](#).

ELGs: The 5th Circuit Court of Appeals has [agreed](#) to put industry litigation over a 2015 water discharge rule on hold while Pruitt's team [rewrites](#) the most contentious parts of the regulation. The rule, which sets limits on discharges of mercury, arsenic and other toxic pollutants, was challenged by industry groups, environmentalists and drinking water utilities. Environmental groups had opposed the Trump administration's move to put the litigation on hold; however, their suit challenging its delay of compliance deadlines is still proceeding in the D.C. District Court.

Texas haze: EPA has [asked](#) a federal court in D.C. to rewrite a consent decree reached with environmental groups under the Obama administration requiring the agency to take action on Texas pollution contributing to regional haze. The court had previously given EPA until Sept. 9 to either accept a state plan or write a federal plan, but last Friday the EPA asked the court to give it until Dec. 31, 2018. The agency's filing says that since the Trump administration took office, "EPA and Texas have engaged in a productive level of dialogue that has not occurred in many years." EPA and Texas regulators have agreed on a plan to write a rule "that would be more consistent with the [Clean Air Act's] preference for cooperative federalism, and would produce a plan that more effectively addresses concerns raised by the State," the filing added. Environmentalists have until Aug. 29 to object in court.

Hot-spot guidance: The D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals has [ordered](#) additional briefings in a challenge brought by the Sierra Club and other green groups over 2015 EPA hot-spot guidance that is used by states to determine how new transportation projects will affect local particulate matter levels. The court on Thursday ordered additional briefs on whether the lawsuit came too late; the Clean Air Act typically sets a 60-day window for lawsuits, but this guidance was never published in the Federal Register, only posted on EPA's website. Oral arguments are slated for Sept. 19.

CAFOs: Several environmental and animal welfare groups have [sued](#) EPA seeking a response to their petition asking the agency to regulate concentrated animal feeding operations, or CAFOs, under the Clean Air Act. CAFO air pollutants include ammonia, hydrogen sulfide, methane, nitrous oxide, particulate matter, and volatile organic compounds, which contribute to climate change and a variety of health issues, according to the groups. The D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals recently [tossed out](#) an EPA rule exempting CAFOs from reporting on their emissions.

Silica: The D.C. Circuit has set a 90-minute [agenda](#) for arguments over OSHA's updated silica standard. The arguments are split into four separate areas: significant risk issues, technological feasibility, economic feasibility and various union-related challenges. Arguments are at 9 a.m. on Sept. 26. The court shot down a request from the American Thoracic Society and American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine to participate in the arguments as amicus filers, something that rarely happens.

WOTUS — MARK YOUR CALENDARS: The Trump administration will hold 10 teleconferences and one in-person meeting to solicit input as it prepares to write a new rule defining which streams and wetlands are subject to federal protection. In a Federal Register [notice](#) to be published Monday, EPA and the Army Corps of Engineers outlined a schedule of teleconferences to run through the fall. Nine of the calls will be focused on specific sectors, such as agriculture and mining. Hunters and anglers will also get to weigh in via teleconference. One of the calls will be to hear from the general public.

Also — Comment period extended: EPA will [extend](#) the public comment period on its move to repeal WOTUS by 30 days, giving environmental groups, industry advocates and the public until Sept. 27 to weigh in on its proposed rule to repeal the Obama-era regulation.

STATE REGS — RGGI EXTENDS REDUCTION GOALS: The nine member states of the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative have agreed on a plan to reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 30 percent between 2020 and 2030, RGGI announced today. Most of the states have also agreed to a reserve program under which allowances could be pulled from auctions if prices drop below certain thresholds, thus driving more emissions reductions, according to RGGI. Maine and New Hampshire do not plan to implement reserves. More [here](#).

Interesting: Of RGGI's nine member states, five have Republican governors: Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts and Maryland.

COURT STOPS MONTANA COAL MINE EXPANSION: A U.S. District Court judge in Montana this week tossed out the Interior Department's 2015 approval of a coal mine's expansion in the state, ruling that the agency failed to study the climate change-related effects of transporting and burning that coal. Environmental groups argued that Interior had calculated the economic benefits of expanding Signal Peak Energy's Bull Mountain mine without also considering the costs of burning that coal. Judge Donald W. Molloy [agreed](#), and was especially critical of Interior for concluding that the effect of the expansion's emissions would be "too uncertain to predict" while also concluding that the expansion would have no effect "because other coal would be burned in its stead." "This conclusion is illogical, and places the Enforcement Office's thumb on the scale by inflating the benefits of the action while minimizing its impacts," he wrote in his Monday ruling. Molloy, a Clinton appointee, vacated Interior's previous environmental assessment and ordered a halt to any mining in that area. Interior must revisit these issues and will likely need to conduct a full environmental impact statement if mining is to resume.

ENDANGERED SPECIES — COURT REVIVES DUGONG SUIT: The 9th Circuit Court of Appeals has [revived](#) an environmentalist lawsuit dating to 2003 that alleges a plan to place a U.S. Marine Corps air base in Okinawa, Japan, threatens a local population of dugongs. More [here](#).

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Aug. 29: EPA's Science Advisory Board holds a two-day [meeting](#). Topics include SAB's draft report on economy-wide modeling of air rules' costs and benefits, a draft peer review of EPA's framework for estimating biogenic CO2 emissions, and other issues. Arlington, Va.

Aug. 31: Comment due on EPA's [proposed](#) 2018 RFS volume mandates.

Sept. 7: BSEE hosts a [forum](#) in Houston to gather input on whether to rewrite its offshore drilling rules.

Sept. 7: The Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee holds a [hearing](#) on the next two FERC nominees, Rich Glick, a Democrat, and Kevin McIntyre, President Donald Trump's pick for the agency's chairmanship.

For a roundup of the latest regulation news, sign up for Energy Regulation Watch [here](#). And check our [regulation tracker](#) for updates.

To view online:

<https://www.politicopro.com/tipsheets/energy-regulation-watch/2017/08/pruitt-tips-his-cap-at-corn-ethanol-024410>

Stories from POLITICO Pro

Is Scott Pruitt on the campaign trail? [Back](#)

By Emily Holden | 08/18/2017 05:02 AM EDT

Environmental Protection Agency chief Scott Pruitt has logged thousands of miles this summer touting his plans to rewrite the Obama administration's environmental regulations — and fueling speculation that he's laying the groundwork for a future political campaign.

The former Oklahoma attorney general — who made a name for himself by launching more than a dozen lawsuits against the Obama administration — has visited 10 states in a few short weeks, hitting local media outlets along the way. His strategy, Beltway operatives say, more resembles a candidate seeking political support than an EPA administrator pressing for regulatory changes.

One conservative talk radio host in Iowa even joked about Pruitt's August trip to the state. "If you're writing a book, you come to Iowa, or you must be running for the presidency," WHO-AM's Simon Conway told Pruitt.

The trips, which have taken Pruitt to 25 mostly Republican-led states, are ostensibly to highlight his efforts to loosen Obama-era water regulations. But he's also spending time with GOP leaders and influential industries and packing in as many media hits as possible, laying out well-rehearsed talking points to bash former President Barack Obama's EPA.

Pruitt has declined to comment on long-running speculation among both Democrats and Republicans that he intends to run for the Senate seat held by Oklahoma Republican Jim Inhofe, an 82-year-old lawmaker whose fifth term ends in 2020. But the EPA chief's current travels could help him build the support he needs for such a race, said Drew Edmondson, a Democrat who served as Oklahoma attorney general prior to Pruitt's election in 2010.

"A Senate race would fundraise in a lot of places besides Oklahoma," said Edmondson, who is running for governor in 2018. "He's doing what he needs to do to keep the oil companies and gas companies liking him, so he has a source of funding should he decide to run."

Pruitt, 49, has done an effective job of publicly elevating his "thankless" Cabinet post, "which would lend itself to assume he has higher political aspirations," said one GOP strategist.

"Whatever he may claim to be, he is a politician with campaign experience," the source said, noting that Pruitt could jump to governor or senator since he's relatively young and EPA probably won't be "his career culmination goal."

Edmondson said political observers in Oklahoma had expected Pruitt to run in 2018 for the House seat that could be vacated by Republican Rep. [Jim Bridenstine](#), "as a holding place until a Senate seat came open." But insiders say he opted against that possibility before becoming EPA chief.

EPA declined to comment on Pruitt's future but defended his trips, adding that he's received

more than two dozen invitations from elected officials and has plans to visit Montana, Kentucky and other states.

"Unlike the previous administration which imposed its regulatory regime from Washington, Administrator Pruitt is taking the conversations directly to the states," said EPA spokesman Jahan Wilcox. He noted that Pruitt's stop in Iowa included a discussion about water regulations, while in Indiana he highlighted a Superfund site and in Minnesota he had been invited by Democratic Gov. Mark Dayton.

Pruitt served in the Oklahoma Senate for eight years before becoming the state's attorney general, where he helped build a political network through the Republican Attorneys General Association. During his time chairing the group, it raised at least \$2.2 million from energy companies, according to a POLITICO analysis, including from Koch Industries, ExxonMobil, Chevron, Murray Energy, Cloud Peak Energy, Xcel Energy, DTE Energy, Southern Co., SolarCity and trade groups representing the coal, utility and nuclear industries.

If Pruitt does seek elected office, he could be the first EPA chief to make that jump. But former Republican-appointed agency chiefs say that if he is focusing on a future campaign, environmental protection and public health will suffer.

"If you think about this as a stepping stone to some other job ... you can't do it," said Bill Ruckelshaus, who served as EPA's first administrator under President Richard Nixon and later headed the agency under Ronald Reagan.

Running the agency well means asking businesses to spend money on things that reduce their profits but that are important, Ruckelshaus said, which is "not a way to make friends."

"He clearly has not bought into the mission of EPA. It's fairly simple: Protect public health and reduce pollution that impacts the environment," he said. "He is more interested in reducing the regulatory impact."

Previous EPA leaders have frequently made trips to meet state regulators or visit the agency's regional offices, but Pruitt's visits so far skipped those or conducted them at arm's length, with staff sometimes [unaware](#) he was in the area.

EPA noted that Pruitt was joined by some regional staff members while visiting Indiana, Missouri, Texas and Colorado. While he didn't go to regional offices when traveling, he "has met with every acting regional administrator, and has attended senior staff meetings where individuals from every regional office are represented," the agency official said, adding that Pruitt has also met with top health and environmental groups.

Pruitt's travel seems to have a different emphasis than that of former administrators, said former George W. Bush EPA chief Christine Todd Whitman, since he's spending more time on television and away from headquarters.

"You've got plenty on your plate. You really don't have a lot of time to go and do the kinds of stuff he's doing," said Whitman, a former New Jersey governor. Her most prominent media appearances as EPA administrator came after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, during a series of anthrax attacks and when the Columbia space shuttle disintegrated, she said.

Pruitt has been in local news more than two dozen times as he traveled to eight states carried

by President Donald Trump and only two — Colorado and Minnesota — led by Democrats. In Colorado, he toured the site of the Gold King Mine spill, where EPA employees and contractors accidentally released toxic waste water into a river in 2015. In Minnesota, he met with Dayton, the Democratic governor who [told reporters](#) he didn't want to be "micromanaged" by a regional EPA office in Chicago.

None of Pruitt's predecessors went on to hold elected office after running EPA. Most have gone to academia, environmental think tanks and lobbying firms, company boards or other federal government roles. And most arrived at EPA with either state environmental agency experience or science backgrounds. A few came from state legislatures, and only Whitman and Mike Leavitt, of Utah, had served as a governors.

Washington observers widely expect Pruitt to pursue a Senate seat, although there's no sign that Inhofe, a legend in Oklahoma politics, will depart. Inhofe's office pointed to a 2016 interview in which the senator said he had no plans to retire in 2020.

The Oklahoma governor's race in 2018 is already a crowded field. Pruitt could be looking to another federal post, like attorney general, or even a run on a presidential ticket, according to some. All eyes in Oklahoma are on the 2018 elections, where Republicans are vying for multiple statewide seats. Some Oklahoma political experts say Pruitt may be biding his time.

"I can tell you that I have not heard anybody in Oklahoma talk about a Senate run for Scott Pruitt," said Oklahoma GOP political strategist Pat McFerron. He said he's in touch with Pruitt's former chief of staff and campaign manager — who haven't divulged any impending political plans.

"I think it is just his style," McFerron said. "Maybe he wants to keep doors open."

Still, McFerron added that if Inhofe decides not to run for reelection, "there's no doubt Scott Pruitt's name would be near the top of that list."

Pruitt has stacked EPA with people connected to Inhofe, who has praised the EPA chief. Chief of staff Ryan Jackson, deputy chief of staff Byron Brown and policy advisers Mandy Gunasekara and Brittany Bolen all worked under Inhofe, as did Susan Bodine, Trump's nominee for EPA enforcement chief, who is awaiting Senate confirmation.

Pruitt has also maintained key personnel with links back to Oklahoma, including three staffers from his AG office and a former campaign aide. He hired law school friend and colleague Ken Wagner as a senior adviser and former SpiritBank executive Albert "Kell" Kelly, who had no prior experience in environmental issues, to lead his Superfund task force.

Hiring staff with campaign experience is not uncommon, but Pruitt's inner circle is dominated by them. Career employees say he is not consulting them on major decisions, relying on his Oklahoma-rooted squad instead.

Still, Andrew Miller, a former Virginia attorney general and energy lobbyist who [encouraged](#) Pruitt to be the Republican voice against Obama's environmental regulations, said he would be "astounded" if Pruitt did run for elected office any time soon.

"This is just inside-the-Beltway gossip," Miller said. "I see him continuing at EPA as long as he wants to and certainly for the next four years."

On top of the dozens of local media appearances during his tour, Pruitt is frequently on cable news networks, especially Fox News, and his aggressive political style stands out among Trump's other Cabinet secretaries who are working to unravel Obama policies.

He said in his Iowa radio interview that his state tour is meant to send the message that "EPA is not intended to be an adversary," and that he wants to empower the states to regulate themselves. But Ruckelshaus said EPA was created because states needed backup.

"Industries would threaten to leave the state if you pushed them too hard on an environmental regulation," he said.

Pruitt often uses the media exposure to criticize his own agency for its work under the previous administration.

"The last administration said: 'We're going to use regulatory power to say that certain sectors of our economy were wrong. War on coal. War on natural gas. War on fossil fuels.' Where is that in the statute?" he told Conway. "Where is it that the EPA has authority to declare war in that regard?"

He mentions Obama by name in almost every interview, often blasting the ex-president's climate policies and saying EPA has overstepped its jurisdiction and the Constitution.

Contrary to most scientists, Pruitt says climate change is not an "existential threat" that will "impact our existence as a nation and as humankind."

"An existential threat is Iran. An existential threat is North Korea," he said in the same interview.

In the run-up to Trump's decision to leave the Paris climate agreement, Pruitt appeared often on TV to lobby for the U.S. to exit the deal. He's planning an official program to debate mainstream climate science, which he has suggested could be televised. That would launch him even further into the national spotlight.

Pruitt has also come under fire for spending lots of time at home in Oklahoma, which he defended as necessary for EPA business.

Alex Guillén contributed to this report.

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EPA will review parts of Phase 2 truck emissions rule [Back](#)

By Alex Guillén | 08/17/2017 04:47 PM EDT

EPA will revisit certain parts of the Obama administration's 2016 Phase 2 emissions rule for heavy-duty trucks, the agency announced today.

The rule set new standards for model years 2021-2027 of tractor-trailers, school buses,

delivery vans and other large workhorse vehicles. The Truck Trailer Manufacturers Association sued to block EPA's novel aerodynamic requirements for trailers, arguing the agency cannot set vehicle standards for a product without an actual engine.

The Trump administration is considering revisions to the trailer standards, but it will leave in place separate requirements for tractor engines.

The final 2027 trailer standards by themselves would have secured as much as a 9 percent drop in carbon dioxide emissions and fuel consumption compared to a 2017 trailer, and the separate standards for tractor engines would achieve up to 25 percent emissions reductions by 2027, according to Obama administration estimates.

EPA said it will also reconsider part of the rule that classifies gliders — refurbished engines installed into a new tractor chassis — as a new motor vehicle. House appropriators last month voted to have EPA report to Congress on the glider issue, although that language may not survive the ultimate spending package that clears Congress.

"We intend to initiate a rulemaking process that incorporates the latest technical data and is wholly consistent with our authority under the Clean Air Act," EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt said in a statement.

WHAT'S NEXT: EPA will begin a rulemaking process to revise or completely rescind those parts of the rule. The earliest compliance deadlines are in 2018. The trailer association unsuccessfully sought relief in court, but EPA may now offer administrative delays in light of its new rulemaking.

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Court says EPA overstepped in denying small refiners RFS exemption [Back](#)

By Alex Guillén | 08/15/2017 02:09 PM EDT

The Obama administration in 2016 wrongly forced two small refineries in Wyoming to comply with the Renewable Fuel Standard, a federal court [ruled](#) today.

The Sinclair Oil-owned facilities had requested exemptions from the RFS, citing language in the law that allows EPA to spare small refiners from the program's biofuel blending requirements if they would experience "disproportionate economic hardship." While DOE recommended granting them a 50 percent waiver, EPA in October 2016 said both facilities were profitable enough to bear the RFS's costs and thus would have to comply fully with the program.

However, a split panel from the 10th Circuit Court of Appeals today said EPA overstepped its authority by concluding that the exemption could only be granted if complying with the RFS presented a long-term, "existential threat" to the refineries' survival.

EPA "chose a definition of economic hardship plainly at odds with Congress's statutory command," concluded the two majority judges, Timothy Tymkovich, a George W. Bush

appointee, and Nancy Moritz, an Obama appointee. They sent the matter back to EPA for further action.

In a dissent, Carlos Lucero, a Clinton appointee, said he believed EPA had relied on "a more nuanced analysis" than the majority said which may have been permissible.

The decision comes just weeks after the D.C. Circuit [ruled](#) in a separate case that the Obama EPA had misappropriated a broader waiver authority under the RFS to require using less corn ethanol in 2016 than Congress required.

WHAT'S NEXT: EPA must review the refineries' petitions in light of the ruling. The agency could find further reasons for denying the petitions or it may grant Sinclair the sought-after exemptions.

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Green groups sue EPA over TSCA rules [Back](#)

By Annie Snider | 08/14/2017 01:21 PM EDT

Environmental groups have filed a suite of lawsuits challenging a pair of chemical safety rules finalized by the Trump administration last month.

The suits, filed Friday by [Earthjustice](#) in the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco, and [Environmental Defense Fund](#) in the 2nd Circuit Court of Appeals in New York, contest the two "framework rules" for implementing last year's bipartisan overhaul of the Toxic Substances Control Act. The rules govern how EPA will prioritize and conduct evaluations of tens of thousands of chemicals that are already on the market in the U.S.

In particular, the suits challenge the rules' approach to excluding certain uses of chemicals from EPA's evaluation of the substance's safety. Green groups argue that, under the law, EPA must analyze all of a substance's likely uses.

"Unfortunately, in straying from the letter and intent of that law, the EPA's framework rules leave the public at risk from chemicals commonly found in our homes, schools and workplaces," Richard Denison, lead senior scientist for Environmental Defense Fund, said in a statement. "Our legal challenges seek to hold EPA to the law and ensure that the public is protected as Congress intended."

EPA did not immediately respond to a request for comment on the lawsuits.

WHAT'S NEXT: The two appellate courts will decide whether to allow the lawsuits to proceed.

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EPA to revamp 2015 power plant discharges rule [Back](#)

By Annie Snider | 08/14/2017 01:43 PM EDT

EPA will conduct a new rulemaking to "potentially revise" portions of a 2015 regulation limiting toxic discharges from coal-fired power plants, according to [a letter](#) sent by Administrator Scott Pruitt to the U.S. Small Business Administration Friday and obtained by POLITICO today.

The 2015 rule set new technology-based limits on heavy metals like mercury and arsenic that power plants discharge into waterways. The previous limits had not been updated in more than 30 years.

The portions of the rule Pruitt said could be revised are the most contentious and expensive ones governing how coal waste is managed by power plants.

"This new rulemaking has the potential to gut the rule. The two most impactful provisions of the rule by far — in terms of the amount of toxics that power plants are dumping into water bodies, and the costs to industry of complying with the rule — are the two main ones that EPA is reconsidering," Thomas Cmar, an Earthjustice attorney, said in an email.

Pruitt's letter indicates EPA will ask the 5th Circuit Court of Appeals to put challenges to the 2015 rule from the coal industry on hold while EPA conducts the new rulemaking. The letter makes no mention of other lawsuits joined with that litigation from environmental groups and drinking water utilities that challenge the overall rule.

EPA did not immediately reply to a request for comment.

WHAT'S NEXT: EPA would need to file an official notice in order to launch a new rulemaking. The agency is also due to update the 5th Circuit Court of Appeals today on the status of its review of the 2015 rule.

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Court vacates EPA exemption for animal waste emissions reporting [Back](#)

By Jenny Hopkinson | 04/11/2017 12:09 PM EDT

A federal court has sided with environmentalists in finding that the EPA can't exempt large livestock farms from reporting emissions from animal waste, vacating a rule that was finalized at the end of President George W. Bush's administration.

In a [ruling issued today](#) in *Waterkeeper Alliance, et al., v. EPA*, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit said it disagreed with the EPA's argument that there would be little benefit to reporting waste emissions from large livestock facilities that classify as concentrated animal feeding operations, which was at the crux of the agency's reasoning for

issuing the exemption. The judges' decision rested on comments from local air pollution officials who argued that emissions reports from CAFOs could be used to better respond to odor and other nuisance complaints, among other potential public health protections.

"Thus the comments undermine the EPA's primary justification for the Final Rule — namely, that notifications of animal-waste-related releases serve no regulatory purpose because it would be 'impractical or unlikely' to respond to such a release," the judges wrote.

CAFOs will now be subject to waste emissions reporting requirements under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act and the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act, which the agency estimated in 2008 would cost farmers more than a million hours for record keeping and \$60 million for compliance.

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EPA extends public comment period for WOTUS repeal [Back](#)

By Annie Snider | 08/16/2017 04:05 PM EDT

EPA is giving the public another month to comment on its move to repeal the Obama administration's Waters of the U.S. rule.

The agency [announced](#) today that it will extend the public comment period by 30 days, giving environmental groups, industry advocates and the public until Sept. 27 to weigh on its proposed rule to repeal the Obama-era regulation.

Supporters of the Obama rule, which increases the number of streams and wetlands that receive automatic federal protection, had criticized the length of time the Trump administration gave for public comment. The repeal rule was originally opened for 30 days of comment, although it was public for about a month before the comment period formally opened. The original Obama rule, also called the Clean Water Rule, was open for more than 200 days. Issues raised through the public comment process help lay the groundwork for future legal challenges.

EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt has pushed to swiftly repeal the contentious regulation and draft his own rewrite defining which marshes, bogs and creeks are subject to regulation under the Clean Water Act.

WHAT'S NEXT: Comments on the Trump administration's rule to repeal the WOTUS regulation are due by Sept. 27.

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RGGI states plan further 30 percent emissions cuts by 2030 [Back](#)

By Alex Guillén | 08/23/2017 02:12 PM EDT

The nine member states of the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative have agreed on a plan to reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 30 percent between 2020 and 2030, RGGI announced today.

Most of the states have also agreed to a reserve program under which allowances could be pulled from auctions if prices drop below certain thresholds, thus driving more emissions reductions, according to RGGI. Maine and New Hampshire do not plan to implement reserves.

Overall, regional emissions will be capped at about 78.2 million tons of CO2 per year in 2020 and drop to around 55.7 million tons in 2030. That ultimate 2030 goal represents a 65-percent drop from 2009 levels, when RGGI was formed, the group said.

"RGGI states are demonstrating our commitment to a strengthened RGGI program that will utilize innovative new mechanisms to secure significant carbon reductions at a reasonable price on into the next decade, working in concert with our competitive energy markets and reliability goals," said Katie Dykes, chair of RGGI's board as well as Connecticut's Public Utilities Regulatory Authority.





Detailed numbers on emissions caps, allowance pricing and reserve sizes can be found [here](#).

WHAT'S NEXT: RGGI will take public comment at a Sept. 25 [meeting](#) in Baltimore.

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From: POLITICO Pro Energy
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Subject: Energy Regulation Watch: Read the draft CPP repeal text — DOE wants FERC to prop up coal, nuclear — SCOTUS takes on WOTUS venue battle
Date: Friday, October 06, 2017 12:55:22 PM

By Alex Guillén | 10/06/2017 12:51 PM EDT

FRIDAY READ — CLEAN POWER PLAN REPEAL: A [draft of the Clean Power Plan repeal proposal](#) relies on many of the same legal arguments made by EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt when he was Oklahoma's attorney general and attacking the rule in court. Namely: The CPP overstepped EPA's legal authority by requiring generation shifting rather than inside-the-fence improvement at individual plants, and that means the entire thing must be chucked. "It is not appropriate for a rule that exceeds statutory authority — especially a rule of this magnitude and with this level of impact on areas of traditional state regulatory authority — to remain in existence pending a potential, successive rulemaking process," the notice says.

Coming soon ... maybe: The proposal notes that EPA is planning to issue an advance notice of proposed rulemaking to consider replacing the rule somehow — or not. "The EPA has not determined whether it will promulgate a rule under section 111(d) to regulate greenhouse gas emissions from existing EGUs, and, if it will do so, when it will do so and what form that rule will take," the notice says. The ANPRM is coming in the "near future."

Math lesson: The withdrawal discounts benefits that Obama's EPA claimed, counting only the domestic impacts of slowing climate change, and will not count certain health benefits from reducing air pollutants other than carbon dioxide, as POLITICO [reported](#) Thursday night.

DOE PUSHES FERC TO PROP UP COAL, NUCLEAR: In case you've been under a rock this week, Energy Secretary Rick Perry made waves with one of the most controversial energy proposals of the Trump administration to date. Perry this week asked FERC to write regulations that would require utilities to provide economic support to ailing coal and nuclear plants. But several industry players and experts argue that DOE's proposal resembles a back-of-the-envelope sketch more than a regulation, and Capitol Hill is starting to get dragged into the scuffle. Darius Dixon [explains it all](#).

Seems like a 'no': Republican FERC Commissioner Robert Powelson made it clear that he's not going to be a rubber stamp on the proposal. [According to SNL](#), the audience gathered for a meeting of the Organization of PJM States broke into a standing ovation when the former longtime Pennsylvania regulator declared, "We will not destroy the marketplace." Powelson said he wouldn't support a rule that undoes the power markets FERC oversees. "When that happens, we're done. I'm done; I don't need this job," he said. PJM's independent market monitor similarly [blasted](#) the idea on Thursday.

KEEP TRACK OF THE ENERGY POLICY REGULATIONS that matter most with [the Regulation Watch Tracker](#). Any tips, comments and suggestions? Send them to EnergyRegWatch@politicopro.com, and follow me on Twitter at [@alexcgullen](#). And don't forget our other helpful online tools. Check out the [Document Drawer](#) and peek in on the latest chatter in the energy world at the [Energy Insider Tweet Hub](#).

WOTUS AT SCOTUS: The Supreme Court will hear oral arguments on Oct. 11 in a case about the Waters of the U.S. rule. Pros will recall the sticky back-and-forth legal battles that

played out between district courts and circuit courts and left everyone confused. Things only got more confusing as the Trump administration arrived and started dismantling the Obama rule and rewriting a new version. Fortunately, the justices aren't juggling all those balls. The case will focus on a comparatively simple, but ultimately important, question: What kind of court is the right venue for challenges to a rule like WOTUS (or its replacement)? Should it be heard first by a district court before any appeal to a circuit? Or, like with many Clean Air Act regulations, should WOTUS challenges just save some time and jump straight to an appellate court?

EPA is aiming to repeal the Obama-era rule in the next couple of months, likely before the Supreme Court can issue its ruling (and potentially mess with the nationwide judicial stay on WOTUS). It appears the replacement will take longer; Pruitt said last month he's looking to propose it in the first quarter of 2018.

THE FINAL COUNTDOWN — TO OZONE SUITS: [Environmental groups](#) and [14 Democratic attorneys general](#) are sending Pruitt a gift this Christmas: lawsuits! Oct. 1 was the statutory deadline for EPA to release the attainment/nonattainment designations under the 2015 ozone standard, but EPA has made not a peep. Pruitt is reviewing the underlying standard, but without going through a rulemaking to repeal it or delay implementation, EPA remains on the hook for those designations. Meanwhile, the White House is reviewing what appears to be a new proposal setting new thresholds for which areas would have to take action to improve their air quality. EPA, which first proposed those levels last year but never finalized them, declined to comment.

Why December? The Clean Air Act requires anyone suing EPA over a missed deadline to give the agency at least 60 days' notice. After doing so this week, early December would be the first opportunity for suits to be filed.

Missed deadlines are often the fodder of so-called sue-and-settle agreements under which EPA would negotiate a reasonable response time rather than face a tighter deadline ordered by the court. It remains unclear whether Pruitt will fight back in court or settle himself; missed deadlines are fairly cut-and-dry legal cases for the challengers.

ANOTHER STAY STRUCK DOWN: For the third time this year, a federal court says the Trump administration acted unlawfully when agencies paused certain regulations. First was EPA's stay of the methane rule for new oil and gas wells, which was struck down over the summer. Then came Interior's stay of the 2017 valuation rule, which a court said was illegal. And then this week, a judge said the same thing about Interior's delay of its methane waste rule. The judge vacated the delay and ordered the requirements reinstated. More on that ruling [here](#).

Good timing: That ruling came the same day Interior [floated](#) its proposal to delay the rule while it reconsiders it. That notice-and-comment approach would solve the legal error from the first try, but expect environmentalists to try to undo the next freeze as well.

DOT REVERSES ON GREENHOUSE GAS RULE DELAY ONLY TO ANNOUNCE REPEAL PLANS: The Federal Highway Administration said it would reinstate an Obama-era rule regarding state planning for highway-related greenhouse gas emissions — only to add that, actually, it's repealing the rule anyway. Facing lawsuits over the delay, the FHWA last week relented, drawing green cheers. But a Federal Register notice the next day [revealed](#) that, while the rule is technically back in place, FHWA plans to repeal it well before any

compliance deadlines pass. FHWA on Thursday published the official [proposal to repeal](#).

SUPREME COURT ROUNDUP: First Monday has come and gone, and with it a flurry of SCOTUS-related news.

Uranium: The Supreme Court has asked the Trump administration to weigh in on a pending challenge to Virginia's uranium mining ban. The company hoping to mine the fuel argued that the federal Atomic Energy Act pre-empts the ban, but the 4th Circuit earlier this year rejected that claim. [More](#).

Gas tax: The justices also asked DOJ to weigh in on a case concerning Washington state's gas tax. An 1855 treaty with the Yakama Indians included a clause guaranteeing free travel on public highways in order to trade freely. The Washington state Supreme Court [ruled](#) earlier this year that the provision means that Cougar Den, a Yakama-owned wholesaler that imports fuel from Oregon to the Yakama reservation, is exempt from paying the state's gas tax.

Coal jobs: Coal producer Murray Energy has [asked](#) the Supreme Court to force EPA to study how its regulations and other actions affect coal jobs. The 4th Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that the study is a discretionary duty, not a mandatory one open to enforcement in the courts, thus freeing EPA from having to produce the study. [More](#).

Plus: The justices are slated to discuss Don Blankenship's appeal today, meaning we could know whether they intend to take the case on Monday.

POCKET DOCKET: Updates on new and ongoing lawsuits.

Coal ash: The D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals has granted a one-month delay in arguments over EPA's 2015 coal ash rule following Pruitt's decision to reconsider key parts of the regulation. Arguments had been scheduled for Oct. 17, but a three-judge panel ordered them delayed until Nov. 20. The judges ordered EPA to reveal by Nov. 15 which portions of the rule will be reconsidered "and setting forth with specificity the timeline for reconsideration." [More](#).

Cross-state pollution: Maryland has [sued](#) EPA for not responding to its November 2016 petition seeking new pollution control requirements for 19 coal plants whose emissions float downwind and harm Maryland's air quality. The plants are in Indiana, Kentucky, Ohio, Pennsylvania and West Virginia, and Maryland alleges their nitrogen oxides emissions harm its ozone air quality. A coalition of environmental groups has [also sued](#) EPA seeking a response.

Brick MACT: EPA this week asked the D.C. Circuit to postpone planned Nov. 9 oral arguments over the brick MACT and put the case on hold. The Trump administration's plans to revise the rule would conflict with the current case, the agency argued. Green groups, which had brought their own challenges, oppose any delay, but the key manufacturers are on board.

Landfill methane: The D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals has denied environmentalists' request to immediately rule that a now-expired stay of Obama-era landfill methane rules by Pruitt was unlawful. The green groups called the stay, which was in effect from May 31 through Aug. 29, a "carbon copy" of the one Pruitt issued over the unrelated methane rule for new oil and gas wells that was struck down by the D.C. Circuit. But a three-judge panel today declined to rule before hearing more. In a [one-page order](#), the court asked for more detailed briefs on the issue

and ordered both sides to argue whether the case is moot since the stay expired a month ago. Pruitt has not issued a subsequent, longer-term stay despite moving forward with reconsidering parts of the rule. Meanwhile, first briefs are due Nov. 13, with final briefs coming in Jan. 24, according to a court-ordered [schedule](#).

Silica: Federal judges seemed skeptical last week of arguments made by William Wehrum, President Donald Trump's pick to head EPA's air office, against the Occupational Safety and Health Administration's silica rule. Wehrum, an attorney at Hunton & Williams, argued on behalf of various industry groups that OSHA had not proven that lowering the silica standard would provide any significant health benefits. More [here](#).

TSCA: EPA has [asked](#) a federal court to toss out a lawsuit attempting to force Toxic Substances Control Act restrictions on fluoride added to U.S. water supplies. The petition from several groups, rejected by EPA earlier this year, fell short of the standards required to review fluoridation under TSCA, EPA argues. The groups never identified the precise chemicals that should be tested — several are used — nor did they identify any other uses aside from drinking water, EPA said.

INTERIOR TO REVERSE SAGE GROUSE PROTECTIONS: The Interior Department says it is terminating the Obama administration's proposal to block mining on about 10 million acres of sage grouse habitat in the West, and it announced plans to alter the land-use plans the agency put in place in 2015, Esther Whieldon [reports](#). In notices posted on its website that will be published in the Federal Register, the Bureau of Land Management [terminated](#) its plans set out under the Obama administration for an environmental impact statement that would have potentially led to the agency withdrawing land in so-called sagebrush focal areas in Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Utah and Wyoming. "The BLM has determined that the lands are no longer needed in connection with the proposed withdrawal," the notice says.

EPA TO REVIEW FRACKING WASTEWATER RULE: A federal court has remanded a 2016 rule prohibiting fracking wastewater from being dumped into "publicly operated treatment works" — essentially, municipal water treatment centers. [According to EPA](#), during the rulemaking process it appeared no one was actually dumping such waste into POTWs, but after the rule was finalized, some Pennsylvania oil and gas operators revealed they were doing so. EPA and the Pennsylvania Grade Crude Oil Coalition are thus in talks to resolve the issue, possibly via amending the rule, which will remain in place while EPA reviews the matter.

ENDANGERED SPECIES — WHAT'S IN: The Fish and Wildlife Service has added Endangered Species Act protections for three new animals: the [Sonoyta mud turtle](#) of Arizona, a Hawaiian bird called the ['i'iwi](#), and the [pearl darter](#), fish found throughout the Southeast.

AND WHAT'S NOT: FWS this week [said](#) it does not have enough evidence to list 25 different species. The headline-grabber is the Arctic-dwelling Pacific walrus, but the list also includes a lizard called the Florida Keys mole skink, two populations of black-backed woodpecker, the Great Sand Dunes tiger beetle, and a whopping 14 different species of Nevada springsnail.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Oct. 11 and 12: EPA holds [public hearings](#) on its proposal to withdraw its previous work related to Bristol Bay and Alaska's proposed Pebble Mine.

Oct. 12: The California Air Resources Board holds a [public workshop](#) on the status and future of the state's cap-and-trade program.

Oct. 13: Comment due on Washington state's [proposal](#) to join its carbon cap to either California's carbon market or one abroad.

Oct. 16: Comments due on DOE's [proposal](#) to expedite approval of applications for small-scale export of LNG to non-FTA nations.

Oct. 17: EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt [meets](#) with Sens. [Chuck Grassley](#) (R-Iowa), [Joni Ernst](#) (R-Iowa) and [Deb Fischer](#) (R-Neb.) on RFS issues.

Oct. 18: Comments due on [documents](#) EPA is using in its review of the sulfur oxide standard.

Oct. 19: Comment due on EPA's [Notice of Data Availability](#) for the 2018 RFS volumes.

For a roundup of the latest regulation news, sign up for Energy Regulation Watch [here](#). And check our [regulation tracker](#) for updates.

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<https://www.politicopro.com/tipsheets/energy-regulation-watch/2017/10/read-the-draft-cpp-repeal-text-024956>

Stories from POLITICO Pro

EPA's climate rule withdrawal will include big changes to cost calculations [Back](#)

By Emily Holden | 10/05/2017 08:47 PM EDT

The Trump administration will consider fundamentally limiting the way the federal government counts benefits from curbing climate change and air pollution in an upcoming proposal to rescind former President Barack Obama's signature climate regulation, according to multiple sources familiar with recent drafts.

In nixing the Clean Power Plan, EPA will suggest changing the benefits it counts, which would bolster its arguments that the rule's economic burdens would outweigh its gains from cleaner air, reduced illnesses and greater energy efficiency.

President Donald Trump has long vowed to erase Obama's restrictions on coal plants, and then announced he was pulling out of the Paris climate accord, so it's no surprise he plans to eliminate the rule. But the fine print will have big implications for the inevitable yearslong legal fights to come. It could anger environmental advocates while satisfying some industries and conservative states.

"It may seem like inside baseball, but this is going to set the tone," said John Larsen, a director at the analysis firm Rhodium Group. "We haven't seen the details of any sort of regulatory plan from this administration yet on climate."

EPA could release its withdrawal proposal in the coming days, while leaving the door open to eventually replace the rule with one that would pose minimal costs but provide few climate benefits, as POLITICO [reported](#) last month.

Among other changes, Trump's EPA will drastically alter how it uses the social cost of carbon, a metric for assigning a monetary value to curbing emissions. The agency will decline to consider any social or economic benefits the rule creates outside the United States — unlike the Obama administration, which included worldwide impacts in its calculations.

And it will count far fewer of the health benefits that might have come from reducing air pollutants that cause premature deaths, heart attacks and asthma hospitalizations.

Taken together, the sources say, the recalculations eliminate tens of billions of dollars of the rule's benefits, which Obama's EPA had contended would outweigh the costs of enforcing a faster shift away from coal-fired power. The new numbers could be meant to aid EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt's legal case for scrapping the rule.

The rule's supporters are already accusing Trump and Pruitt of promoting fake math. They say the administration is ignoring the reality that power companies are making the transition to green energy even faster than Obama anticipated.

"Like so many things, they seem to be completely ignoring what's happening in the real world," Janet McCabe, who led EPA's air office under Obama, said of Trump's team. "Every other story is about how costs are coming down, about how emissions are reducing, about how power companies are making choices to close their coal plants or run them less because they're so expensive."

David Doniger, climate director for the Natural Resources Defense Council, said that "the courts are going to look very, very hard at this kind of cooking of the books."

"There are two kinds of ways to get the law wrong, to play fast and loose with science and facts or with the economics, and you can lose for either or both reasons," he said.

But EPA spokeswoman Liz Bowman said that if anyone's numbers were questionable, it was Obama's.

"While it appears you are writing a piece based on rumors about CPP, the facts are that the Obama administration's estimates and analysis of costs and benefits was, in multiple areas, highly uncertain and/or controversial," she said in an email Thursday night.

The businesses and states that opposed Obama's regulation say it's about time EPA reconsidered the costs. For example, it's reasonable to count only the rule's U.S. benefits since Americans would be paying the costs, said Jeff Holmstead, an industry lawyer who was EPA's air administrator under former President George W. Bush.

The math surrounding the rule has long been a political lightning rod.

The Obama-era EPA said the rule would be a net gain for society because shifting to cleaner energy sources would slow climate change and reduce pollution-related illnesses, among other benefits. In contrast, studies financed by conservative groups estimated that the regulation would cost the economy hundreds of billions of dollars during the same time frame.

The rule sought to cut the U.S. power industry's carbon pollution 32 percent by 2030, compared with 2005 levels — and as of two years ago, the country was more than halfway there. The regulation was the centerpiece of Obama's pledge that the U.S. would fulfill its part of the 2015 Paris climate agreement.

Trump has since announced he's pulling the United States out of Paris, unless he can "negotiate" a more favorable deal, and he's ordered EPA to undo a host of Obama-era regulations, chief among them the Clean Power Plan.

He has also directed his agencies to recalculate Obama's math on the social and economic impacts of climate change.

In a March [executive order](#), Trump disbanded an interagency team that had been working on revising the social cost of carbon.

He also told his agencies to revert to White House [guidance](#) from 2003, which directed regulators performing cost-benefit analyses to "focus on benefits and costs that accrue to citizens and residents of the United States." Any look at international implications should go into a separate report, the George W. Bush-era guidance said.

That "America First" approach to regulation is a big departure from Obama's methods, which considered the worldwide effects of reducing U.S. carbon pollution, but it will help Trump's EPA justify repealing the rule.

In the Clean Power Plan, the Obama administration had estimated that each metric ton of carbon dioxide imposes about \$40 of costs on society. That means the plan would yield about \$30 billion in global climate benefits by 2030 — but only \$2 billion to \$7 billion in domestic gains, less than the rule's estimated cost, according to the think tank [Brookings](#).

Experts who support the international strategy say going back is misguided. Michael Greenstone, the chief economist for Obama's Council of Economic Advisers in 2009 and 2010, [told lawmakers in March](#) that using a social cost of carbon that incorporates only U.S. benefits is "essentially asking the rest of the world to ramp up their emissions."

Noah Kaufman, an economist for World Resources Institute's climate program, said that "because climate change is a global problem, it requires a global solution."

"If countries try to solve it only for themselves, not taking into account how U.S. emissions affect the global community, and the global community doesn't consider how it affects us ... you're just never going to solve the problem," Kaufman said.

EPA will also refuse to count many of the health benefits that the Obama administration estimated would arise as side effects of reducing carbon emissions, the sources said. Specifically, Obama's regulators accounted for the fact that levels of sulfur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide and particulate matter — pollutants already regulated by other EPA rules — would decline along with the greenhouse gases.

In contrast, Trump's EPA won't count those ancillary reductions if the pollutants were already below levels that the agency has deemed safe in other standards.

Environmental advocates say that logic is wrong, because further curbing those pollutants means people will be even healthier. But Holmstead said that while it's legitimate for EPA to look at the other pollutant reductions the rule might achieve, the agency shouldn't count them to offset costs.

The changes to the cost-benefit analysis will come in a regulatory impact analysis that aims to

highlight a wide range of cost estimates for the rule. The analysis will accompany EPA's proposed rule for rescinding the Clean Power Plan and its advanced notice of proposed rulemaking on options to replace the regulation.

Obama's critics estimate the rule would force consumers to pay \$200 billion more by 2030 and saddle electricity customers with double-digit price hikes in many states, according to a [study](#) contracted by the conservative American Energy Alliance's Institute for Energy Research.

The Obama-era EPA and many academic institutions and think tanks have argued that the rule would cost far less, between \$5 billion and \$8 billion in 2030 by the agency's previous calculations. Plus, they have said, the social benefits of reducing carbon levels, slowing climate change and ratcheting down illness-causing air pollution would far offset the costs, achieving \$26 billion to \$45 billion in net benefits by 2030.

Advocates say costs are already proving to be even lower than expected as power companies move away from coal on their own.

The Institute for Policy Integrity at New York University School of Law this week released a [paper](#) compiling multiple studies that have found that Clean Power Plan compliance costs have fallen dramatically since the rule came out in 2015. That included an analysis from the American Petroleum Institute that estimated lower costs than EPA's original expectations.

"The takeaway from this should be, if we're going to do anything with the Clean Power Plan right now, given these trends we should be strengthening the goals," said Jack Lienke, an author of that paper and regulatory policy director for the institute. "Emissions can be reduced much more cheaply. That's a reason to set more aggressive targets, not to weaken targets or repeal them altogether."

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DOE grid proposal sparks more questions than answers [Back](#)

By Darius Dixon | 10/03/2017 01:36 PM EDT

Energy Secretary Rick Perry has [prodded](#) federal regulators to rescue economically ailing coal and nuclear plants in the name of "economic and national security."

But several industry players and experts argue that the Energy Department's proposal resembles a back-of-the-envelope sketch more than a regulation, and Capitol Hill is starting to get dragged into the scuffle.

Members of the House Energy and Commerce Committee are expected to get an earful about the rule Tuesday during a hearing scheduled before the release of the new rulemaking, as well as later in the week. And [Marc Veasey](#) (D-Texas), on the Science Committee, suggested that DOE may be "redefining grid resiliency to accomplish a political agenda."

The 19-page proposal DOE sent to FERC last week, which directs competitive electricity markets to dole out cash to power plants with 90 days of fuel on-site, raised eyebrows from the

moment people looked at the sparse page count. Washington lawyers and policy wonks have been tossing and turning over big gaps in the plan, not to mention a list of unanswered questions about how the regulatory procedure might unfold, where the payments DOE is demanding actually get implemented in the real world, and why Perry put his chips into on-site fuel.

"I'm sympathetic with the 'hurry up and fix something'" attitude, said former FERC Chairman Pat Wood, a Republican who is a strong advocate for markets. "But this is such a draconian way of fixing it that I'm assuming it's put out there to be a lightning rod to get people off their ass and get to focusing on proper solutions to this."

He added: "Everything in our society has a shelf-life and then it goes into retirement."

Even basic issues about how DOE's 60-day timeframe for FERC to take "final action" lines up with routine federal administrative law are unclear, and have already [sparked outrage](#) from a range of energy trade associations that don't usually work together.

Still, late Monday FERC announced that it would take comments on DOE's pitch [for just three weeks](#), even before DOE officially published its proposal in the Federal Register.

Nevertheless, the proposal was hailed as a bold, decisive and proactive measure by the nuclear and coal-fired power industries and their allies.

After speaking with more than a half-dozen experts and reviewing documents, here are the biggest questions DOE plopped in FERC's lap:

How does this process even work?

DOE used Section 403 of the Department of Energy Organization Act to initiate a rulemaking at FERC and directed regulators to take "final action" on the new proposal within 60 days of its publication. No one disputes Perry's right to utilize the process, but few fully understand how it works because the section so rarely tapped — DOE hasn't invoked it in 30 years and has used it fewer than a half-dozen times. Although FERC has already requested comments, Section 403 doesn't define "final action" and while it states that Energy secretaries can set "reasonable time limits," another phrase up for debate.

Analysts at ClearView Energy Partners argued that FERC would put Perry's proposal on the fast-track but takes DOE's timeline with a grain of salt. "We view the aggressive timeline mostly as an indication of where DOE wants this on FERC's near term priority list than as a true drop-dead date," ClearView analysts wrote in a note to clients.

In a separate letter Perry sent to the commissioners to push his proposal, he said the short countdown clock was necessary because FERC was not doing enough to deal with the "crisis" facing the sector.

"He uses the word 'crisis.' No one believes that," one former FERC official said. "It also asserts ... that every single inflexible coal and nuclear plant is needed for reliability. Those are two huge leaps. But everything is built on that foundation. If either of those, or both of those, are proven incorrect there's no basis for FERC to act."

How does DOE's plan mesh with the markets?

The most vexing issue looming over DOE's proposal is who pays the power plants for having 90 days of fuel and how does the pricing mechanism get factored into existing wholesale energy markets. DOE offers one page of regulatory text for FERC to adopt but doesn't suggest a way for issuing the payments, which "shall" include "operating and fuel expenses, costs of capital and debt, and a fair return on equity and investment."

The pricing mechanism "is, to me, the biggest question mark," said former FERC Commissioner Tony Clark, who echoed just about everyone interviewed for this story. "It dumps it all on FERC. They can try to come up with something out of thin air but the mechanism is not defined in the rule, which is really the whole name of the game."

DOE's proposal, as written, would make all nuclear plants and many coal plants eligible for payments. But should those payments come out of electricity markets, or capacity markets — which generators bid into in exchange for being available when grid operators call on them — or something else? DOE doesn't say.

"If they did decide to define 90 days of fuel supply, for whatever reason, as a valuable attribute to the market, then they would need to figure out what the mechanism is and think about whether there's a semi-market-friendly way to do that," Clark said.

Miles Farmer, a staff attorney for the Natural Resources Defense Council, went so far as to say that the plan has too many plot holes to be considered a proposed rule.

"FERC could not simply enact this," Farmer said. "There are no rules for how the plants would be bidding into the market, or not. There are no rules for how one would evaluate whether these payments ever sunset. Are we talking about infinite subsidies forever?"

There's already a process for power plants to delay a retirement on the electric grid if they're needed for reliability. How should those processes overlap? Regions that have capacity markets have also instituted stiff penalties on plants that promised to deliver but don't follow through. But the plan envisioned by DOE doesn't explain whether a power plant should still get paid if it ever falls short of the 90-day rule or can't operate.

ClearView chose a diplomatic approach: "[W]e would not be surprised if the RTOs and ISOs themselves find accommodation of this proposal difficult or problematic."

Why focus on on-site fuel storage?

DOE's proposal says power plants eligible for the new payments must offer some essential energy services and "have a 90-day fuel supply on site in the event of supply disruptions caused by emergencies, extreme weather, or natural or man-made disasters." But 90 days is never explained in the 19-page document and, [according](#) to Paul Bailey, CEO of the American Coalition for Clean Coal Electricity, the nation's coal fleet maintains enough on-site fuel supplies to power their plants 73 to 82 days, on average. Those figures line up with [data](#) at the Energy Information Administration.

Another complicating factor for Perry's "grid resiliency pricing rule" is that FERC doesn't have a set definition for what resiliency means in technical terms.

Perry emphasizes the grid stress triggered by the 2014 "polar vortex" to defend the urgency of his new plan. But even there, it's unclear why 90 days was necessary when most outages on

the mainland U.S. don't last half that time. Several experts point out that having fuel on-site isn't a panacea for disruptions.

While nuclear plants don't need to swap out their fuel for 18 months or more, some reactors in Florida along the path of Hurricane Irma [shut down](#), including because of a problem with a valve. Last week, Platts highlighted a case where NRG Energy told state regulators in Texas that Hurricane Harvey dumped so much water that stocks of coal at its W.A. Parish power plant were so "saturated with rainwater that coal was unable to be delivered into the silos" and [switched to natural gas](#).

Even with the polar vortex, API's Marty Durbin argues to lawmakers that deliveries cut off during the 2014 cold spell weren't directly weather-related but instead a result of economic decisions made by generators who had customers with "interruptible" contracts.

"I come from an era when major policy and initiatives, including notices of proposed rulemaking, were usually done in 300- or 500-page documents. This looks pretty spare," said former FERC Chairman Jim Hoecker, who served under the Clinton administration. "I'm not sure that the threat that the secretary is alluding to here is imminent. It might be. They just need to explain themselves.

He added: "What they're going to find is that having a different philosophy doesn't relieve the responsibility to testify it."

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PJM market monitor blasts DOE pricing proposal [Back](#)

By Darius Dixon | 10/05/2017 11:52 AM EDT

The Energy Department's proposal to make payments to power plants that keep 90 days of fuel supplies on-site would damage the nation's largest power market, PJM's independent market monitor told House lawmakers this morning.

Monitoring Analytics president Joe Bowring told a House Energy and Commerce subcommittee hearing that DOE's proposal would have a bigger effect on the market than the [failed](#) push by FirstEnergy last year to [secure](#) power agreements for nuclear and coal plants in Ohio.

"The recent Department of Energy NOPR proposes a much broader market intervention through cost-of-service regulation for specific unit types and would have a correspondingly large and negative impact on PJM's competitive wholesale power markets," he said.

The proposed subsidies, Bowring said, would "suppress energy and capacity market prices, and suppress incentives for investment in new higher efficiency thermal plants, but also suppress investment incentives for innovation in the next generation of energy supply technology and energy efficiency technologies. These impacts are large and long-lasting. Subsidies are contagious."

John Hughes, who leads the Electricity Consumers Resource Council, a coalition of industrial consumers, told lawmakers that his members were "dead set" against the DOE proposal.

While Republicans have largely held their tongues on Energy Secretary Rick Perry's plan, Democrats have piled on in recent days.

Rep. [Frank Pallone](#), the top Democrat on E&C, said today the proposed rule was "ill-conceived" and would "mark the beginning of the end of competitive electricity markets."

WHAT'S NEXT: FERC is taking initial comments about the proposal through Oct. 23. DOE has not yet published its proposal.

To view online [click here](#).

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Judge says Interior delay of methane waste rule was illegal [Back](#)

By Alex Guillén | 10/04/2017 07:32 PM EDT

A federal judge [ruled](#) today that the Bureau of Land Management's June postponement of key compliance dates for the methane waste rule was unlawful.

BLM relied on Section 705 of the Administrative Procedure Act to justify the delay. But Magistrate Judge Elizabeth Laporte of the U.S. District Court for Northern California said it was too late because the rule's effective date had already passed. That means BLM should have gone through a round of notice-and-comment rulemaking before suspending any part of the rule, she said.

Coincidentally, the ruling came on the same day that Interior [proposed](#) an 18-month delay of the methane waste rule as it works to rewrite it.

Laporte's ruling acknowledges the pending rulemaking but said it could be months before it is finalized and takes effect, and may not survive its own legal challenge, giving her no reason to pause now.

She vacated the delay and ordered the requirements reinstated. She rejected BLM's arguments that the delay should be kept in place, saying that doing so would create "a free pass for agencies to exceed their statutory authority and ignore their legal obligations under the APA, making a mockery of the statute." And Laporte said any company that misses upcoming January deadlines because of Interior's delay is in "a problem to some extent of their own making."

Laporte previously used similar legal reasoning to [strike down](#) Interior's delay of a resource valuation rule.

WHAT'S NEXT: BLM will take public comment for 30 days on its new proposal to delay the methane waste rule.

To view online [click here](#).

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BLM proposes 18-month delay to methane rule [Back](#)

By Ben Lefebvre | 10/04/2017 09:59 AM EDT

The Interior Department proposed to suspend enforcement of an Obama-era rule on methane emissions for 18 months as it plans to rewrite it, according to a [document](#) to be filed tomorrow in the Federal Register.

"The BLM is currently reviewing the 2016 final rule and wants to avoid imposing temporary or permanent compliance costs on operators for requirements that may be rescinded or significantly revised in the near future," the agency said in the document.

The agency said it is concerned that the final rule analysis "may have underestimated costs and overestimated benefits, and [BLM] is therefore presently reviewing that analysis for potential inaccuracies."

The 2016 rule was intended to require oil and gas developers on federal lands to capture more of the methane that leaked during their operations. The rule went into effect in January 2017 and survived an effort by Congressional Republicans to repeal it.

WHAT'S NEXT: BLM will accept public comments on the proposal for 30 days.

To view online [click here](#).

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DOT to repeal greenhouse gas rule it just allowed to take effect [Back](#)

By Alex Guillén | 09/26/2017 02:29 PM EDT

DOT plans to repeal a highway greenhouse gas rule that it had said Monday it would allow to take effect.

A [Federal Register notice](#) set to run Thursday says the Federal Highway Administration has already begun the rulemaking process needed to repeal the rule. The rule, completed in the final days of the Obama administration, requires states to curb emissions from big highway projects.

DOT had indefinitely delayed the rule, but [said on Monday](#) that it would be allowed to take effect following lawsuits from environmental groups and Democratic attorneys general.

That concession ultimately may have little practical effect. The first reporting deadline is Oct. 1, 2018, but the Federal Register notice says the department plans to complete the repeal by spring. DOT writes in the notice that "the burden to comply with the upcoming reporting deadline will be minimal, consisting mostly of preliminary target-setting activities using existing data sources."

To view online [click here](#).

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Supreme Court wants Trump administration's thoughts on Virginia uranium mining ban [Back](#)

By Alex Guillén | 10/02/2017 10:07 AM EDT

The Supreme Court today asked the Trump administration to weigh in on a pending challenge to Virginia's uranium mining ban.

A split panel of the 4th Circuit Court of Appeals in February [upheld](#) Virginia's uranium mining ban. The company hoping to mine the fuel argued that the federal Atomic Energy Act preempts the ban, but the 4th Circuit rejected that claim, saying nothing in the law barred Virginia from placing a moratorium on conventional uranium mining.

The Supreme Court today [asked](#) the solicitor general to provide the Justice Department's thoughts on the case. Such a request means the justices are taking a closer look, but is no guarantee they ultimately will hear the appeal.

WHAT'S NEXT: DOJ likely will file its response in December, leaving any decision on whether the Supreme Court will take the appeal until early 2018.

To view online [click here](#).

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Murray asks Supreme Court to force EPA study of coal job losses [Back](#)

By Alex Guillén | 10/03/2017 03:21 PM EDT

Coal producer Murray Energy has [asked](#) the Supreme Court to force EPA to study how its regulations and other actions affect coal jobs.

A federal judge in West Virginia initially sided with Murray in ruling that Section 321(a) of the Clean Air Act required EPA to produce a separate, detailed study of its effects on coal jobs, despite EPA arguments that it did so on a rolling basis as it worked on each rule.

But just days before the July 1 deadline for EPA to cough up a study going back through 2009, the 4th Circuit Court of Appeals [ruled](#) that the study is a discretionary duty, not a mandatory one open to enforcement in the courts, thus freeing EPA from having to produce the study.

Last week, Murray appealed to the Supreme Court, arguing that the 4th Circuit's ruling "creates a substantial blind spot where EPA will be left to its own devices.

"An evaluation of the job losses that have occurred and those jobs that remain under threat

because of EPA's decisions will be a powerful tool in helping EPA, Congress, the States, and Plaintiffs address and correct a policy that, up until now, has been far 'too narrow a policy and a cruel one at that for workers' in the coal industry," Murray wrote.

The [case](#) is *Murray Energy v. Pruitt*, 17-478.

WHAT'S NEXT: It will likely take months for the Trump administration to reply. If the Supreme Court agrees to hear the appeal — a major question — it likely will do so next spring or fall.

To view online [click here](#).

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Court delays coal ash arguments to November [Back](#)

By Alex Guillén | 09/27/2017 04:54 PM EDT

The D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals today [granted a one-month delay](#) in arguments over EPA's 2015 coal ash rule following Administrator Scott Pruitt's [decision to reconsider](#) key parts of the regulation.

Arguments had been scheduled for Oct. 17, but a three-judge panel ordered them delayed until Nov. 20.

The judges ordered EPA to reveal by Nov. 15 which portions of the rule will be reconsidered "and setting forth with specificity the timeline for reconsideration." In addition, all sides, including industry and environmental challengers, are supposed to file new briefs by Oct. 11 addressing whether the new [state-based coal ash permitting program](#) that passed Congress as part of the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act at the end of 2016 affect the broader lawsuit at all. And the court told attorneys to be ready at arguments to discuss whether a longer delay in the lawsuit is appropriate, opening up the possibility of further delay.

The court set 90 minutes' worth of arguments in total, split into four sections: Three dealing with various legal and technical challenges to the rule and one on whether the case should be delayed longer.

The case will be heard by Judges Karen LeCraft Henderson, a George H.W. Bush appointee, and two Obama appointees, Judges Patricia Millett and Cornelia Pillard.

WHAT'S NEXT: The parties must submit briefs regarding the permitting program by Oct. 11. Oral argument is scheduled for Nov. 20.

To view online [click here](#).

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EPA nominee's case against OSHA rule draws skepticism from judges [Back](#)

By Alex Guillén | 09/26/2017 12:24 PM EDT

Federal judges seemed skeptical today of arguments made by William Wehrum, President Donald Trump's pick to head EPA's air office, against the Occupational Safety and Health Administration's silica rule.

Wehrum, an attorney at Hunton & Williams, argued on behalf of various industry groups that OSHA had not proven that lowering the silica standard would provide any significant health benefits.

"OSHA had a thumb on the scale" because it had already decided to lower the standard and had "lost objectivity," Wehrum told a three-judge panel at the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals.

Judge David S. Tatel called Wehrum's comment "curious" and pointed to reams of data and studies OSHA used to justify the new standard.

Chief Judge Merrick Garland noted that there are some legitimate disagreements among scientists about silica's health effects — but he said the law says the regulation in such situations should lean in favor of caution. "There's supposed to be a thumb on the scale in terms of safety," Garland said.

"We believe that skepticism is well warranted," Wehrum replied.

A Justice Department attorney defending the rule faced light questioning from the judges about OSHA's methodologies and called Wehrum's arguments about uncertainty in epidemiology "flimsy."

As air administrator, Wehrum would be charged with implementing or writing new versions of a number of health-based standards, including the 2015 ozone rule. EPA officials last week noted that Wehrum can argue against the OSHA rule since it is not an EPA regulation and is unrelated to his nomination.

WHAT'S NEXT: The D.C. Circuit will weigh Wehrum's argument along with arguments made by other attorneys on technological, economic and union issues with the silica rule. Wehrum's nomination hearing was postponed last week and has not yet been rescheduled.

To view online [click here](#).

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Interior to reverse Obama sage grouse land protection, reconsider pacts with states [Back](#)

By Esther Whieldon | 10/05/2017 01:57 PM EDT

The Interior Department says it is terminating the Obama administration's proposal to block mining on about 10 million acres of sage grouse habitat in the West, and it announced plans to alter the land-use plans the agency put in place in 2015.

In notices posted on its website that will be published in the Federal Register, the Bureau of Land Management [terminated](#) its plans set out under the Obama administration for an

environmental impact statement that would have potentially led to the agency withdrawing land in so-called sagebrush focal areas in Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Utah and Wyoming.

"The BLM has determined that the lands are no longer needed in connection with the proposed withdrawal," the notice says.

The agency is also asking for [comment](#) on changing the nearly 100 land-use plans BLM put in place under an agreement with states in lieu of listing the bird as either endangered or threatened under the Endangered Species Act.

BLM said it is re-opening the plans to comply with to a court decision earlier this year that held the agency did not adequately evaluate the designation of sagebrush focal areas in its 2015 greater sage-grouse plan amendment for Nevada.

WHAT'S NEXT: BLM will accept comments on the land use plan changes for 45 days after the notice is published in the Federal Register.

To view online [click here](#).

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Corn state senators to meet with Pruitt Oct. 17 [Back](#)

By Eric Wolff | 10/03/2017 11:18 AM EDT

Sen. [Chuck Grassley](#) (R-Iowa) and at least two corn state Republican senators will meet with EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt to discuss the Renewable Fuel Standard on Oct. 17, a spokeswoman for Sen. Chuck Grassley said.

Sens. [Joni Ernst](#) (R-Iowa) and [Deb Fischer](#) (R-Neb.) will also attend the meeting in Grassley's office, their spokespeople told POLITICO.

President Donald Trump [asked](#) Pruitt to meet with Grassley after a Friday call between the president and the Iowa senator. Grassley has been public with his frustration over Pruitt's proposal last week to cut biodiesel requirements under the Renewable Fuel Standard.

To view online [click here](#).

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Date: Friday, September 08, 2017 4:40:55 PM

By Alex Guillén | 09/08/2017 04:38 PM EDT

With help from Darius Dixon, Esther Whieldon and Eric Wolff

FALL ACTIVITIES — LEAF PEEPING AND CPP REPEALING: EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt expects to sign the proposal to repeal the Clean Power Plan "in the fall of 2017," the agency said in a [court filing](#) on Thursday. EPA didn't cough up any more details on the proposal, which has been under review at the White House OMB since June 8.

However, the agency did seek to trip up environmentalists who recently called for the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals to issue its ruling on the CPP, which many observers think would be largely or entirely good news for the rule's backers — especially with the recent resignation of conservative Judge Janice Rogers Brown. In its filing, EPA said that the CPP repeal's classification as a "long-term action" in the July update to the Unified Agenda was inadvertent. Environmental groups had seized on that classification, which indicates rules will not progress within the following 12 months, to [argue](#) that the D.C. Circuit should issue its ruling on the CPP rather than keep the lawsuit suspended indefinitely. EPA said it will correct the classification error in the next edition of the Unified Agenda.

OMB lists only two meetings in August on the proposal: one with the Electric Reliability Coordinating Council and another with the Moms Clean Air Force.

KEEP TRACK OF THE ENERGY POLICY REGULATIONS that matter most with [the Regulation Watch Tracker](#). Any tips, comments and suggestions? Send them to EnergyRegWatch@politicopro.com, and follow me on Twitter at [@alexsguillen](#). And don't forget our other helpful online tools. Check out the [Document Drawer](#) and peek in on the latest chatter in the energy world at the [Energy Insider Tweet Hub](#).

INDUSTRY PONDERING BREAKING 15B GALLON ETHANOL BARRIER: Pruitt has set off an ethanol industry debate about lifting the volume requirement beyond the 15 billion gallon conventional biofuel limit established under the Renewable Fuel Standard. "We're all just starting to talk about it as a broad industry," Growth Energy's Emily Skor told POLITICO. "You've got the head of the EPA saying, well, you could consider a reset beyond 15 billion gallons." As we [reported in our last edition](#) of Regulation Watch, Pruitt told Radio Iowa last month that he would consider going beyond the limit set by Congress if biofuel volumes are reset in two years' time. Skor said it was the second time the administrator made such a remark. "The first time you don't know, did he mean to say that?" she said. "The second time, well, he did mean to say that."

EPA said in a statement: "Administrator Pruitt believes that RFS volume obligations should be reflective of actual demand. As Administrator Pruitt told Radio Iowa, if demand exceeds current statutory limits, then the reset volumes will be reflective of that fact. However, much work remains to be done before we can come to this type of conclusion."

ROYALTY RULE POSTPONEMENT RULED UNLAWFUL: A federal judge [ruled](#) last

week that the Interior Department violated the Administrative Procedure Act by postponing the effective dates for the Obama administration's new valuation rule. Section 705 cannot be used to postpone a rule after it has already taken effect, even if the first compliance dates have yet to pass, according to Magistrate Judge Elizabeth Laporte of the U.S. District Court for Northern California. However, Laporte declined to vacate Interior's stay and reinstate the valuation rule because it would be "unduly disruptive" given Interior's subsequent repeal. More [here](#).

Peas in a pod: Laporte hinted heavily Thursday that she's going to come to the same conclusion about Interior's delay of the BLM methane waste rule. The judge denied Interior's request to transfer the suit over the methane rule delay to Wyoming, where the legal challenges to the underlying rule reside. In doing so, Laporte noted she is "already familiar with the legal issues in this lawsuit" because it is very similar to the challenge to Interior's delay of its royalty valuation rule. However, she stopped short of issuing a ruling in the methane case at this time.

TRUMP PICKS W.H. AIDE FOR D.C. CIRCUIT SPOT: President Donald Trump has nominated one of his aides to the seat left vacant on the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals by the recent retirement of Janice Rogers Brown. The White House on Thursday announced the nomination will go to Gregory Katsas, currently a deputy counsel at the White House. Katsas had been at the law firm Jones Day since 2009, and before that spent most of the George W. Bush administration as a senior Justice Department official, culminating in his Senate confirmation in 2008 as assistant attorney general running the Civil Division.

HARVEY GETS EPA MORE TIME ON TEXAS HAZE DEADLINE: EPA and environmental groups have reached a deal to give the agency an extra three weeks in the wake of Hurricane Harvey to take action on Texas haze. A federal judge last week [rejected](#) EPA's request for a longer-term delay of the deadline, saying EPA was supposed to act in 2007 and that further delay was untenable. But in a [filing](#) this week, EPA and environmental groups that sued to force the action said they reached a deal to push the deadline from Sept. 9 to Sept. 30. More [here](#).

BUT NO EXTRA TIME ON DELAWARE OZONE DEADLINE: A federal judge has [rejected](#) an EPA request to push back a deadline to act on ozone pollution in Delaware. Under a consent decree approved in January, the agency is supposed to make a decision about a state plan to curb emissions of nitrogen oxides and volatile organic compounds by Sept. 29. EPA recently asked for an extension while it reviews a separate but related Obama-era rule. But Judge Phyllis Hamilton of the U.S. District Court for Northern California [said](#) EPA can't have any more time.

DOE MOVES ON SMALL-SCALE LNG EXPORT RULE: The Energy Department has formally kicked off a [rulemaking](#) to determine whether to establish a special application process for the export of small quantities of natural gas to countries the U.S. doesn't have free trade agreements with. Darius Dixon has more [here](#).

INTERIOR SHORTENING ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEWS: The Interior Department has set new time and page limits on all environmental impact statements its agencies prepare under the National Environmental Policy Act. In an Aug. 31 [secretarial order](#), Deputy Secretary David Bernhardt directed staff to issue a final EIS within one year of when it announces it is undertaking the review and to limit the document to 150 pages, or 300 pages for "unusually complex projects," although appendices will not have page limits. The order

applies to all future projects and anywhere staff has not started drafting the EIS. The order also instructs each bureau to make recommendations on page and time limits for environmental assessments. The move is part of the administration's broader efforts to speed up infrastructure siting and open up more public lands and waters to energy development.

POCKET DOCKET: Updates on new and ongoing lawsuits.

Chemical safety rule: The U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit has declined a request from environmental groups and United Steelworkers to immediately reinstate a chemical safety rule that was put on hold by Pruitt. However, the judges did put the case on a fast track and gave the parties until Sept. 13 to suggest an expedited briefing schedule. More [here](#).

CAFE penalties: The NRDC, Sierra Club and Center for Biological Diversity on Thursday [sued](#) the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration in the 2nd Circuit for indefinitely delaying an Obama-era rule increasing civil penalties for violators of the CAFE fuel economy program. The penalty would have increased from \$5.50 per tenth of a mile per gallon to \$14 starting with model year 2019 vehicles in a change the green groups said was meant to account for inflation. The Trump administration said it was delaying the rule following complaints from automakers that it could cost the industry \$1 billion per year.

TSCA: Lawsuits over two key EPA rules for implementing the revised Toxic Substances Control Act will play out in two separate courts. The lawsuits over the prioritization rule [will move forward in the 9th Circuit](#), while the [4th Circuit will handle](#) challenges to the evaluation rule. Details [here](#). Meanwhile, green groups have sued over EPA's inventory "reset," the third implementation rule, in the D.C. Circuit.

Kids' climate suit: Lawyers representing a collection of children and young adults suing the government over climate change have urged the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals to let the trial in a lower court move ahead as scheduled. Ending the case now would deprive the children of the constitutional protection of the courts, their attorneys argued in a [brief](#). More on that [here](#). Meanwhile, the kids got backup this week from a litany of supporters filing "friend of the court" briefs urging the 9th Circuit to let the case continue. Briefs were filed by the [Center for International Environmental Law and Environmental Law Alliance Worldwide](#); [Food & Water Watch](#); [Friends of the Earth and Greenpeace](#); David Bookbinder of the [Niskanen Center](#); [League of Women Voters](#); [EarthRights International](#), [Center for Biological Diversity](#), [Defenders of Wildlife](#), and [Union of Concerned Scientists](#); a coalition of [60 law professors](#); the [Sierra Club](#); and [16 faith-based groups](#) led by the Global Catholic Climate Movement.

SOx designations: North Dakota and other states can't derail a consent agreement struck between EPA and environmental groups that set a schedule for EPA to issue area designation for the 2010 sulfur oxides rule, the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals [said](#). The deal has EPA issuing staggered designations, including a large chunk this year and a straggler bunch in 2020. Because EPA is already behind the statutory deadline to issue the designations, the 9th Circuit said states can't try to derail the deal now. Any state that wants to try to force EPA to act more quickly on areas within its borders is free to take EPA to court separately, the judges added.

Arctic drilling: Alaska is [intervening](#) to help defend Trump's April executive order opening up the Chukchi and Beaufort seas for oil and gas exploration from a lawsuit brought by environmentalists. "State agencies routinely balance environmental conservation and protection with responsible resource development, and the Arctic OCS is no different," Gov.

Bill Walker said in a statement.

CSAPR ozone update: The D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals has set a new briefing schedule in the lawsuits over EPA's 2016 ozone-related update to the Cross-State Air Pollution Rule. The [new schedule](#) says the briefings begin on Sept. 18, with final briefs due March 7.

Coal leasing: Environmentalists' revived lawsuit over the federal coal leasing program's lack of consideration of climate change will be briefed out through January. A court [order](#) has first briefs due Sept. 15 and final briefs due Jan. 10.

TRUCK EMISSIONS — POLLUTION CONTROL GROUP URGES EPA NOT TO REVISE PART OF RULE: The Manufacturers of Emission Controls Association this week [urged](#) EPA not to revise the glider kit portion of the Phase 2 heavy-duty vehicle emissions rule. EPA said last month that was one provision it planned to revisit. The Obama-era rule required glider kits — refurbished engines installed into a new chassis — to meet the same emissions requirements as new engines from that model year. But MECA says revising that provision would create a "huge loophole" that "would create an uneven playing field that would undermine the billions of dollars of investments that our companies have made to deliver the latest clean diesel technologies, and that would, in turn, threaten tens of thousands of U.S. jobs for our companies."

AIR PERMITS — EPA WON'T OBJECT TO CALIFORNIA PLANT'S PLANS: EPA [says](#) it won't object to an air permit issued by California officials to Chevron's 7Z Steam Plant in Kern County, which sought permission to build new gas-fired steam generators to be used for thermal enhanced oil recovery. Environmental groups [complained](#) that emissions of nitrogen oxides, carbon monoxide, sulfur oxides and other pollutants would hurt the already poor air in the San Joaquin Valley. But Pruitt rejected the green groups' arguments that the permit relied on an invalid emissions reduction certificate.

STATE REGS — LOADING UP THE ZEC CASES: Lawsuits challenging nuclear-friendly programs in New York and Illinois have both moved to federal appeals courts recently. Having lost in district court, the Electric Power Supply Association and its allies have taken their challenges to the 2nd (17-2654) and 7th (17-2445) Circuit courts of appeals, respectively. The 7th Circuit has set two upcoming deadlines for the appeal of the Illinois case: Appellee briefs are due Sept. 27 and reply briefs are due Oct. 27. A briefing schedule hasn't been announced for the New York case.

ALASKA — EPA APPROVES PM EMISSIONS PLAN: EPA has [approved](#) Alaska's "moderate" plan to reduce fine particular air pollution in the Fairbanks region while the state continues work on a more stringent plan to reduce emissions even further.

ENDANGERED SPECIES — FIRST LISTING UNDER TRUMP: The Trump administration has made its first protective listing under the Endangered Species Act: [Guadalupe fescue](#), a tall type of "bunchgrass" found in about 7,800 acres of Chihuahuan Desert in west Texas and Mexico.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Sept. 13: [Deadline](#) for EPA and environmental challengers to suggest expedited briefing schedules in the lawsuit over Pruitt's delay of the chemical safety rule.

Sept. 14: The 2nd Circuit Court of Appeals in New York holds oral arguments over EPA's 2014 cooling water intake structure rule, also known as the 316(b) rule.

Sept. 14: The D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals hears oral arguments in a case over EPA's implementation rules for the 2008 ozone standard. The South Coast Air Quality Management District argues that the rule should allow states to count emissions reductions from sources outside of nonattainment areas, while various environmental groups are angry EPA revoked the 1997 eight-hour standard in promulgating the 2008 implementation rules. 15-1115, *South Coast Air Quality Management District v. EPA*

Sept. 15: The D.C. Circuit holds oral arguments in a case in which environmentalists are seeking to force stronger carbon monoxide standards and startup-shutdown emissions limits on a 2015 rule covering industrial boilers. 16-1021, *Sierra Club v. EPA*

Sept. 18: EPA's Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee's Sulfur Oxides Panel holds a [two-day meeting](#) to peer-review EPA's policy assessment and risk and exposure assessment for its sulfur oxides NAAQS review.

Sept. 18: Comments due on [candidates for the Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee](#).

Sept. 19: The D.C. Circuit holds oral arguments in an environmentalist lawsuit over 2015 EPA hot-spot guidance used to evaluate air pollution from new transportation projects. 16-1097, *Sierra Club v. EPA*

Sept. 20: FERC holds an open meeting, its first since regaining a quorum.

For a roundup of the latest regulation news, sign up for Energy Regulation Watch [here](#). And check our [regulation tracker](#) for updates.

To view online:

<https://www.politicopro.com/tipsheets/energy-regulation-watch/2017/09/the-falls-what-kills-you-if-youre-the-clean-power-plan-024514>

Stories from POLITICO Pro

Green groups ask court to issue Clean Power Plan ruling [Back](#)

By Alex Guillén | 08/03/2017 02:49 PM EDT

Environmental groups today [asked](#) the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals to issue its ruling on the Obama administration's Clean Power Plan because it remains unclear when the Trump administration will propose its repeal of that rule.

The groups cite the White House's Unified Agenda, which was released last month. The document provided no deadline for proposing or finalizing the CPP repeal, which it [classified](#) as a "long-term action," those for which the agency does not expect to act for at least 12 months.

That classification "demonstrates that even the preliminary step of a *proposed* rule may be delayed for at least another year," the green groups wrote.

"These facts further underscore that this Court should not continue to postpone a decision in

this fully briefed case, which was argued en banc on September 27, 2016, for a period far longer than the Supreme Court presumed when it issued its stay pending this Court's disposition of the merits," the groups wrote. "The Court should decide the case on the merits, or terminate it by remanding the case to EPA."

WHAT'S NEXT: If the court decides to consider the request, it likely will ask EPA and the CPP's challengers to weigh in first.

To view online [click here](#).

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Judge says Interior unlawfully postponed valuation rule [Back](#)

By Alex Guillén | 08/30/2017 03:52 PM EDT

A federal judge [ruled](#) today that the Interior Department violated the Administrative Procedure Act by postponing the effective dates for the Obama administration's new valuation rule.

The rule, finalized in July 2016, set new requirements for reporting production and royalty payments for coal, oil and natural gas extracted from federal lands. It took effect on Jan. 1, but in February, Interior delayed the rule using Section 705 of the APA. Interior has since repealed the valuation rule at a cost of [up to \\$75 million](#), though that repeal is not effective until Sept. 6.

Section 705 cannot be used to postpone a rule after it has already taken effect, even if the first compliance dates have yet to pass, according to Magistrate Judge Elizabeth Laporte of the U.S. District Court for Northern California. She also rejected the argument that new complaints about the rule bolstered the delay, saying such concerns do not "justify acting outside the statutory authority." Plus, Interior could have asked the court overseeing lawsuits over the original valuation to stay the rule, rather than taking unilateral action, she added.

However, Laporte declined to vacate Interior's stay and reinstate the valuation rule because it would be "unduly disruptive" given Interior's subsequent repeal.

The ruling could influence separate proceedings in suits challenging the Bureau of Land Management's delay of its methane waste rule. That delay similarly relied on Section 705 but came after the effective date.

WHAT'S NEXT: It is unclear whether Interior will appeal the ruling. Separate legal challenges to the underlying valuation rule and Interior's repeal are still pending.

To view online [click here](#).

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Judge won't let EPA delay Texas haze deadline [Back](#)

By Alex Guillén | 08/31/2017 06:09 PM EDT

A federal judge today [rejected](#) the Trump administration's request to delay taking action on Texas pollution that contributes regional haze, saying the state has had plenty of time to act before now.

Texas was supposed to have filed a plan to curb the pollution by 2007, but has yet to do so. A 2012 consent decree between EPA and environmentalists requires the agency to issue a federal plan by Sept. 9. EPA last week [asked](#) to push the deadline back through the end of 2018, arguing that the agency and the state have had more "productive" negotiations since the Trump administration took office.

But Judge Amy Berman Jackson of the U.S. District Court in D.C. said she will not give the agency or Texas more time.

"Texas has been under the statutory obligation to comply with the Clean Air Act since at least 2007, and it has been on notice of EPA's finding that it had failed to comply with the requirement to submit a state implementation plan since 2009. So there has been quite a period of time during which 'cooperative federalism' could take hold," she wrote.

"Texas has had ample time to develop, submit, and negotiate a compliant state implementation plan if that was its actual preference." Jackson added. The Clean Air Act does promote cooperation between the federal government and the states, but it also requires EPA to take action if states don't step up, she said.

In a footnote, Jackson noted the awkward timing given the devastation Texas has suffered from Hurricane Harvey, but said her hands were tied.

WHAT'S NEXT: EPA has indicated it can issue a federal plan by the Sept. 9 deadline.

To view online [click here](#).

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EPA gets short Harvey-related delay on Texas haze deadline [Back](#)

By Alex Guillén | 09/06/2017 12:01 PM EDT

EPA and environmental groups have reached a deal to give the agency an extra three weeks in the wake of Hurricane Harvey to take action on Texas haze.

A federal judge last week [rejected](#) EPA's request for a longer-term delay of the deadline, saying EPA was supposed to have acted in 2007 and that further delay was untenable.

But in a [filing](#) today, EPA and environmental groups that sued to force the action said they have reached a deal to push the deadline from Sept. 9 to Sept. 30. The consent agreement allows for a delay of up to 60 days if both EPA and the environmental groups agree.

Key EPA staff who would work on the Texas haze issue "are involved in dealing with environmental issues of immediate, near-term concern that have arisen as a consequence of

Hurricane Harvey," the filing said.

"EPA reserves the right to seek further extensions," the filing added.

WHAT'S NEXT: The deadline is expected to require EPA to issue a federal plan to curb emissions from coal plants and other sources that contribute to haze. Texas has not filed a state implementation plan after years of dispute with the Obama administration over stringency.

To view online [click here](#).

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Court rejects EPA bid to delay Delaware ozone deadline plan [Back](#)

By Alex Guillén | 09/01/2017 03:30 PM EDT

A federal judge has rejected an EPA request to push back a deadline to act on ozone pollution in Delaware.

Under a consent decree approved in January, the agency is supposed to make a decision about a state plan to curb emissions of nitrogen oxides and volatile organic compounds by Sept. 29. EPA recently asked for an extension while it reviews a separate but related Obama-era rule requiring states to modify their air plans to drop a "shield" for lawsuits against power plants or other sources that violate emissions limits during startup, shutdown or malfunction, a regulation known as the "SSM SIP call."

But Judge Phyllis Hamilton of the U.S. District Court for Northern California on Thursday [said](#) EPA can't have any more time.

"Whether EPA's 'policy review' will have any impact on EPA's decision is entirely speculative at this juncture," Hamilton wrote. "Even if EPA ultimately decided to change policy, EPA could later revise its decision on the Delaware SIP, if necessary."

She also criticized the agency for seeking an indefinite delay of the Delaware deadline while it reviews the SSM SIP call regulation, saying "an open-ended extension ... would defeat the core purpose of the Consent Decree by perpetuating a statutory violation."

WHAT'S NEXT: EPA has until Sept. 29 to decide on the Delaware plan.

To view online [click here](#).

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DOE to issue proposed rule for 'small-scale' LNG exports [Back](#)

By Darius Dixon | 08/31/2017 03:00 PM EDT

The Energy Department is formally kicking off a [rulemaking](#) Friday to determine whether to

establish a special application process for the export of small quantities of natural gas to countries the U.S. doesn't have free trade agreements with.

According to a Federal Register pre-publication notice, DOE wants to ease approvals for applications to export LNG in quantities up to 140 million cubic feet per day, so long as they don't require an environmental impact statement or an environmental assessment under the National Environmental Policy Act.

The agency expects that the small-scale shipments will serve LNG customers in the Caribbean, as well as Central and South America.

"Many of these countries do not generate enough natural gas demand to support the economies of scale required to justify large volumes of LNG imports from large-scale LNG terminals via conventional LNG tankers," the proposed rule says.

The rule was [included](#) in a list of federal rules when OMB updated information last month.

WHAT'S NEXT: DOE will take public comment for 45 days once the proposed rule is published Friday.

To view online [click here](#).

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Court rejects bid to lift EPA delay of chemical safety rule [Back](#)

By Alex Guillén | 08/30/2017 04:28 PM EDT

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit today declined a request from environmental groups and United Steelworkers to immediately reinstate a chemical safety rule that was put on hold by EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt.

Pruitt delayed the rule, known as the Risk Management Plan update or the Chemical Disaster Rule, through 2019, saying he needed time to review and potentially revise or repeal it.

In a short [order](#) today, a three-judge panel said only that the environmentalists and labor group "have not satisfied the stringent standards for a stay pending court review." However, the judges did put the case on a fast track and gave the parties until Sept. 13 to suggest an expedited briefing schedule.

The order was issued by Judges Brett Kavanaugh, a George W. Bush appointee, and Cornelia Pillard and Robert Wilkins, both Barack Obama appointees.

The rule, written in the wake of several high-profile deadly explosions at chemical and fertilizer facilities, set tighter requirements for safety and reporting.

WHAT'S NEXT: Although the case was placed on a fast track, the suit may not see oral arguments until late this year or 2018.

To view online [click here](#).

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TSCA rule lawsuits to head to different courts [Back](#)

By Alex Guillén | 09/01/2017 03:51 PM EDT

Lawsuits over two key EPA rules for implementing the revised Toxic Substances Control Act will play out in two separate courts.

Various challenges were filed last month over EPA's prioritization rule, which determines how the agency chooses which substances it will focus on immediately, and its evaluation rule, which describes how EPA will review substances. Public health and environmental groups argued that both rules skewed in favor of industry interests.

Lawsuits over the rules were filed in the 2nd, 4th and 9th Circuits. EPA had asked for all the lawsuits to land in the same court, but each rule's challenges will proceed in a different court. The lawsuits over the prioritization rule [will move forward in the 9th Circuit](#), while the [4th Circuit will handle](#) challenges to the evaluation rule.

The decisions were made randomly by the Judicial Panel on Multidistrict Litigation, a group of seven judges who consolidate similar lawsuits that are filed in disparate courts.

To view online [click here](#).

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Kids urge 9th Circuit to let climate lawsuit proceed [Back](#)

By Alex Guillén | 08/29/2017 10:03 AM EDT

Lawyers representing a collection of children and young adults suing the government over climate change have urged the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals to let the trial in a lower court move ahead as scheduled.

Trump administration attorneys in June asked the 9th Circuit to end the lawsuit before it reaches a trial planned for next year in an Oregon district court, arguing that the children are trying to force the judicial branch to improperly decide critical environmental policy. The children argue that the government has violated their 5th Amendment rights by promoting fossil fuels and not taking strong enough action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions over the decades.

Ending the case now would deprive the children of the constitutional protection of the courts, their attorneys argued in a [brief](#) filed Monday night. "This case raises constitutional questions that must first be answered by the very capable District Court in the ordinary course of judicial review," they wrote.

They also pushed back on discovery issues raised by the government, arguing that they have "reasonably" responded to the government's concerns so far. The challengers have no interest

"in drawing out discovery disputes given the urgency of the climate crisis," they wrote.

The judge overseeing the trial last week similarly [argued](#) that the case should move forward.

WHAT'S NEXT: The 9th Circuit will decide whether the case can move to trial in the U.S. District Court for Oregon. It is unclear when it will reach that decision. The 9th Circuit in July [paused](#) the lower court's trial preparation.

To view online [click here](#).

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Court rejects bid to lift EPA delay of chemical safety rule [Back](#)

By Alex Guillén | 08/30/2017 04:28 PM EDT

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WHAT'S NEXT: Although the case was placed on a fast track, the suit may not see oral arguments until late this year or 2018.

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EPA seeks comment on CASAC nominees [Back](#)

By Alex Guillén | 08/28/2017 06:11 PM EDT

EPA is seeking public input on [43 candidates](#) for a single seat on its Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee, which provides guidance and recommendations on air regulations.

Administrator Scott Pruitt will make the ultimate choice to fill the seat of Ana Diez Roux, CASAC's current chair whose term expires on Sept. 30. The Clean Air Act requires CASAC's seven-member body include at least one physician and one member of the National Academy of Sciences; because Diez Roux fulfilled both of those requirements, her replacement must meet them as well.

Public health and environmental advocates [have been worried](#) about the seat for months as EPA appeared to be behind schedule in seeking a replacement for Diez Roux.

Public comment on the nominees, many of whom are academics, is due Sept. 18.

One of the nominees is Diez Roux herself. She is dean of Drexel University's Dornsife School of Public Health. Other nominees include:

— Former Rep. Nan Hayworth, (R-N.Y.), an ophthalmologist by training and media surrogate for Pruitt during his confirmation process

— Deane Waldman, director of the Center for Health Care Policy at the Texas Public Policy Foundation, who wrote that EPA must set standards "based on reliable science" and that can be "directly" connected "to the health status of Americans."

— Tony Cox, a Denver-based researcher who [testified](#) in 2015 that EPA's proposal to tighten the ozone standard relied on health benefits that he called "unwarranted and exaggerated"

— R. Jeffrey Lewis, an epidemiologist with ExxonMobil Biomedical Sciences

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From: FSAFEDS
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** The DCFSA covers only dependent day care expenses and does not cover health-related expenses for dependents

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29095
(11/2017)

From: FSAFEDS
To: lori_mashburn@ios.doi.gov; [WageWorks Service Notice](#)
Subject: Enroll Now: Today is the Last Day to Save
Date: Monday, December 11, 2017 10:28:30 AM

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From: FSAFEDS
To: lori_mashburn@ios.doi.gov; [WageWorks Service Notice](#)
Subject: Enroll Today: The Clock is Ticking to Save Money in 2018
Date: Wednesday, December 06, 2017 10:25:59 AM

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(11/2017)

From: POLITICO Pro Energy Whiteboard
To: lori_mashburn@ios.doi.gov; [POLITICO subscriptions](#)
Subject: EPA seeks comment on CASAC nominees
Date: Monday, August 28, 2017 6:16:01 PM

By Alex Guillén

08/28/2017 06:11 PM EDT

EPA is seeking public input on [43 candidates](#) for a single seat on its Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee, which provides guidance and recommendations on air regulations.

Administrator Scott Pruitt will make the ultimate choice to fill the seat of Ana Diez Roux, CASAC's current chair whose term expires on Sept. 30. The Clean Air Act requires CASAC's seven-member body include at least one physician and one member of the National Academy of Sciences; because Diez Roux fulfilled both of those requirements, her replacement must meet them as well.

Public health and environmental advocates [have been worried](#) about the seat for months as EPA appeared to be behind schedule in seeking a replacement for Diez Roux.

Public comment on the nominees, many of whom are academics, is due Sept. 18.

One of the nominees is Diez Roux herself. She is dean of Drexel University's Dornsife School of Public Health. Other nominees include:

— Former Rep. Nan Hayworth, (R-N.Y.), an ophthalmologist by training and media surrogate for Pruitt during his confirmation process

— Deane Waldman, director of the Center for Health Care Policy at the Texas Public Policy Foundation, who wrote that EPA must set standards "based on reliable science" and that can be "directly" connected "to the health status of Americans."






— Tony Cox, a Denver-based researcher who [testified](#) in 2015 that EPA's proposal to tighten the ozone standard relied on health benefits that he called "unwarranted and exaggerated"

— R. Jeffrey Lewis, an epidemiologist with ExxonMobil Biomedical Sciences

To view online:

<https://www.politicopro.com/energy/whiteboard/2017/08/epa-seeks-comment-on-casac-nominees-092181>

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From: Lillie, Juliette
To: [Domenech, Douglas](#); [Daniel Jbrjani](#); [Scott Hommel](#); [Magallanes, Downey](#); [Mashburn, Lori](#)
Subject: Federal Register Approvals for Friday, July 21, 2017
Date: Friday, July 21, 2017 4:57:11 PM

Good afternoon: Below are the documents approved today for the FR

Julie
 Juliette Lillie
 Director Executive Secretariat and Regulatory Affairs
 Department of the Interior
 1849 C St NW
 Washington DC 20240

Email: juliette_lillie@ios.doi.gov
 Ph: 202-219-7724

Cleared Today for Federal Register Publication

Date:
 07/21/2017
 Records: 6

DCN	Bureau	Title	Synopsis	Type	Approved
REG0007198	BIA	Agency Information Collection Activities; Native American Business Development Institute (NABDI) Funding Solicitations and Reporting	This Notice, under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, announces that BIA will ask the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to renew its approval of the collection of information for the Native American Business Development Institute (NABDI) Funding Solicitation and Reporting. BIA is requesting public comments on the renewal for 60 days. The BLM provides notice that it will issue an appealable decision approving conveyance of the surface estate in certain lands to the Alaska Native village corporation of Tulkisarmute Incorporated, pursuant to the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of 1971, as amended (ANCSA). As provided by ANCSA, the BLM simultaneously will convey the subsurface estate in the same lands to Calista Corporation.	Notice	07/21/2017
REG0007184	BLM	Alaska Native Claims Selection	The BLM is proposing to rescind a 2015 final rule, "Oil and Gas; Hydraulic Fracturing on Federal and Indian Lands," because the BLM has concluded that it is unnecessarily duplicative of State and some tribal regulations and that it imposes burdensome reporting requirements and other unjustified costs on the oil and gas industry. The Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs (OIRA) has concluded E.O. 12866 review and the BLM seeks DOI approval to publish the proposed rule ahead of a July 27, 2017, oral argument on the 2015 rule in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit.	Notice	07/21/2017
REG0007189	BLM	Rescission of a 2015 Rule: Oil and Gas; Hydraulic Fracturing on Federal and Indian Lands	BOEM announces the availability of a Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) for the Cape Wind Energy Project, which is located in Federal waters between Cape Cod, Martha's Vineyard, and Nantucket Island. BOEM must issue the Final SEIS and publish this Notice as soon as possible to comply with a court order.	Proposed Rule	07/21/2017
REG0007201	BOE	Final Supplemental EIS for the Cape Wind Energy Project	The proposed project includes the construction, operation and maintenance, and decommissioning of a 20-megawatt solar photovoltaic power generating facility.	Notice	07/21/2017
REG0007119	FWS	Lost Hills Solar Project, Kern County, California; Draft Environmental Assessment and Draft Habitat Conservation Plan	This Notice, under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA), announces that the NPS will ask the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to renew its approval of an information collection for the Visitor Survey Card (VSC). The NPS is requesting public comments on the renewal for 30 days.	Notice	07/21/2017
REG0007199	NPS	Agency Information Collection Activities: NPS Visitor Survey Card		Notice	07/21/2017

From: FSAFEDS
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Subject: Find Out How Much You Could Be Saving on Childcare Expenses
Date: Monday, September 25, 2017 12:32:23 PM

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The DCFSA does not cover healthcare-related expenses. If you want to save up to 30% on healthcare, prescription, dental, and vision expenses for you, your spouse, and your qualified dependents, look into the [FSAFEDS Health Care Flexible Spending Account \(HCFSA\)](#).

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24390
(09/2017)

From: Swift, Heather
To: [Lori Mashburn](#); [Laura Rigas](#); [Daniel Jorjani](#); [John Tahsuda](#); [Hinson, Alex](#); [James Cason](#); [Wackowski, Stephen](#); [Micah Chambers](#); [Magallanes, Downey](#)
Subject: For Final Review - Press Release Tara Sweeney
Date: Tuesday, October 17, 2017 9:13:21 AM

Late last night Tara Sweeney's nomination was announced. Below is our press release applauding the action. Please send any edits by 10:30 AM. I apologize if the formatting is off, gmail isn't great for copy/paste.



Date: October 13, 2017
Contact: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

Secretary Zinke Applauds Nomination of Alaska Native Leader Tara Mac Lean Sweeney for Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs

Sweeney would be the first Alaska Native to hold the position

WASHINGTON – Today U.S. Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke applauded President Donald J. Trump's nomination of Tara Mac Lean Sweeney, a prominent Alaska Native leader and acclaimed businesswoman with the Arctic Slope Regional Corporation, to be the department's next Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs.

If confirmed by the U.S. Senate, Sweeney, a member of the Native Village of Barrow and the Iñupiat Community of the Arctic Slope, would be the first Native Alaskan and only the second woman in history to hold the position.

The Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs oversees Interior's manifold responsibilities to enhance the quality of life, promote economic opportunity and provide quality educational opportunities for American Indians, Indian tribes and Alaska Natives, while protecting and improving their trust assets.

“Tara is a results-driven team leader and coalition builder who has an impressive combination of business acumen and service to her community,” **Secretary Zinke said.** “Her lifelong active engagement in Native American policy development and her outreach, advocacy, and organization skills are the combination we need to carry out the President’s reform initiative for Indian Country. I look forward to welcoming her to our leadership team.”

“I am honored to be nominated to serve Indian Country in this capacity,” **Tara Sweeney said.** “My goal is to develop strong relationships with Tribes, Alaska Native corporations and Native Hawaiian Organizations to work on innovative solutions for lifting up our communities. I am motivated to work with Indian Country to find efficiencies inside the Bureau of Indian Affairs, improve service delivery and culturally relevant curriculum in the Bureau of Indian Education, and create a more effective voice for Tribes throughout the Federal Government. I am humbled by the confidence President Trump and Secretary Zinke have shown in me and ready to serve.”

Sweeney grew up in rural Alaska and has spent a lifetime actively engaged in state and national policy arenas focused on advocating for responsible Indian energy policy, rural broadband connectivity, Arctic growth and Native American self-determination. She has served her Arctic Slope Regional Corporation and its subsidiaries in a variety of capacities for nearly two decades. The \$2.6 billion corporation is the largest locally-owned and operated business in Alaska, with about 13,000 Iñupiat Eskimo members and 12,000 employees worldwide. It is diversified in six major business sectors, including energy support services, industrial services, construction, petroleum refining and marketing, government services, and resource development.

In her current role as the Executive Vice President of External Affairs, she is responsible for all facets of government affairs and corporate communications. Her primary responsibilities include strategic policy and position development, implementation and execution; engagement with federal and state executive and legislative branches on improving policies affecting Indian energy, taxation, resource development, government contracting, broadband development and access to capital; as well as all facets of corporate communication as official company spokesperson, including stakeholder engagement and coalition building.

Sweeney also has served in leadership positions on numerous business and nonprofit boards at both the state and national level, including chair of the Arctic Economic Council from 2015 to 2017; co-chair of the Alaska Federation of Natives (2013); Coast Guard Foundation Board of Trustees; the University of Alaska Foundation Board of Trustees; FCC Advisory Committee on Diversity for Communications in a Digital Age; Analytical Services, Inc.; Kohanic Broadcast Corporation (parent to the first Native American owned, publicly supported FM radio station); Cherokee Nation New Market Tax Credit Advisory Board (CNB Economic Development Company, LLC, beneficiary); Breast Cancer Focus, Inc.; and Arctic Power.

“I extend my congratulations and full support to Tara on her nomination to serve as Assistant Secretary,” **Senator Lisa Murkowski said.** “Tara has a very strong record of professionalism and accomplishment in Alaska, across the country, and internationally, especially with the indigenous people of the circumpolar north. She has significant experience on Arctic issues and chaired the Arctic Economic Council. She is an expert on energy, infrastructure, broadband, economic development, Native self-determination, and a wide range of policy issues that will come before her. Secretary Zinke could not have chosen a better leader to help him fulfill the federal government’s trust responsibility, and I know Tara has the heart and drive to excel in this position.”

“This is a historic appointment for Alaskans and for the country,” **Senator Dan Sullivan said.** “I’ve worked with Tara Sweeney for years and I have witnessed first-hand her integrity, her strong leadership skills and her devotion to public service. Tara has a deep love for our state and people, and is relentless in her commitment to securing a better future for Alaska and the nation. With her long history of advocating for Alaska Native cultural values, rights, and economic opportunity, I can’t think of anyone better to have as our nation’s next Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs.”

“This is an absolutely outstanding choice,” **said Congressman Don Young.** “Tara’s knowledge, experience and leadership will go a long way in straightening out the BIA, allowing it to run more efficiently for the good of all First Americans. She has extensive experience not only in business, but also within Alaska Native groups and organizations. Tara knows first-hand the fight for Native empowerment and self-determination because she’s been on the front lines for years. There’s long been a problem with Native issues not receiving the priority they deserve but with Tara Sweeney at the helm, I have no doubt the Department of Interior will be paying close attention and the voices of our Native communities will be heard. Tara follows in great Alaskan footsteps, those of my dear friend Morris Thompson, and will do a fantastic job working on behalf of American Indians and Alaska Natives across the country.”

"I commend the Secretary for his choice of Tara Sweeney for the Position of Assistant Secretary," **said Jackie Johnson Pata with the National Congress of American Indians.** "Tara's diverse experience in the areas of energy, natural resources, and tribal governance will be a welcome addition to the Department of Interior and NCAI looks forward to working with Tara in her new capacity."

“Since March when he was sworn in, Secretary Zinke has been assembling a top-notch team of professionals to help him lead the Interior Department,” **said John Berrey, Chairman of the Quapaw Tribe in Oklahoma.** “With Tara Sweeney’s nomination, the Secretary is showing he means business when it comes to reforming the BIA and improving the delivery of services to Indian people. Tara’s long and dedicated service to the Alaska Federation of Natives, the Arctic Slope Regional Corporation and, most recently, the Arctic Economic Council, will be what is needed in the BIA’s top official. I thank the secretary for this nomination and pledge to help Tara achieve success for Native people any way I can.”

“Ms. Sweeney’s background consists of the right elements to assist our economic development efforts with the tribes we serve in Montana, Wyoming, North and South Dakota towards economic sustainability,” **said Leonard Smith, Executive Director of the Native American Development Corporation.** “Her experience in energy, capital, government contracting and economic development give her the depth of knowledge to develop legislative solutions to federal policies that hinder economic development with tribal nations. We feel confident she will be able to promote stronger federal support through collaboration with other federal, state and private resources for implementation of the infrastructure necessary for economic growth and sustainability.”

“In these critical times, Ms. Tara Sweeney will serve as a strong Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs,” **said Julie Kitka, President of the Alaska Federation of Natives.** “Her experience with empowering Native Americans is unparalleled and she will help all tribes achieve great self-determination. There is not a Tribe or Alaska Native corporation that she would not help. I have had the opportunity to work alongside Ms. Sweeney for over a decade, I’ve seen her in action and she is driven by results.”

"Ms Sweeney is an incredibly qualified nominee," **said Robin Puanani Danner, CNHA Policy Chair.** "Her business experience, the cultural grounding of her Inuit people, and her keen understanding of living in some of the most remote Native areas in the country will serve all first peoples in her role at the department of interior."

"Tara is a dedicated, hard-working and fearless leader focused on providing value and real results across local, national and international boundaries," **said Gabriel Kompkoff, President of the ANCSA Regional Association, the membership association of Alaska Native Regional Corporation CEOs.** "Her passion shows through in every challenge she faces."

Among her honors, Sweeney -- a lifetime member of the National Congress of American Indians -- was crowned Miss NCAI in 1993 and traveled the country as an ambassador for the organization. In 2003, Governor Frank Murkowski recognized Sweeney's passion for rural Alaska, appointing her to his cabinet as Special Assistant for Rural Affairs and Education. In 2008 she was honored as a "Top Forty Under 40" business leader by the Alaska Journal of Commerce. In 2014 her team was honored by the Northwest Regional Emmy® Awards, for its IAM IÑUPIAQ commercial campaign 2014, and also served as co-chair for Senator Dan Sullivan's (R-AK) successful Senate campaign. In 2017 she was inducted into the Anchorage ATHENA Society, a program of the Anchorage Chamber of Commerce that encourages the potential of women as valued members and leaders of the business community.

Born to Dr. Bryan Mac Lean and the Late Representative Eileen Panigeo Mac Lean, Sweeney is the granddaughter of the Late May Ahmaogak Panigeo and the Late Henry Panigeo of Barrow. She is the great granddaughter of the Late Bert and Nellie Panigeo and Isabel and Dr. Roy Ahmaogak. She was raised, attended schools and lived most of her life in rural Alaska in villages from Noorvik to Wainwright, Barrow, Bethel, and Unalakleet. She graduated from Barrow High School in 1991. A 1998 graduate of Cornell University School of Industrial and Labor Relations with a Bachelor of Science Degree, Sweeney currently lives in Anchorage with her husband Kevin, and their two children, Caitlin and Ahmaogak.

Through its Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) and Bureau of Indian Education (BIE), Interior provides services (directly or through contracts, grants or compacts) to 1.9 million American Indians and Alaska Natives. There are 567 federally recognized American Indian tribes and Alaska Native corporations in the United States. The BIE provides education services to about 42,000 Indian students. The Indian trust, co-managed by BIA and the Office of the Special Trustee, consists of 55 million surface acres and 57 million acres of subsurface mineral estate. More than 11 million acres belong to individual Indians and nearly 44 million acres are held in trust for Indian tribes. On these lands, the Department manages more than 122,817 revenue-producing leases. In conjunction with the Department of the Treasury, Interior, also manages about \$4.9 billion in Indian trust funds. In Fiscal Year 2016, \$1.2 billion was received into and disbursed from tribal and individual Indian beneficiaries' accounts.

###

-

Heather Swift
Department of the Interior
@DOIPressSec
Heather_Swift@ios.doi.gov | Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

From: Swift, Heather
To: [Lori Mashburn](#); [Andrea Travnicek](#); [Laura Rigas](#); [Daniel Jorjani](#); [David Bernhardt](#); [Willens, Todd](#); [Magallanes, Downey](#); [Davis, Natalie](#); [Hinson, Alex](#)
Subject: For Review - Press Release for 11:00AM
Date: Tuesday, November 14, 2017 9:39:09 AM

Press release below applauding Tim Petty's nomination. Slated for 11:00AM. Please send edits no later than 10:30.



Date: November 14, 2017
Contact: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

Secretary Zinke Applauds President Trump’s Nomination of Tim Petty for Interior Department

Petty brings decades of scientific work, and diverse Alaska, California, and Idaho experience to Interior

WASHINGTON – Yesterday, President Donald J. Trump announced the nomination of Dr. Timothy R. Petty to be the Assistant Secretary for Water and Science at the U.S. Department of the Interior. U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke cheered the nomination. The Assistant Secretary for Water and Science is responsible for overseeing the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR).

Dr. Petty currently serves as Deputy Legislative Director and Legislative Assistant on issues of water, natural resources, environment, science, technology and telecommunications and space for U.S. Senator James E. Risch of Idaho, a member of the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. Previously, Dr. Petty served as Acting Assistant Secretary and Deputy Assistant Secretary for Water & Science at DOI under President George W. Bush.

“Dr. Tim Petty brings years of quality service and experience to the team at the Department, and we could not be happier with the President’s choice for the position,” **said U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke**. “Dr. Petty has served as the Acting Assistant Secretary and Deputy Assistant Secretary for Water & Science at the Department before, and we are excited to put him back to work for the American people in the Trump Administration.”

“I am grateful to President Trump and his administration for this opportunity to serve at the Department of Interior,” **said Tim Petty**. “Secretary Zinke has a clear vision for addressing

our nation's water and earth science challenges, and I would be humbled to work alongside him to advance responsible solutions.”

“Throughout Tim Petty’s eight years of service in my office, he has proven his background in and deep understanding of the complex nexus of water and science,” **said Senator James Risch**. “I can’t imagine a more qualified individual than Tim to support the Secretary of the Interior as Assistant Secretary for Water & Science. I don’t feel my office is losing his incredible talent, rather our country is gaining it and will be exceptionally served under his leadership.”

“As a member of Senator Risch’s staff, Dr. Petty has intimate knowledge of Idaho’s water rights and the legal status of state control over water within our borders,” **said Senator Mike Crapo**. “Idahoans, and water users in general, are getting the right nominee for Interior in Dr. Petty.”

“I applaud Secretary Zinke on his nomination of Tim Petty for Assistant Secretary for Water and Science at DOI,” **said Congressman Mike Simpson**. “There is no doubt in my mind that Tim’s experience at DOI and in Congress will serve the agency well. It is also great for Idaho that someone with such direct knowledge of the issues in our state will be leading the way on solutions. I look forward to working with Tim and congratulate him on his nomination.”

“I am extremely pleased to hear that Tim Petty was tapped by the current administration to serve as Assistant Secretary for Water and Science for the Department of the Interior,” **said Idaho Governor C.L. “Butch” Otter**. “Tim has a deep understanding of western water and environmental issues and will be a valuable resource for the Department and the State of Idaho.”

“I strongly support Dr. Tim Petty’s nomination to be Assistant Secretary for Water and Science,” **said former U.S. Secretary of the Interior Dirk Kempthorne**. “When I was Secretary of the Interior, I worked with him. Tim is thoughtful. He listens to all viewpoints. He is a problem solver. He has experience in working on issues related to water and science. These skills are essential for the policy leader who will oversee the US. Geological Survey and the Bureau of Reclamation.”

“Dr. Petty is an exceptionally qualified individual that brings a critical combination of scientific understanding and on the ground experience to water management,” **said Ian Lyle, the Executive Vice President of the National Water Resources Association**. “His experience in water began on an Indiana farm and ranged to federal service in the Department of the Interior and the U.S. Senate. He is an unflappable professional that treats every point of view fairly. Tim’s perspective, demeanor and leadership will be vital as the nation works to meet the challenges facing agricultural and municipal water supply.”

“Dr. Petty has demonstrated a passion for water resources from an early age. He understands that maintaining a safe and plentiful water supply is critical to the health and prosperity of our nation,” **said Dr. William Schnabel, the Director of Institute of Northern Engineering at the University of Alaska-Fairbanks**. “He appreciates the power contained within our flowing waters - a power that can be constructive when harnessed for energy, or destructive when unleashed during times of flood. Moreover, he recognizes that utilizing our ever-growing capacities for science, technology, and engineering is the key to managing our nation's water supply now and in the future. Dr. Petty's experience provides him with a unique blend of administrative acumen and well-grounded scientific insight. This experience, combined with

his unassailable integrity, will serve Dr. Petty well as our new DOI Assistant Secretary for Water & Science.”

“We are thrilled to learn of Dr. Petty’s nomination as Assistant Secretary for Water and Science,” said **Paul Arrington, the Executive Director and General Counsel of the Idaho Water Users Association**. “As a Congressional Staffer focusing on water issues in the office of Senator Risch (ID), we had the opportunity to work closely with Dr. Petty on resource issues. His expertise, combined with his ability to understand different sides of difficult issues, make him a natural choice for this position.”

Dr. Petty earned a Ph.D. from the University of Alaska Fairbanks; an M.S. from University of Maryland University College; and a B.S. from Purdue University (Indiana). Prior to his current Senate service, Dr. Petty worked for U.S. Senators Connie Mack of Florida and Rick Santorum of Pennsylvania. In addition, Dr. Petty worked in California and Indiana as a geologist and hydrogeologist.

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From: Swift, Heather
To: [Lori Mashburn](#); [Tanner, John](#)
Subject: for review - Tim Petty
Date: Friday, December 22, 2017 9:43:54 AM

Please review the release below for Dr. Petty. Can one of your offices make sure he sees it?

**Secretary Zinke Applauds Confirmation of Dr. Tim Petty
as Interior Assistant Secretary for Water and Science**

WASHINGTON – Today, U.S. Department of the Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke applauded the senate confirmation of Dr. Timothy R. Petty to be the Assistant Secretary for Water and Science at the Department.

"Getting nominees confirmed should not be this difficult, but I'm nonetheless happy to finally get Susan and Tim into the building," **said U.S. Secretary of the Interior Zinke**. "Between the two, they bring a wealth of experience and knowledge in the work done at Interior. I am certain we will be able to better achieve mission success at the Department with Susan and Tim on the team, and I continue to wait for the rest of our qualified and capable nominees to get through."

"I am grateful to President Trump and the secretary for this opportunity," **said Dr. Tim Petty**. "Secretary Zinke has a clear vision for addressing our nation's water and earth science challenges, and I would be humbled to work alongside him to advance responsible solutions. I look forward to getting right to work on important priorities like breaking our nation's dependency on foreign minerals and assessing our full energy potential."

Dr. Petty most recently served as Deputy Legislative Director and Legislative Assistant on issues of water, natural resources, environment, science, technology and telecommunications and space for U.S. Senator James E. Risch of Idaho, a member of the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. Previously, Dr. Petty served as Acting Assistant Secretary and Deputy Assistant Secretary for Water & Science at DOI under President George W. Bush. Dr. Petty earned a Ph.D. from the University of Alaska Fairbanks; an M.S. from University of Maryland University College; and a B.S. from Purdue University (Indiana). Prior to his current Senate service, Dr. Petty worked for U.S. Senators Connie Mack of Florida and Rick Santorum of Pennsylvania. In addition, Dr. Petty worked in California and Indiana as a geologist and hydrogeologist.

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Heather Swift
Department of the Interior
@DOIPressSec
Heather_Swift@ios.doi.gov | Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

From: Announcement, OFAS
To: [DOI All DC Metro](#)
Subject: Free Biometric Screenings at the Main Interior Building on December 6, 2017
Date: Monday, November 13, 2017 8:06:06 AM

To: All DOI Employees in the Washington, DC Metropolitan Area
From: Joe Nassar, Director, Office of Facilities and Administrative Services (OFAS)
Subject: Free Biometric Screenings Available at the Main Interior Building on December 6, 2017

Free biometric screenings and flu shots are available to all Federal and contract employees at the Main Interior Building (MIB) on Wednesday, December 6, 2017. This service is being provided by the Kaiser Permanente Mobile Health Vehicle and will be located on C Street (outside the MIB main entrance) from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Kaiser Permanente membership is not required. Appointments are preferred by using the link provided below.

Licensed health care professionals from Kaiser Permanente will be available to:

- Check your "Biometrics" such as blood pressure, height, weight, body mass Index, finger -stick tests for blood sugar , and cholesterol level.
- Administer the quadrivalent flu vaccine (same flu shot being administered by the MIB nurse).
- For Kaiser members, additional vaccinations and lab tests may be performed, as well as assistance with prescription refills and appointments.

The link to make your appointment is: https://wellness-event.kaiserpermanente.org/restricted/signup/department_of_interior

This event is being coordinated by Barbara Hayden, RN, COHN-S, OFAS. She can answer your questions at (202) 208-7057 or barbara_hayden@ios.doi.gov.

Visit our web site for additional information pertaining to the full range of occupational safety, health, and environmental services available to DOI employees at <https://www.doi.gov/OFAS/ASD/oshe>.

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From: Hanson, Tanner
To: [Hanson, Tanner](#)
Cc: [Small, Jeff](#)
Subject: From Today: Natural Resources Holds Hearing on State-Level Sage Grouse Management
Date: Wednesday, October 25, 2017 5:41:33 PM



For Immediate Release
Contact: Tanner Hanson

Date: October 25, 2017
Tanner.Hanson@mail.house.gov

From Today: House Natural Resources Holds Hearing on State-Level Sage Grouse Management



Washington, D.C. – This morning - Wednesday, October 25, 2017 at 10:00 a.m. in the House Natural Resources Committee room, the House Natural Resources Committee held a hearing discussing the ongoing success of Sage Grouse recovery efforts as well as the need for, and potential of, states and localities to boost recovery efforts with regionally-tailored plans.

Expert witnesses testified that individualized recovery plans and broader local control are necessary to ensure full recovery of the species. Members and witnesses alike reaffirmed the presence of regional habitat differences which necessarily call for different recovery strategies region-to-region, as well as the idea that top-down, one-size-fits-all approaches contradict the interests of the former. They further emphasized the extent to which Sage Grouse and other issues facing Congress are increasingly interrelated -- in particular, the wildfire problem and its partial cause in diminished grazing rights for farmers and ranchers in the West continues to present a clear impediment to Sage Grouse recovery goals.

To watch playback of the livestream of the hearing, click [HERE](#).

Members providing comment and questioning witnesses included Western Caucus Chairman **Paul Gosar**, House Natural Resources Chairman **Rob Bishop**, and Western Caucus Members **Mark Amodei, Tom McClintock, Glenn 'GT' Thompson, Scott Tipton, Raul Labrador, Steve Pearce, Doug LaMalfa, Garret Graves, Liz Cheney, Greg Gianforte, and Doug Lamborn.**

See the below press release issued by the House Natural Resources [or this link](#) for further information on today's hearing, the full witness list, and statements by Members.

* * * * *

Courtesy House Committee on Natural Resources

WASHINGTON, D.C., October 25, 2017 -

Today, the House Committee on Natural Resources held a hearing to review the success of Western State sage grouse management plans and the need for continued local control over sage grouse management. Western States sage grouse management plans have been the primary driver of improvements to the species range-wide.

“[t]he federal government under the Obama administration insisted on managing Greater Sage Grouse recovery with a Washington, D.C., one-size-fits-all approach that fails miserably to address the individual management challenges present in each state. The purpose of today’s hearing is to provide further evidence that state and local control leads to lasting success. States have consistently proven to be masters at caring for their own lands and wildlife, and sage grouse is no different,” **Chairman Rob Bishop (R-UT) said.**

In 2015, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service decided that listing the Greater Sage Grouse as either threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act was not warranted. Instead, the Obama administration developed an equally-restrictive de facto listing scheme by amending 98 Western resource management plans.

“The Obama administration’s de facto sage grouse listing and the 20 year mineral moratorium on ten million acres of land has been one of the greatest threats to the livelihood of western communities. Some of the most stifling consequences of the Obama era regulations were targeted at businesses,” **Rep. Paul Gosar (R-AZ) said.** *“Thankfully President Trump’s Department of [the] Interior [cancelled](#) the massive proposed withdrawal allowing job creators and hardrock miners to get back to work.”*

Decades of activist litigation and efforts by the Obama administration to circumvent successful state management plans have been *“bad for the West, bad for jobs and bad for sage grouse,”* according to Idaho Speaker of the House and fifth generation rancher Scott Bedke.

“In the process of placating anti-grazing activists, federal agencies have made the number one threat to the Greater Sage Grouse in Idaho worse. In fact, these federal amendments, if left to stand, will create an explosive wildfire situation throughout the Great Basin,” **Bedke added.**

In 2017, Bedke’s family ranch lost their entire winter grazing allotment due to overly prescriptive federal land use restrictions. A wildfire, which could have been easily contained by local firefighter, was allowed by federal managers to grow out of control burning tens of thousands of acres of prime sage grouse habitat.

“My home state of Colorado has spent more than ten million dollars, set aside 130,000 acres for habitat and is developing a mitigation marketplace all for protecting the sage grouse,” **Rep. Doug Lamborn (R-CO) said.**

State management plans have been developed with local stakeholders and experts on the ground for more than a decade to address unique and varying geographic differences within their boundaries.

“It should be no surprise that Western States are actively implementing plans within their respective states that are having positive impacts on habitats,” **Chairman of the Eureka County Nevada Commissioner, Vice Chair of the National Cattlemen’s Beef Association Federal Lands Committee and Fourth Generation Cattle Producer J.J. Goicoechea said.**

Utah, for example, spends an average of \$5 million a year protecting sage grouse, and has seen

the state population of sage grouse steadily increase since 1990. The state has been especially successful at mitigating the threat of catastrophic wildfire within sage grouse management areas.

“I am here to do more than just share a feel good success story of a program that is working. I am here to protect these programs,” **Deputy Director of the Utah Department of Natural Resources Darin Bird, in reference to the state’s management strategies, stressed.**

Similarly, in Montana, male sage grouse are up 153% compared to 2014 numbers due to the investment of almost \$8 million in conservation funds in 2016 to restore over 1,000 acres of critical sage grouse habitat.

Click [here](#) to view full witness testimony.

###

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From: POLITICO Pro Energy
To: lori_mashburn@ios.doi.gov; [POLITICO subscriptions](#)
Subject: Furious pace of regulatory rollbacks has some in oil industry asking Trump to slow down
Date: Monday, August 21, 2017 5:14:00 AM

Furious pace of regulatory rollbacks has some in oil industry asking Trump to slow down

By Ben Lefebvre

08/21/2017 05:02 AM EDT

Oil and gas companies have largely celebrated President Donald Trump's drive to roll back regulations, but some are now wishing he'd tap the brakes.

The Trump administration has set its sights on undoing as much of Barack Obama's regulatory agenda as possible, with a particular emphasis on easing the burden on oil and gas companies. While the industry has generally cheered the administration's approach, there are growing worries that its efforts could backfire, according to interviews with a dozen executives, lobbyists, lawyers and analysts.

"It's not helpful if regulations are streamlined so as to allow something to happen — say, a methane explosion or a spill — and we'd be painted with it as an entire industry," said a source at one oil and gas company who requested anonymity to speak freely.

In addition to major disasters, some large companies fear being undercut by unscrupulous competitors if the administration reverses rules they have already spent money to comply with. And an industry that prizes regulatory certainty is uneasy with Trump's efforts to renegotiate lucrative trade deals like NAFTA and reorganize the agencies responsible for overseeing offshore drilling — not to mention his delays in filling key positions across the government.

"Every industry wants regulations that make sense, but you don't need to roll things back so far that it opens an opportunity for outsiders to criticize, or something bad happens and then [rulemaking] goes the other way but even further," said Brian Youngberg, an energy analyst at investment firm Edward Jones.

One example where oil and gas lobbyists and industry sources said the administration may be expending too much effort is its quest to dismantle an Obama-era Interior Department rule tightening methane emission standards for oil and gas wells and pipelines on public lands. Congress [failed to repeal](#) the rule earlier this year after three GOP senators joined Democrats in voting to keep it in place.

Now Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke says he will try to rewrite it, a process that would take years and in the meantime leave the industry unsure of what will be expected of it.

Trade associations American Petroleum Institute and Western Energy Alliance publicly [cheered](#) Zinke's decision to change the rule.

"It is definitely our focus to rewrite or rescind those rules," said WEA President Kathleen Sgamma. The group has met with BLM officials and is involved in a lawsuit seeking to overturn the methane rule, among other activities.

But behind the scenes, Exxon Mobil, BP and other large oil and gas companies considered the rule relatively minor, lobbying and industry sources said. The companies had the technology and engineering in place to meet the standards, and they expected to pay down the cost to comply by selling the extra methane they captured, sources said. Those operating in Colorado already had to comply with a state rule that closely matched the federal standards.

The Obama administration [estimated](#) the industry would spend up to \$279 million per year to comply with the rule, while the overall net benefit would reach up to \$1.2 billion over a decade.

To be sure, the industry has unequivocally supported some of Trump's rollbacks. The administration's plans to open up more federal waters in Alaska for drilling, and its backing of U.S. LNG exports, have been universally praised by oil and gas developers.

But Trump's sluggish pace in staffing up his administration has some worried whether he will be able to follow through.

"There's definitely people concerned about it," said Tyler Nelson, a former aide to Rep. [Pete Olson](#) (R-Texas) who is now a vice president at lobbying firm Cornerstone Government Affairs. "If you don't have enough people in place across the executive branch, it's hard to implement and get things done right."

A White House spokesperson did not reply to questions.

The administration just this month was able to restore a [quorum](#) at FERC, the commission in charge of approving natural gas pipelines that had been unable to conduct any major business since February, [delaying](#) \$13 billion worth of projects.

The White House still hasn't nominated a permanent administrator for the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, the agency responsible for inspecting and setting safety standards for pipelines, nor has it tapped anyone to lead key agencies at Interior that oversee energy production on federal lands or offshore.

The 12 largest oil and gas companies and trade associations cut their lobbying by an average of 30 percent in the second quarter compared with the first three months of the year, according to an analysis of their lobbying disclosure forms. A large part of the reduction was because there was no work to do on pipeline projects, according to Nelson and other lobbyists.

Several regulatory revisions the administration is pursuing were never even on the industry's wish list and could result in severe setbacks, several lobbyists and congressional aides said.

The most potentially damaging policy push is the administration's attempt to rip open NAFTA for a redo. The U.S., Mexican and Canadian energy markets have become strongly enmeshed over the past decade despite Mexico's energy industry not even being a part of the original North American trade plan.

Opening up NAFTA for talks could unleash a Pandora's box of trade issues and threaten business relations, sources said.

Valero and other refiners are shipping ever-increasing volumes of U.S.-made gasoline and natural gas to Mexico. Valero itself just [signed](#) a deal to bring tankers of gasoline into the

Mexican port of Veracruz. Fellow refining company Andeavor — formerly Tesoro — is now building gas stations in Mexico as well, reversing years of that country's dependence on the state-owned oil company Pemex.

The last thing Andeavor, Valero and other refiners want to happen is Trump ratcheting up trade tensions with [tough talk](#) that could sour the relationship, sources said.

"In most respects, companies that engage in cross-border trade are most concerned with ensuring that this [NAFTA renegotiation] process does no harm," said Josh Zive, senior principal at lobbying firm Bracewell.

Another action that has some in the industry scratching their heads is Interior's review of whether to combine BOEM, which leases the federal Outer Continental Shelf to energy companies, with BSEE, which regulates the companies' activities.

BOEM and BSEE were created during the Obama era under former Interior head Ken Salazar. Interior spent millions of dollars and countless man-hours to [carve](#) the two agencies out of the larger Minerals Management Service after a series of scandals in the Bush administration and the 2010 Deepwater Horizon explosion created the impression that the oil industry was too close to regulators.

Zinke told POLITICO in June he was considering the merger as part of a larger reorganization of Interior agencies. He is also taking another look at regulations the Obama administration put in place after Deepwater Horizon, including BSEE's Well Control Rule that required oil companies to have up-to-date spill-prevention technology in place.

He had planned to release details of any reorganization by the end of summer. A BOEM spokesman said there was no update on when those details may be made public. BSEE plans to convene a forum in Houston on Sept. 7 to gather input on whether to rewrite its offshore drilling rules.

Efforts to rejoin the two bureaus would probably be as costly as it was to split them, all the while distracting agency staff from processing lease sales, lobbyists said. And no one seems to know why Interior called for the review in the first place.

"We did not ask for it," said National Ocean Industries Association spokeswoman Nicolette Nye, echoing others in the industry. "We were surprised when it was first mentioned by DOI. That was the first we heard of it."

If the two agencies did merge, companies operating offshore oil rigs and Trump administration officials would most likely be on the political hook if and when an offshore drilling accident occurred, sources said.

"When there's — God forbid — the inevitable accident in the Gulf of Mexico, why would you want to be known as the administration that made that move?" said one lawyer representing oil and gas companies.

In the end, these sorts of rollbacks could backfire, said Jason Bordoff, former senior director for energy and climate change in the NSC under Obama and currently the founding director of Columbia University's Center on Global Energy Policy.






"An approach that is, basically, 'What are the regulations put in place by the previous industry,

here's the list, let's go down the list and repeal them,' doesn't build public confidence in the industry," Bordoff said.

To view online:

<https://www.politicopro.com/energy/story/2017/08/furious-pace-of-regulatory-rollbacks-has-some-in-oil-industry-asking-trump-to-slow-down-160891>

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Yes, very	Somewhat	Neutral	Not really	Not at all

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This email was sent to lori_mashburn@ios.doi.gov by: POLITICO, LLC 1000 Wilson Blvd. Arlington, VA, 22209, USA

From: Sweeney, Tara
To: lori_mashburn@ios.doi.gov
Subject: FW: Top Stories - Director of the Bureau of Indian Affairs: Who Is Tara Sweeney? - AllGov - News
Date: Thursday, November 09, 2017 8:58:08 PM

Hi Lori,

Not sure who to direct this to, but I am not an oil lobbyist- as described in the piece. There also seems to be a need for general education on Alaska Native Corporations. Happy to send directly to your COMMS shop if you want, I just need to know where to send the note.

<http://www.allgov.com/news/top-stories/director-of-the-bureau-of-indian-affairs-who-is-tara-sweeney-171109?news=860359>

I will be in D.C. next week until after Thanksgiving. Shoot me a text if you want to meet. I believe I am scheduled to meet with Micah and maybe Amanda Kaster.

Thanks,

Tara

Katuk
Tara Mac Lean Sweeney
Executive Vice President
External Affairs
Arctic Slope Regional Corporation
(907) 339-6031 Phone
(907) 339-6028 Fax
tsweeney@asrc.com
www.asrc.com

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From: David Gelsomino
To: lori_mashburn@ios.doi.gov
Subject: FW: Your POLITICO Pro trial login credentials
Date: Wednesday, August 23, 2017 3:10:02 PM

Good afternoon Lori,

Have you had a chance to log in to your POLITICO Pro account and customize your settings? Are you free for an overview of Pro over the phone at any of the following times?

- Friday, 8/25 – 9:00, 9:30, 10:00, 12:00 – 1:30, 3:00 – 4:30
- Monday, 8/28 – 12:00 – 5:30
- Tuesday, 8/29 – 9:00 – 11:00, 11:30 – 3:00, 4:00 – 5:30
- Wednesday, 8/30 – 10:00, 10:30, 12:00, 12:30, 2:00 – 5:00

Best,
Dave

From: David Gelsomino
Sent: Friday, August 18, 2017 11:02 AM
To: 'lori_mashburn@ios.doi.gov' <lori_mashburn@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Your POLITICO Pro trial login credentials

Lori,

Your trial access to POLITICO Pro is now live. To get you started, you should already be receiving Pro's Morning Energy newsletter daily between 5 and 6am, along with real-time updates on issues related to DOI and Secretary Zinke.

Login Credentials

Website: www.politicopro.com

Username: (b) (6), (b) (5)

Password: (b) (6), (b) (5)

Trial through: Friday, September 8th

I have included the full list of topics we are currently covering in Energy (where our DOI coverage is housed) below my signature. **Please highlight the topics you would like to receive real-time alerts on from the below list and I will update your settings accordingly.**

Sorry to have missed you when I stopped by the office last week – do any of the below times work for you for a quick call/orientation to Pro?

- Monday, 8/21: 1:30 – 2:30, 3:00 – 5:30
- Wednesday, 8/23: 11:00 – 5:30
- Thursday, 8/24: 9:00 – 12:00
- Friday, 8/25: 9:00 – 11:00, 12:00 – 1:30, 1:30 – 4:30

Thank you Lori,
Dave

Energy Topics

Committees and Congress	Legislature, Admin & Agencies	John Barrasso
House Appropriations Committee	Army Corps of Engineers	John Shimkus
House Energy and Commerce Committee	BLM	John Thune
House Natural Resources Committee	BOEM/BSEE	Ken Calvert
House Oversight and Government Reform Committee	Bureau of Reclamation	Lamar Alexander
House Science, Space and Technology Committee	Congress	Lisa Murkowski
House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee	Courts	Marcy Kaptur
Senate Commerce Committee	DOE	Maria Cantwell
Senate Energy And Natural Resources Committee	EPA	Mike Simpson
Senate Environment And Public Works Committee	Executive Branch	Paul Tonko
Senate Finance Committee	FERC	Peter DeFazio
Companies	Interior Department	Raul Grijalva
BP	NOAA	Rick Perry
Exxon Mobil	NRC	Rob Bishop
Economy and Budget	Pipeline And Hazardous Materials Safety Administration	Ron Wyden
Appropriations	U.S. Fish And Wildlife Service	Ryan Zinke
Budget	USDA	Scott Pruitt
Electricity/Fuels	White House	Sheldon Whitehouse
Biofuels	Nuclear Energy	Stephen Burns
Coal	Yucca Mountain	Tim Murphy
Electricity/Grid	Other	Tom Carper
Energy Storage	2018	Tom Steyer
Ethanol	2020	Tom Udall
Fuels	Batteries	Real Estate/Infrastructure
Gas Prices	Business	Dams/Levees
Hydraulic Fracturing	Energy Influence	Infrastructure
Keystone XL Pipeline	Land & Water Conservation Fund	Transportation
Natural Gas	Loan Guarantees	Regulations & Standard Practices

Offshore Drilling	Mass Transit	Clean Air Act
Power	Mining	Clean Water Act
Energy/Environment	Opinion	Regulations
Agriculture	Science	Renewable Fuel Standard
Conservation	States	Renewable Portfolio Standards
Nuclear	Tax Incentives	TSCA
Oil	Taxes	Water Resources Development Act
Pipelines	Trade	Safety & Information
Renewables	Transition 2017	Waterways
Solar	People	Technology, Internet & Security
Utilities	Betty McCollum	Cybersecurity
Water	Bill Shuster	Technology
Global Affairs	Bobby Rush	Water
International	Charles Grassley	Desalination
Russia	Colette Honorable	Drinking Water
Green Energy	Cory Gardner	Drought
Climate Change	Diana DeGette	Energy-water Nexus
Energy Efficiency	Dianne Feinstein	Flood Control
Geothermal	Earl Blumenauer	Ground Water
Green Tech	Ed Markey	Surface Water
Hydroelectric	Frank Pallone	Wastewater
Wind	Fred Upton	Water Law
Industry & Advocacy Groups	Greg Walden	Waters Of The United States
Advocacy	Jason Chaffetz	Wetlands
Lobbying	Jim Inhofe	

Dave Gelsomino | Account Manager | **POLITICO**PRO

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Email: dgelsomino@politico.com | Website: www.POLITICOPro.com

From: Micah Chambers
To: lori_mashburn@ios.doi.gov
Subject: Fwd: 1002 Senate hearing.
Date: Friday, October 27, 2017 10:37:02 AM

My computer is getting fixed, but the hearing announcement is below.

Sent from my iPad

...

HEARING ANNOUNCEMENT

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

This notice is to advise you of a hearing before the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. The hearing will be held on **Thursday, November 2, 2017, at 9:30 a.m.** in Room 366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building in Washington, DC.

The purpose of the hearing is to receive testimony on the potential for oil and gas exploration and development in the non-wilderness portion of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, known as the "1002 Area" or Coastal Plain, to raise sufficient revenue pursuant to the Senate reconciliation instructions included in H. Con. Res. 71.

The hearing will be webcast live on the committee's website, and an archived video will be available shortly after the hearing is complete. Witness testimony will be available on the website at the start of the hearing.

For further information, please contact Kellie Donnelly and Lucy Murfitt with Chairman Murkowski's office or David Brooks with Ranking Member Cantwell's office at (202) 224-4971.

Sincerely,

Darla Ripchensky, PMP

Chief Clerk

U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

304 Dirksen Senate Office Building

Washington, DC 20510

202.224.3607

On Thu, Oct 26, 2017 at 6:40 PM, Todd Willens <todd_willens@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

Dep Sec has decided that Greg will be the witness at the hearing. Steve should plan on being here next week to assist with prep and murder board. Steve will also attend with Greg to be available for technical items.

Micah, can you please set up a murder board session and invite key DOI staff. Assuming the hearing is Thursday next week, we should hold this on Tuesday.

Thank you.

Todd Willens
Assistant Deputy Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW - MIB Room 6116
Washington, DC 20240

--

Amanda Kaster-Averill
Advisor to the Secretary
Office of Congressional and Legislative Affairs
U.S. Department of the Interior
(202) 208-3337
amanda_kaster@ios.doi.gov

From: Joe Balash
To: [Mashburn, Lori; micah_chambers@ios.doi.gov](mailto:Mashburn.Lori@ios.doi.gov)
Subject: Fwd: API quote
Date: Tuesday, July 18, 2017 6:15:27 PM

quote from API

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Eric Wohlschlegel <Wohlschlegele@api.org>

Date: Tue, Jul 18, 2017 at 6:14 PM

Subject: API quote

To: (b) (6) - Joe Balash <(b) (6) - Joe Balash > "Kim.Harb@alaska-pipeline.com" <Kim.Harb@alaska-pipeline.com>

Dear Joe,

Here is a quote from API attributed to Khary Cauthen API senior director of Federal Affairs:

"We welcome the pick of Joe as the assistant secretary of Land and Minerals Management. He has a deep understanding of what our nation's natural resources mean for our national and economic security. We look forward to working with him and this administration to ensure the U.S. continues to thrive as the world's largest producer and refiner of oil and natural gas and lead the world in reducing carbon emissions which are near 25 year lows."

Kind regards, Eric

From: Joe Balash
To: [Mashburn, Lori; micah_chambers@ios.doi.gov](mailto:Mashburn.Lori@ios.doi.gov)
Subject: Fwd: API quote
Date: Tuesday, July 18, 2017 6:16:24 PM

Please use this one instead

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Eric Wohlschlegel <Wohlschlegele@api.org>

Date: Tue, Jul 18, 2017 at 6:15 PM

Subject: Re: API quote

To: "(b) (6) - Joe Balash" <(b) (6) - Joe Balash <Kim.Harb@alyeska-pipeline.com>>" <Kim.Harb@alyeska-pipeline.com>

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>

> Kind regards, Eric

From: Joe Balash
To: [Lori Mashburn](#)
Cc: [Micah Chambers](#)
Subject: Fwd: API quote
Date: Wednesday, July 19, 2017 1:27:00 PM

One more time from API

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Eric Wohlschlegel <Wohlschlegele@api.org>
Date: July 19, 2017 at 1:23:19 PM EDT
To: Joe Balash <(b) (6) - Joe Balash>
Subject: RE: API quote

Dear Joe,

We are all set. Congratulations again!

Eric

"We welcome the pick of Mr. Balash as the assistant secretary of Land and Minerals Management. With his background as commissioner for natural resources in Alaska, Balash brings a depth of experience to Secretary Zinke and the Department of Interior. He *should* be a tremendous asset in helping to prioritize energy development and further strengthen U.S. energy and national security. We look forward to continuing to work with the Department of Interior on policies that will help keep energy affordable, create jobs, and protect our environment," Erik Milito, API group director of Upstream and Industry Operations.

From: Joe Balash [[mailto:\(b\) \(6\) - Joe Balash](mailto:(b) (6) - Joe Balash)]
Sent: Wednesday, July 19, 2017 10:48 AM
To: Eric Wohlschlegel
Subject: Re: API quote

Okay. Thanks

Sent from my iPhone

On Jul 19, 2017, at 9:23 AM, Eric Wohlschlegel <Wohlschlegele@api.org> wrote:

Joe,

We are putting together an updated quote. More people are now

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Sent: Tuesday, July 18, 2017 6:16 PM
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>

> Kind regards, Eric

From: Mashburn, Lori
To: [Hinson, Alex](#)
Subject: Fwd: API quote
Date: Wednesday, July 19, 2017 1:53:12 PM

Alex,

Another API quote.

Lori K. Mashburn
White House Liaison
Department of the Interior
202.208.1694

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Joe Balash <(b) (6) - Joe Balash>
Date: Wed, Jul 19, 2017 at 1:26 PM
Subject: Fwd: API quote
To: Lori Mashburn <lori_mashburn@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: Micah Chambers <micah_chambers@ios.doi.gov>

One more time from API

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Eric Wohlschlegel <Wohlschlegele@api.org>
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>

> Kind regards, Eric

From: Domenech, Douglas
To: [David Bernhardt](#); [Mashburn, Lori](#); [Willens, Todd](#)
Subject: Fwd: Article from the National Parks Traveler.
Date: Friday, August 25, 2017 4:52:04 PM

[Skip to main content](#)



[National Parks Traveler](#)

The Latest Articles from the National Parks Traveler

Who Is The Next National Park Service Director: A Politician, Conservationist, Park Service Veteran, Or Painter?

[Share](#)

By [Kurt Repanshek](#) on August 20th, 2017



David Mihalic is expected to be nominated to be the next director of the National Park Service

Seven months into his administration, President Trump has yet to nominate a director for the National Park Service. But Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke does have an advisor on his team with a wealth of Park Service experience, one whose background has been investigated, leading to speculation that that individual soon will be nominated.

David Mihalic left the National Park Service on his own terms back in January 2003 rather than follow new-Park Service Director Fran Mainella's order that he move from [Yosemite National Park](#) to [Great Smoky Mountains National Park](#). At the Smokies, the Bush administration wanted him to push through the "[Road to Nowhere](#)," an environmentally questionable highway project proposed to run through the park on the north shore of Fontana Lake, and finalize a 168-acre land swap with the Cherokee Nation that reportedly would have led to a school complex being built on the land.

The Park Service previously had opposed both those projects, and Mr. Mihalic told the *The Washington Post* he was concerned about "the conflicting priorities which I would face."

When Ms. Mainella declined to discuss his concerns, and after being told no other assignment would be offered, he submitted his retirement papers.

"I keep the mission of the Park Service on the back of my name tag so that I can always remember," Mr. Mihalic told *The New York Times* late in 2002, shortly before leaving the Park Service. "It says we are supposed to keep these places unimpaired for future generations."

After retiring at the seemingly young age of 56, Mr. Mihalic returned to Montana, where he once had been superintendent of [Glacier National Park](#), and focused on [painting landscapes](#) and, for a short time, dabbled in politics in 2004 as a running mate of gubernatorial candidate Pat Davison.

Speed forward to December 2016, and Mr. Mihalic's embrace of Ryan Zinke, a fellow Montanan and friend, for Interior secretary was quickly evident.

"I think Mr. Zinke is a brilliant pick for secretary of the Interior. Sure, he's a Montana sportsman, but his college degrees in both geology and an MBA are perfect for the department that manages both responsible development and public use of our nation's natural resources while protecting their natural and cultural values," Mr. Mihalic told the *Billings Gazette*. "He knows and is unequivocal about federal management of our public lands, our treasured national parks, and wildlife refuges. And, his votes in Congress against his own party's position on proposed federal land transfers and reauthorization of the Land and Water Conservation Fund shows he can work across the aisle with Democrats on important conservation issues."

Not long after Mr. Zinke was confirmed earlier this year, he brought Mr. Mihalic on as a special advisor, a role soon rumored to be an on-deck position for his nomination as Park Service director. It wasn't a very well-kept rumor; after Secretary Zinke toured [Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument](#) in Maine as part of his [review of 27 national monuments](#) designated since 1996, he stopped in Boston to meet with Park Service staff and told them Mr. Mihalic would be their next director.

Interior spokeswoman Heather Swift demurred when asked earlier this year who Secretary Zinke would recommend for the job, saying only that a name had been submitted to the White House for consideration.

The relevant House committees have been doing background checks on Mr. Mihalic, though the staff of U.S. Rep. Raul Grijalva, the ranking Democrat on the House Natural Resources Committee, declined comment last week when asked if the congressman had any concerns about Mr. Mihalic's background.

One individual contacted as part of the background check was asked about Mr. Mihalic's management style and whether it was harsh or brusque, but had no firsthand knowledge of that. Others who know the man have praised his managerial talents.

In that December 2002 story about his impending retirement, *The New York Times* wrote that "Mr. Mihalic had a reputation for working magic more bluntly, for knocking heads and getting the seemingly impossible done."

So, who is David Mihalic?

He had a long Park Service career, launched in 1972 as a seasonal ranger at Glacier National Park, that saw him eventually rise through the ranks to serve as superintendent at a number of parks, including [Mammoth Cave](#), Glacier, Yosemite, and [Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve](#).

- In 1993, he received the Park Service's Superintendent of the Year award for his work on protecting natural resources at Mammoth Cave.
- A year later, he was superintendent at Glacier, where he generated no small amount of consternation by drafting a General Management Plan that, among other options, proposed closing some roads and campgrounds and limiting access along the Going-to-the-Sun Road. That prompted then-U.S. Sen. Max Baucus, a Montana Democrat, to amend the Interior Department's appropriations bill to require that any GMP for Glacier would require congressional approval, something the senator said at the time was "a final line of defense against illogical or unresponsive decision-making by the National Park Service."
- Shortly after his arrival at Yosemite as superintendent late in 1999, Mr. Mihalic told the Yosemite Association in an interview that he didn't view the park as too crowded. "People aren't the problem. If we've somehow gotten to the point that we think the visitor is the problem, then we need to reexamine our own view of what our job is," he said, adding that he wouldn't support limiting visitation. "... Quotas imply that people are a problem. If we say, 'Well a few people are okay, but multitudes of people a not,' it gets a little bit closer to the issue, which isn't overcrowding but experience. It might be, when visitation gets to a certain point, that too many people impinge upon the experience. But everybody has a different idea of what that point is. The tolerance level of people is different, and there is no magic number that says at this particular point it's too many people and at this point it's not."
- In 2013, along with former Yosemite superintendents Robert Binnewies and B.J. Griffin, Mr. Mihalic wrote an op-ed piece saying the [Hetch Hetchy Valley of Yosemite should be drained](#) so the Park Service could "heal the greatest blemish in all our national parks. ... A century ago, our nation sought to tame the wilderness with large-scale engineering projects, occasionally with destructive results. Today, we should commit to undoing one of the worst examples of that destruction. And tomorrow, we can watch a magnificent valley emerge from the depths," they wrote.
- Last summer, Mr. Mihalic, along with Mr. Zinke, then Montana's congressman, and Dale Bosworth, former chief of the U.S. Forest Service, wrote an op-ed concerning wildland fires. In it, they maintained that the public landscape in the West didn't have a fire problem, per se, but rather a land-management problem. "Today, (President Theodore) Roosevelt's conservation ethic is in jeopardy as special interests, endless litigation, and political gridlock threaten proven best practices, balanced use, and common sense while tying the hands of our resource professionals. The result is catastrophic wildland fires, destruction of critical habitat, management decisions made by lawyers, and the loss of millions of dollars in local revenue that funds schools, infrastructure, and preservation," they wrote. "What is needed to restore the conservation ethic is better management by resource professionals, greater collaboration with citizens, and increased investment in our public lands."
- This past June, during an appearance before the Outdoor Writers Association of America, he shed little light on Secretary Zinke's approach to public lands management, saying he didn't know why the secretary ended a ban on lead shot and fishing tackle, didn't know what his views were on President Trump's directive that he review the propriety of 27 national monuments, and didn't know why the secretary withdrew 17 sites in the country from the UNESCO World Network of Biosphere Reserves program.

Those who know him say Mr. Mihalic is concerned about low morale across the National Park Service, but how he would reverse that and how he would react to various administration moves, such as the goal of reducing the Park Service staff by some 1,200 employees and cutting its annual budget by nearly \$400 million, and downsizing the agency's headquarters and regional staff to redirect resources to the park level, are unknown.

A *Traveler* request this past week to interview Mr. Mihalic was declined.

--

Doug Domenech
C: 202-255-9842

From: Thiele, Aaron
To: [Micah Chambers](#); [Gavin Clarkson](#); [Daniel Jorjani](#); [Lori Mashburn](#)
Cc: [Natalie Davis](#)
Subject: Fwd: Bi-Weekly Meeting Reminder
Date: Tuesday, August 29, 2017 1:12:04 PM

Just a reminder that I need everyone's slides as soon as possible.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Thiele, Aaron** <aaron_thiele@ios.doi.gov>
Date: Tue, Aug 29, 2017 at 9:19 AM
Subject: Re: Bi-Weekly Meeting Reminder
To:
Cc: "Cameron, Scott" <scott_cameron@ios.doi.gov>, Daniel Jorjani <daniel.jorjani@sol.doi.gov>, David Mihalic <david_mihalic@ios.doi.gov>, "Domenech, Douglas" <douglas_domenech@ios.doi.gov>, Gavin Clarkson <gavin.clarkson@bia.gov>, Greg Sheehan <greg_j_sheehan@fws.gov>, Gregory Sheehan <gregory_sheehan@fws.gov>, James Cason <james_cason@ios.doi.gov>, Katharine Macgregor <katharine_macgregor@ios.doi.gov>, Laura Rigas <laura_rigas@ios.doi.gov>, Lori Mashburn <lori_mashburn@ios.doi.gov>, Micah Chambers <micah_chambers@ios.doi.gov>, Rusty Roddy <russell_rodny@ios.doi.gov>, Scott Angelle <scott.angelle@bsee.gov>, Scott Hommel <scott_hommel@ios.doi.gov>, Vincent Devito <vincent_devito@ios.doi.gov>, "Willens, Todd" <todd_willens@ios.doi.gov>, Elinor Renner <elinor_renner@ios.doi.gov>, Downey Magallanes <downey_magallanes@ios.doi.gov>

Just a reminder that slides are due today by noon.

On Fri, Aug 25, 2017 at 4:02 PM, Boulton, Caroline <caroline_boulton@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

Hello all,

This is a reminder that the next Bi-Weekly Briefing will be this coming Wednesday, August 30. It will be at 9:30-11:00 in the 5160 conference room.

Slides are due to Aaron by noon on Tuesday the 29th.

Best,
Caroline

--

Caroline Boulton
Department of the Interior
Scheduling & Advance
Caroline_Boulton@ios.doi.gov | Scheduling@ios.doi.gov

From: Howarth, Robert
To: [Lori Mashburn](#); [Scott Hommel](#); [Downey Magallanes](#); [Jorjani, Daniel](#)
Subject: Fwd: Cleared today to be sent to the Federal Register
Date: Tuesday, October 10, 2017 5:36:39 PM

Good evening all. Below are the documents cleared today to be sent to the FR.

Regards, Rob

Cleared Today for Federal Register Publication

Date:
10/10/2017
Records: 3

DCN	Bureau	Title	Synopsis	Type	Approved
REG0007467	BIA	Bureau of Indian Education Strategic Plan	This Notice announces that the Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) will conduct a series of tribal consultation sessions on its proposed Strategic Plan in order to maximize Tribal input early in the process. Five on-site sessions and one telephonic session are scheduled from October 31 to December 12, 2017, in diverse locations.	Notice	10/10/2017
REG0007501	BLM	Notice of Availability of the Proposed Resource Management Plan Amendment/Final Environmental Impact Statement for Recreational Target Shooting in the Sonoran Desert National Monument	This notice announces the availability of a Proposed RMP Amendment and Final EIS that address recreational shooting closures in the Sonoran Desert National Monument.	Notice	10/10/2017
REG0007441	FWS	U S Endangered Species; Receipt of Recovery Permit Application	This is a notice announcing the receipt of an application for an Endangered Species Act permit.	Notice	10/10/2017

--

Robert Howarth
Deputy Director for Correspondence and FOIA Management
Office of the Executive Secretariat and Regulatory Affairs
Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240
202-208-3181
202-208-4451 (direct)
202-549-8961 (cell)

From: Mashburn, Lori
To: [Nalalie Davis](mailto:Nalalie.Davis)
Subject: Fwd: Cleared today to be sent to the Federal Register
Date: Tuesday, October 10, 2017 5:38:07 PM

Lori K. Mashburn
White House Liaison
Department of the Interior
202 208 1694

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Howarth, Robert** <robert_howarth@ios.doi.gov>
Date: Tue, Oct 10, 2017 at 5:36 PM
Subject: Fwd: Cleared today to be sent to the Federal Register
To: Lori Mashburn <lori_mashburn@ios.doi.gov>, Scott Hommel <scott_hommel@ios.doi.gov>, Downey Magallanes <downey_magallanes@ios.doi.gov>, "Jorjani, Daniel" <daniel.jorjani@sol.doi.gov>

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Office of the Executive Secretariat and Regulatory Affairs
Department of the Interior
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[Washington, DC 20240](http://www.doi.gov)
202-208-3181
202-208-4451 (direct)
202-549-8961 (cell)

From: Howarth, Robert
 To: [Lori Mashburn](#); [Scott Hommel](#); [Downey Magallanes](#); [Jorjani Daniel](#)
 Subject: Fwd: Cleared today to be sent to the Federal Register
 Date: Wednesday, October 11, 2017 6:42 PM

Good evening all. Below are the documents cleared today to be sent to the FR.

Cleared Today for Federal Register Publication

Date:
 10/11/2017
 Records: 11

DCN	Bureau	Title	Synopsis	Type	Approved
REG0007366	NPS	Notice of Inventory Completion: U S Department of Defense, Defense Health Agency, National Museum of Health and Medicine, Silver Spring, MD N2855	This is a Notice pursuant to the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) of the completion of an inventory of human remains under the control of the National Museum of Health and Medicine in Silver Spring, Maryland The remains were removed from Hale County, Alabama, in 1905 and 1906	Notice	10/11/2017
REG0007367	NPS	Notice of Inventory Completion: U S Department of Defense, Defense Health Agency, National Museum of Health and Medicine, Silver Spring, MD N2854	This is a Notice pursuant to the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) of the completion of an inventory of human remains under the control of the National Museum of Health and Medicine in Silver Spring, Maryland The remains were removed from Washington County, Alabama, in 1905	Notice	10/11/2017
REG0007388	NPS	Notice of Inventory Completion: Wisconsin Historical Society, Madison, WI N2847	This is a Notice pursuant to the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) of the completion of an inventory of human remains under the control of the Wisconsin Historical Society in Madison, Wisconsin The remains were removed from Monroe County, Wisconsin, in 1992	Notice	10/11/2017
REG0007389	NPS	Notice of Inventory Completion: Wisconsin Historical Society, Madison, WI N2848	This is a Notice pursuant to the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) of the completion of an inventory of human remains under the control of the Wisconsin Historical Society in Madison, Wisconsin The remains were removed from Langlade County, Wisconsin, in 1991 and on an unknown date	Notice	10/11/2017
REG0007390	NPS	Notice of Inventory Completion: Wisconsin Historical Society, Madison, WI N2849	This is a Notice pursuant to the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) of the completion of an inventory of human remains under the control of the Wisconsin Historical Society in Madison, Wisconsin The remains were removed from Marinette County, Wisconsin, in 1878 and in 1991	Notice	10/11/2017
REG0007391	NPS	Notice of Inventory Completion: Wisconsin Historical Society, Madison, WI N2850	This is a Notice pursuant to the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) of the completion of an inventory of human remains and associated funerary objects under the control of the Wisconsin Historical Society in Madison, Wisconsin The remains and objects were removed from Manitowoc County, Wisconsin, in 1989	Notice	10/11/2017
REG0007392	NPS	Notice of Inventory Completion: Wisconsin Historical Society, Madison, WI N2851	This is a Notice pursuant to the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) of the completion of an inventory of human remains and associated funerary objects under the control of the Wisconsin Historical Society in Madison, Wisconsin The remains and objects were removed from Rusk County, Wisconsin, in 1914	Notice	10/11/2017
REG0007393	NPS	Notice of Inventory Completion: Wisconsin Historical Society, Madison, WI N2852	This is a Notice pursuant to the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) of the completion of an inventory of human remains under the control of the Wisconsin Historical Society in Madison, Wisconsin The remains were removed from Pickerel Island, Vilas County, Wisconsin, in 1991	Notice	10/11/2017
REG0007394	NPS	Notice of Inventory Completion: Wisconsin Historical Society, Madison, WI N2853	This is a Notice pursuant to the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) of the completion of an inventory of human remains under the control of the Wisconsin Historical Society in Madison, Wisconsin The remains were removed from Wood County, Wisconsin, in 1965	Notice	10/11/2017
REG0007425	NPS	Notice of Inventory Completion: Wisconsin Historical Society, Madison, WI N2845	This is a Notice pursuant to the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) of the completion of an inventory of human remains and an associated funerary object under the control of the Wisconsin Historical Society in Madison, Wisconsin The remains and object were removed from Marinette County, Wisconsin, in 1992	Notice	10/11/2017
		Notice of Inventory Completion:	This is a Notice pursuant to the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA)		

REG0007426 NPS Wisconsin Historical Society, Madison, WI of the completion of an inventory of human remains Notice 10/11/2017
N2846 under the control of the Wisconsin Historical Society
in Madison, Wisconsin The remains were removed
from Juneau County, Wisconsin, at an unknown date

--
Robert Howarth
Deputy Director for Correspondence and FOIA Management
Office of the Executive Secretariat and Regulatory Affairs
Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240
202-208-3181
202-208-4451 (direct)
202-549-8961 (cell)

From: Lori Mashburn
 To: [Natalie Davis](mailto:Natalie.Davis)
 Subject: Fwd: Cleared today to be sent to the Federal Register
 Date: Wednesday, October 11, 2017 8:44:55 PM

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Howarth, Robert" <robert_howarth@ios.doi.gov>
Date: October 11, 2017 at 6:42:04 PM EDT
To: Lori Mashburn <lori_mashburn@ios.doi.gov>, Scott Hommel <scott_hommel@ios.doi.gov>, Downey Magallanes <downey_magallanes@ios.doi.gov>, "Jorjani, Daniel" <daniel_jorjani@sol.doi.gov>
Subject: Fwd: Cleared today to be sent to the Federal Register

Good evening all. Below are the documents cleared today to be sent to the FR.

Cleared Today for Federal Register Publication

Date: 10/11/2017
 Records: 11

DCN	Bureau	Title	Synopsis	Type	Approved
REG0007366	NPS	Notice of Inventory Completion: U S Department of Defense, Defense Health Agency, National Museum of Health and Medicine, Silver Spring, MD N2855	This is a Notice pursuant to the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) of the completion of an inventory of human remains under the control of the National Museum of Health and Medicine in Silver Spring, Maryland The remains were removed from Hale County, Alabama, in 1905 and 1906	Notice	10/11/2017
REG0007367	NPS	Notice of Inventory Completion: U S Department of Defense, Defense Health Agency, National Museum of Health and Medicine, Silver Spring, MD N2854	This is a Notice pursuant to the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) of the completion of an inventory of human remains under the control of the National Museum of Health and Medicine in Silver Spring, Maryland The remains were removed from Washington County, Alabama, in 1905	Notice	10/11/2017
REG0007388	NPS	Notice of Inventory Completion: Wisconsin Historical Society, Madison, WI N2847	This is a Notice pursuant to the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) of the completion of an inventory of human remains under the control of the Wisconsin Historical Society in Madison, Wisconsin The remains were removed from Monroe County, Wisconsin, in 1992	Notice	10/11/2017
REG0007389	NPS	Notice of Inventory Completion: Wisconsin Historical Society, Madison, WI N2848	This is a Notice pursuant to the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) of the completion of an inventory of human remains under the control of the Wisconsin Historical Society in Madison, Wisconsin The remains were removed from Langlade County, Wisconsin, in 1991 and on an unknown date	Notice	10/11/2017
REG0007390	NPS	Notice of Inventory Completion: Wisconsin Historical Society, Madison, WI N2849	This is a Notice pursuant to the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) of the completion of an inventory of human remains under the control of the Wisconsin Historical Society in Madison, Wisconsin The remains were removed from Marinette County, Wisconsin, in 1878 and in 1991	Notice	10/11/2017
REG0007391	NPS	Notice of Inventory Completion: Wisconsin Historical Society, Madison, WI N2850	This is a Notice pursuant to the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) of the completion of an inventory of human remains and associated funerary objects under the control of the Wisconsin Historical Society in Madison, Wisconsin The remains and objects were removed from Manitowoc County, Wisconsin, in 1989	Notice	10/11/2017
REG0007392	NPS	Notice of Inventory Completion: Wisconsin Historical Society, Madison, WI N2851	This is a Notice pursuant to the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) of the completion of an inventory of human remains and associated funerary objects under the control of the Wisconsin Historical Society in Madison, Wisconsin The remains and objects were removed from Rusk County, Wisconsin, in 1914	Notice	10/11/2017
REG0007393	NPS	Notice of Inventory Completion: Wisconsin Historical Society, Madison, WI N2852	This is a Notice pursuant to the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) of the completion of an inventory of human remains under the control of the Wisconsin Historical Society in Madison, Wisconsin The remains were removed from Pickerel Island, Vilas County, Wisconsin, in 1991	Notice	10/11/2017
REG0007394	NPS	Notice of Inventory Completion: Wisconsin Historical Society, Madison, WI N2853	This is a Notice pursuant to the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) of the completion of an inventory of human remains under the control of the Wisconsin Historical Society in Madison, Wisconsin The remains were removed	Notice	10/11/2017

REG0007425	NPS	Notice of Inventory Completion: Wisconsin Historical Society, Madison, WI N2845	from Wood County, Wisconsin, in 1965 This is a Notice pursuant to the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) of the completion of an inventory of human remains and an associated funerary object under the control of the Wisconsin Historical Society in Madison, Wisconsin. The remains and object were removed from Marinette County, Wisconsin, in 1992 This is a Notice pursuant to the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) of the completion of an inventory of human remains under the control of the Wisconsin Historical Society in Madison, Wisconsin. The remains were removed from Juneau County, Wisconsin, at an unknown date	Notice	10/11/2017
REG0007426	NPS	Notice of Inventory Completion: Wisconsin Historical Society, Madison, WI N2846	from Wood County, Wisconsin, in 1965 This is a Notice pursuant to the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) of the completion of an inventory of human remains and an associated funerary object under the control of the Wisconsin Historical Society in Madison, Wisconsin. The remains and object were removed from Marinette County, Wisconsin, in 1992 This is a Notice pursuant to the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) of the completion of an inventory of human remains under the control of the Wisconsin Historical Society in Madison, Wisconsin. The remains were removed from Juneau County, Wisconsin, at an unknown date	Notice	10/11/2017

--
 Robert Howarth
 Deputy Director for Correspondence and FOIA Management
 Office of the Executive Secretariat and Regulatory Affairs
 Department of the Interior
 1849 C Street, NW
 Washington, DC 20240
 202-208-3181
 202-208-4451 (direct)
 202-549-8961 (cell)

From: Juliette Lillie
To: lori_mashburn@ios.doi.gov; Hommel.Scott@ios.doi.gov; downey_magallanes@ios.doi.gov; lorjani.Daniel@ios.doi.gov
Subject: Fwd: Cleared today to be sent to the Federal Register
Date: Tuesday, October 24, 2017 5:45:26 PM

Good evening Julie Below are the documents cleared today to be sent to the FR Julie

Juliette Lillie
Director Executive Secretariat and Regulatory Affairs
U S Department of the Interior
1849 C St NW
Washington DC 20240

PH: 202-219-7724

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Rodgers, Kerry" <kerry_rodgers@ios.doi.gov>
Date: October 24, 2017 at 5:11:52 PM EDT
To: Juliette Lillie <juliette_lillie@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: "Lawyer, Mark" <mark_lawyer@ios.doi.gov>, Megan Apgar <megan_apgar@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Cleared today to be sent to the Federal Register

Cleared Today for Federal Register Publication

Date:
10/24/2017
Records: 4

DCN	Bureau	Title	Synopsis	Type	Approved
REG0007542	BIA	Agency Information Collection Activities; Indian Child Welfare Quarterly and Annual Report	This Notice, under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, announces that the BIA will ask the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to renew its approval of the collection of information for the Indian Child Welfare Quarterly and Annual Report The BIA is requesting public comments on the renewal for 60 days	Notice	10/24/2017
REG0007543	BIA	Agency Information Collection Activities; Tribal Probate Codes	This Notice, under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, announces that the BIA will ask the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to renew its approval of the collection of information pertaining to Tribal Probate Codes The BIA is requesting public comments on the renewal for 60 days	Notice	10/24/2017
REG0007557	BIA	Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community's Amendment to the Alcoholic Beverage Control Ordinance	This Notice publishes an amendment to the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community's Alcoholic Beverage Control Ordinance The amendment will be applicable 30 days after publication of this Notice in the Federal Register	Notice	10/24/2017
REG0007539	BLM	Notice of Public Meeting: Alaska Resource Advisory Council	The Alaska Resource Advisory Council is scheduled to meet on November 16-17, 2017 Notice must be approved NLT October 26, 2017 in order to meet FACA 15-day advance notice of public meeting requirement	Notice	10/24/2017

Kerry E Rodgers
Management Analyst, Policy and Regulatory Affairs
Executive Secretariat and Regulatory Affairs
Office of the Secretary
U S Department of the Interior
Phone (202) 513-0705
E-mail: kerry_rodgers@ios.doi.gov

From: Juliette Lillie
To: lori_mashburn@ios.doi.gov; Hommel.Scott@ios.doi.gov; downey_magallanes@ios.doi.gov; Jorjani.Daniel@ios.doi.gov
Subject: Fwd: Cleared today to be sent to the Federal Register
Date: Tuesday, October 31, 2017 5:26:19 PM

Good evening Below is a list of the documents cleared today to be sent to the FR

Juliette Lillie
 Director Executive Secretariat and Regulatory Affairs
 U.S. Department of the Interior
 1849 C St NW
 Washington DC 20240

PH: 202-219-7724

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Apgar, Megan" <megan_apgar@ios.doi.gov>
Date: October 31, 2017 at 5:24:38 PM EDT
To: "Lillie, Juliette" <juliette_lillie@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: Mark Lawyer <mark_lawyer@ios.doi.gov>, Kerry Rodgers <kerry_rodgers@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Cleared today to be sent to the Federal Register

Cleared Today for Federal Register Publication

Date:
 10/31/2017
 Records: 7

DCN	Bureau	Title	Synopsis	Type	Approved
REG0007496	BLM	Initial Classification and Extension of the Proposed Classification and Segregation for State In Lieu Selection, Montana	As required by the Taylor Grazing Act, this notifies the public that the BLM has classified 2,126 11 acres of Federal land as suitable for conveyance to the State of Montana in lieu of lands to which the State was entitled but did not receive under its Statehood Act. The public has 30 days to ask the Interior Secretary to conduct an administrative review of the BLM's suitability-for-conveyance classification. This notice also extends an October 2016 segregation for another 13,929 63 acres of Federal land included in the State's application to allow the BLM to continue its review to determine its suitability for transfer to the State. This notice announces the availability of the Draft Phase V 2 Restoration Plan and Supplemental Environmental Assessment. The draft restoration plan will provide enhanced public access and recreational amenities in Florida through the use of Deepwater Horizon settlement funds. The Oil Pollution Act regulations require public review/comment before the Trustees can finalize a Restoration Plan. The Service is reopening the comment period for our proposed rule to list the San Fernando Valley spineflower in order to allow the public to provide comment on a candidate conservation agreement (CCA) as it applies to our final listing determination for the spineflower.	Notice	10/31/2017
REG0007575	FW	Notice of Availability; Florida Trustee Implementation Group Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill Draft Phase V 2 Restoration Plan and Supplemental Environmental Assessment; Florida Coastal Access Project	The draft restoration plan will provide enhanced public access and recreational amenities in Florida through the use of Deepwater Horizon settlement funds. The Oil Pollution Act regulations require public review/comment before the Trustees can finalize a Restoration Plan. The Service is reopening the comment period for our proposed rule to list the San Fernando Valley spineflower in order to allow the public to provide comment on a candidate conservation agreement (CCA) as it applies to our final listing determination for the spineflower.	Notice	10/31/2017
REG0007568	FWS	Reopening of comment period; Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Threatened Species Status for San Fernando Valley Spineflower	The Service is reopening the comment period for our proposed rule to list the San Fernando Valley spineflower in order to allow the public to provide comment on a candidate conservation agreement (CCA) as it applies to our final listing determination for the spineflower.	Proposed Rule	10/31/2017
REG0007574	FWS	Migratory Bird Hunting; Approval of Corrosion-Inhibited Copper Shot as Nontoxic for Waterfowl Hunting	FWS completed their review of application materials for corrosion-inhibited copper shot and approves the shot for hunting waterfowl and coots.	Final Rule	10/31/2017
REG0007505	NPS	NIC - U.S. DOI-NPS, Tuzigoot National Monument, Clarkdale, AZ; Correction N2868	This Notice of Inventory Completion as required by the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA), 25 U.S.C. 3003, corrects the inventory of human remains and associated funerary objects under the control of the U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Tuzigoot National Monument, Clarkdale, AZ. The human remains and associated funerary objects were removed from multiple locations in Coconino and Yavapai Counties, AZ.	Notice	10/31/2017
REG0007506	NPS	NIC - U.S. DOI-NPS, Tuzigoot National Monument, Clarkdale, AZ N2869	This is a Notice pursuant to the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) of the completion of an inventory of human remains and associated funerary objects under the control of the U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Tuzigoot National Monument, Clarkdale, AZ. The human remains and associated funerary objects were removed from a site in Yavapai County, AZ.	Notice	10/31/2017

REG0007577 OST

Tribal Consultation on Indian Trust Asset Reform Act (ITARA) Sec 304, Transition Plan for the Office of the Special Trustee for American Indians

This notice announces that the Department of the Interior will be hosting two Tribal consultation sessions on a proposal to transfer the Office of the Special Trustee for American Indians to report to the Office of the Assistant Secretary-Indian Affairs in FY 2018 via a Secretary's Order

Notice

10/31/2017

From: Juliette Lillie
To: lori_mashburn@ios.doi.gov; Hommel.Scott@ios.doi.gov; downey_magallanes@ios.doi.gov; Jorjani.Daniel@ios.doi.gov
Subject: Fwd: Cleared today to be sent to the Federal Register
Date: Friday, November 03, 2017 5:29:08 PM

Good evening Julie Below are the documents cleared today to be sent to the FR Julie

Juliette Lillie
Director Executive Secretariat and Regulatory Affairs
U S Department of the Interior
1849 C St NW
Washington DC 20240

PH: 202-219-7724

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Rodgers, Kerry" <kerry_rodgers@ios.doi.gov>
Date: November 3, 2017 at 5:18:39 PM EDT
To: Juliette Lillie <juliette_lillie@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: "Lawyer, Mark" <mark_lawyer@ios.doi.gov>, Megan Apgar <megan_apgar@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Cleared today to be sent to the Federal Register

Cleared Today for Federal Register Publication

Date:
11/03/2017
Records: 6

DCN	Bureau	Title	Synopsis	Type	Approved
REG0007482	NPS	NIC - U S Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Chugach National Forest, Anchorage, Alaska N2856	This is a Notice pursuant to the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) of the completion of an inventory of human remains under the control of the Chugach National Forest, Anchorage, AK The human remains were removed from Crafton Island, AK		11/03/2017
REG0007526	NPS	Notice of Intent to Repatriate Cultural Items: U S Department of the Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Washington, DC N2870	This is a Notice pursuant to the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA), 25 U S C 3005, of the intent to repatriate cultural items under the control of the U S Department of the Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Washington, DC, that meet the definition of unassociated funerary objects under 25 U S C 3001	Notice	11/03/2017
REG0007581	NPS	NIC - Grand Rapids Public Museum, Grand Rapids, MI N2871	This is a Notice pursuant to the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA), 25 U S C 3003, of the completion of an inventory of human remains under the control of the Grand Rapids Public Museum, Grand Rapids, MI The human remains were removed from Barry County, MO, and an unknown location in the State of Arkansas	Notice	11/03/2017
REG0007584	NPS	NIR - Grand Rapids Public Museum, Grand Rapids, MI N2872	This is a Notice pursuant to the American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA), 25 U S C 3005, of the intent to repatriate cultural items under the control of the Osage Nation (previously listed as the Osage Tribe) that meet the definition of objects of cultural patrimony under 25 U S C 3001	Notice	11/03/2017
REG0007589	NPS	National Register of Historic Places, October 21, 2017	The NPS is soliciting comments on the significance of properties nominated before October 21, 2017, for listing in the National Register of Historic Places or related actions	Notice	11/03/2017
REG0007590	NPS	National Register of Historic Places, October 28, 2017	The NPS is soliciting comments on the significance of properties nominated before October 28, 2017, for listing in the National Register of Historic Places or related actions	Notice	11/03/2017

Kerry E Rodgers
Management Analyst, Policy and Regulatory Affairs
Executive Secretariat and Regulatory Affairs
Office of the Secretary
U S Department of the Interior
Phone (202) 513-0705
E-mail: kerry_rodgers@ios.doi.gov

From: Lawyer, Mark
To: [Scott Hormel](#); [Downey Magallanes](#); [Lori Mashburn](#); [Jorjani, Daniel](#)
Cc: [Juliette Lillie](#)
Subject: Fwd: Cleared today to be sent to the Federal Register
Date: Monday, November 20, 2017 5:02:47 PM

Cleared Today for Federal Register Publication

Date:
11/20/2017
Records: 5

DCN	Bureau	Title	Synopsis	Type	Approved
REG0007495	BLM	Notice of Intent to Prepare a Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed United States Gypsum Company Expansion/Modernization Project, Imperial County, California	The BLM announces its intent to prepare a Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed United States Gypsum Company (USG) Mine Expansion/Modernization Project in Imperial County, California. The U S Army Corps of Engineers will serve as a cooperating agency. This Notice announces a 45-day public scoping period and a public scoping meeting.	Notice	11/20/2017
REG0007576	FWS	Foreign Endangered Species; Issuance of Permits	This batched notice informs the public that the Service has issued 7 Endangered Species Act permits.	Notice	11/20/2017
REG0007607	FWS	Endangered Species; Marine Mammal Receipt of Applications for Permit	This is a batched notice announcing the receipt of applications received by FWS for Endangered Species Act and Marine Mammal Protection Act permits.	Notice	11/20/2017
REG0007622	FWS	U S Endangered Species; Receipt of Recovery Permit Applications	This is a batched notice announcing the receipt of applications received by FWS for Endangered Species Act permits.	Notice	11/20/2017
REG0007642	NPS	National Register of Historic Places, November 4, 2017	The NPS is soliciting comments on the significance of properties nominated before November 4, 2017, for listing in the National Register of Historic Places or related actions.	Notice	11/20/2017

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Mark Lawyer

Deputy Director - Policy and Regulatory Affairs
Executive Secretariat and Regulatory Affairs
Office of the Secretary
Department of the Interior

Email: mark_lawyer@ios.doi.gov
Voice: (202) 208-5257

Fax: (202) 219-2100

From: Lawyer, Mark
To: [Scott Hommel](#); [Downey Magallanes](#); [Jorjani, Daniel](#); [Lori Mashburn](#)
Cc: [Juliette Lillie](#)
Subject: Fwd: Cleared today to be sent to the Federal Register
Date: Tuesday, November 21, 2017 5:02:52 PM

Cleared Today for Federal Register Publication

Date:
11/21/2017
Records: 3

DCN	Bureau	Title	Synopsis	Type	Approved
REG0006932	BLM	Notice of Intent to Collect Fees on Public Land at the Guffey Gorge Day-Use Area in Park County, CO	Under the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (FLREA), the BLM is proposing to begin collecting fees for a Standard Amenity Day-Use Site in the Guffey Gorge Day-Use Area in Park County, Colorado. This Notice requests public comments on the proposal over 90 days. The BLM will begin collecting fees six months after publication of this Notice, absent notice to the contrary.	Notice	11/21/2017
REG0007559	FWS	Draft Environmental Assessment and Draft Habitat Conservation Plan for the Lalamilo Wind Farm Repowering Project, Island of Hawaii, HI	FWS received an application from the Lalamilo Wind Company, LLC (applicant), for an incidental take permit under the Endangered Species Act. The applicant is requesting an ITP to authorize take of the endangered Hawaiian hoary bat and the endangered Hawaiian Petrel.	Notice	11/21/2017
REG0007624	FWS	Revision of Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp (Duck Stamp) Contest Regulations	FWS is revising a previous proposal to revise regulations governing the annual Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp Contest. The proposal consists of further updates to the scientific names of species on our list of contest design subjects, updates to recognize technological advances in stamp design and printing, and proposed requirements specific to the 2018 contest.	Proposed Rule	11/21/2017

--

Mark Lawyer

Deputy Director - Policy and Regulatory Affairs
Executive Secretariat and Regulatory Affairs
Office of the Secretary
Department of the Interior

Email: mark_lawyer@ios.doi.gov
Voice: (202) 208-5257

Fax: (202) 219-2100

From: Lawyer, Mark
To: [Scott Hommel](#); [Downey Magallanes](#); [Jorjani, Daniel](#); [Lori Mashburn](#)
Cc: [Juliette Lillie](#); [Howarth, Robert](#)
Subject: Fwd: Cleared today to be sent to the Federal Register
Date: Friday, December 01, 2017 4:43:52 PM

Cleared Today for Federal Register Publication

Date:
 12/01/2017
 Records: 9

DCN	Bureau	Title	Synopsis	Type	Approved
REG0007672	BLM	Waste Prevention, Production Subject to Royalties, and Resource Conservation; Delay and Suspension of Certain Requirements	This final rule temporarily suspends or delays certain requirements in the BLM final rule, "Waste Prevention, Production Subject to Royalties, and Resource Conservation," published in November 2016. This final rule postpones the implementation of such requirements for one year until January 17, 2019, while the BLM considers whether to revise or rescind the 2016 final rule.	Final Rule	12/01/2017
REG0007621	BOE	Notice of Availability for the Gulf of Mexico Outer Continental Shelf Lease Sale Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement 2018	The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) is announcing the availability of the Gulf of Mexico Outer Continental Shelf Lease Sale: Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement 2018 (Final SEIS). The Final SEIS will inform decisions on each of the two proposed regionwide lease sales scheduled to be held in 2018.	Notice	12/01/2017
REG0006845	FWS	Financial Assistance: Wildlife Restoration, Sport Fish Restoration, Hunter Education and Safety	FWS is updating the regulations that are the administrative rules for the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration and the Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration programs and subprograms.	Proposed Rule	12/01/2017
REG0007652	FWS	Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Initiation of a 5-yr Status Review of the Alaska-Breeding Population of Steller's Eider	The FWS is initiating a 5-year status review of the Alaska-breeding population of Steller's eider under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA). The FWS requests any new information on the threatened species that has become available since the last review over a 60-day comment period.	Notice	12/01/2017
REG0007655	FWS	Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Availability of Proposed Low-Effect Habitat Conservation Plan; Orange County Utilities, Malcolm Road Water Supply Facility, Orange County, FL	The FWS has received an application from Orange County Utilities for an incidental take permit (ITP) that would authorize take of approximately 10.9 acres of occupied threatened sand skink habitat incidental to the construction of a water supply facility on property jointly owned by Orange County and the City of Orlando, Florida.	Notice	12/01/2017
REG0007667	FWS	Issuance of Recovery Permits and Interstate Commerce Permits January 2, 2017, through June 30, 2017	This batched notice informs the public of the issuance of Endangered Species Act permits.	Notice	12/01/2017
REG0007668	FWS	U S Endangered Species; Receipt of Recovery Permit Applications	This is a batched notice announcing the receipt by FWS of applications for Endangered Species Act (ESA) permits.	Notice	12/01/2017
REG0007669	FWS	Agency Information Collection Activities; Submission to the Office of Management and Budget for Review and Approval; Depredation Orders	This Notice, under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA), announces that FWS will ask the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to renew its approval of the collection of information pertaining to implementation of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. FWS is requesting public comments on the renewal for 30 days.	Notice	12/01/2017
REG0007670	NPS	National Register of Historic Places, November 18, 2017	The NPS is soliciting comments on the significance of properties nominated before November 18, 2017, for listing in the National Register of Historic Places or related actions.	Notice	12/01/2017

--

Mark Lawyer

Deputy Director - Policy and Regulatory Affairs
 Executive Secretariat and Regulatory Affairs
 Office of the Secretary
 Department of the Interior

Email: mark_lawyer@ios.doi.gov
 Voice: (202) 208-5257

Fax: (202) 219-2100

From: Juliette Lillie
To: lori_mashburn@ios.doi.gov; Hommel.Scott@downey_magallanes@ios.doi.gov; lorjani.Daniel@ios.doi.gov
Subject: Fwd: Cleared today to be sent to the Federal Register
Date: Tuesday, December 05, 2017 4:00:24 PM

Good afternoon Below are the documents cleared to go to the FR today

Julie

Juliette Lillie
Director Executive Secretariat and Regulatory Affairs
U S Department of the Interior
1849 C St NW
Washington DC 20240

PH: 202-219-7724

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Apgar, Megan" <megan_apgar@ios.doi.gov>
Date: December 5, 2017 at 3:58:55 PM EST
To: "Lillie, Juliette" <juliette_lillie@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: Mark Lawyer <mark_lawyer@ios.doi.gov>, Kerry Rodgers <kerry_rodgers@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Cleared today to be sent to the Federal Register

Cleared Today for Federal Register Publication

Date:
12/05/2017
Records: 2

DCN	Bureau	Title	Synopsis	Type	Approved
REG0007616	BIA	Indian Gaming; Approval of an Amendment to a Tribal-State Class III Gaming Compact in the State of Oregon	This Notice announces approval of an Amendment to the Amended and Restated Tribal-State Compact for Regulation of Class III Gaming between the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Community of Oregon and the State of Oregon governing Class III gaming The amended compact will take effect upon publication of this Notice in the Federal Register	Notice	12/05/2017
REG0007597	ONRR	Agency Information Collection Activities: Submission to the Office of Management and Budget for Review and Approval; Suspensions Pending Appeal and Bonding	This Notice, under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA), announces that the Office of Natural Resources Revenue (ONRR) will ask the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to renew its approval of the collection of information under the Suspensions Pending Appeal and Bonding regulations The ONRR is requesting public comments on the renewal for 30 days	Notice	12/05/2017

From: Lawyer, Mark
To: [Scott Hommel](#); [Downey Magallanes](#); [Lori Mashburn](#); [Jorjani, Daniel](#)
Cc: [Juliette Lillie](#)
Subject: Fwd: Cleared today to be sent to the Federal Register
Date: Wednesday, December 06, 2017 5:05:04 PM

Cleared Today for Federal Register Publication

Date:
12/06/2017
Records: 2

DCN	Bureau	Title	Synopsis	Type	Approved
REG0007679	FWS	Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Permit Applications (Ohio Department of Natural Resources)	This is a batched notice announcing the receipt of applications received by FWS for Endangered Species Act permits	Notice	12/06/2017
REG0007530	OSM	Oklahoma Regulatory Program (OK-037-FOR)	The Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE) is approving an amendment to the Oklahoma regulatory program under the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 (SMCRA) Oklahoma submitted the proposed amendment on its own initiative in 2015	Final Rule	12/06/2017

--

Mark Lawyer

Deputy Director - Policy and Regulatory Affairs
Executive Secretariat and Regulatory Affairs
Office of the Secretary
Department of the Interior

Email: mark_lawyer@ios.doi.gov
Voice: (202) 208-5257

Fax: (202) 219-2100

From: Lori Mashburn
To: [Natalie Davis](mailto:Natalie.Davis)
Subject: Fwd: Cleared today to be sent to the Federal Register
Date: Thursday, December 07, 2017 10:38:12 AM

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Lawyer, Mark" <mark_lawyer@ios.doi.gov>
Date: December 6, 2017 at 5 04:20 PM EST
To: Scott Hommel <scott_hommel@ios.doi.gov>, Downey Magallanes <downey_magallanes@ios.doi.gov>, Lori Mashburn <lori_mashburn@ios.doi.gov>, "Jorjani, Daniel" <daniel_jorjani@sol.doi.gov>
Cc: Juliette Lillie <juliette_lillie@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Fwd: Cleared today to be sent to the Federal Register

Cleared Today for Federal Register Publication

Date:
12/06/2017
Records: 2

DCN	Bureau	Title	Synopsis	Type	Approved
REG0007679	FWS	Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Permit Applications (Ohio Department of Natural Resources)	This is a batched notice announcing the receipt of applications received by FWS for Endangered Species Act permits	Notice	12/06/2017
REG0007530	OSM	Oklahoma Regulatory Program (OK-037-FOR)	The Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE) is approving an amendment to the Oklahoma regulatory program under the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 (SMCRA) Oklahoma submitted the proposed amendment on its own initiative in 2015	Final Rule	12/06/2017

--

Mark Lawyer

Deputy Director - Policy and Regulatory Affairs
Executive Secretariat and Regulatory Affairs
Office of the Secretary
Department of the Interior

Email: mark_lawyer@ios.doi.gov
Voice: (202) 208-5257

Fax: (202) 219-2100

From: Lawyer, Mark
To: [Scott Hommel](#); [Downey Magallanes](#); [Lori Mashburn](#); [Jorjani, Daniel](#)
Cc: [Juliette Lillie](#)
Subject: Fwd: Cleared today to be sent to the Federal Register
Date: Thursday, December 07, 2017 5:12:44 PM

Cleared Today for Federal Register Publication

Date:
12/07/2017
Records: 2

DCN	Bureau	Title	Synopsis	Type	Approved
REG0007684	BOE	Agency Information Collection Activities; 30 CFR 550, Subpart B, Plans and Information	This Notice, under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA), announces that the BOEM will ask the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to renew its approval of an information collection pertaining to the paperwork requirements under 30 CFR part 550, subpart B, Plans and Information. The BOEM requests public comments on the proposed collection for 60 days.	Notice	12/07/2017
REG0007680	OSM	Agency Information Collection Activities: Submission to the OMB for Review and Approval; Fee Collection and Coal Production Reporting and Form OSM-1, Coal Reclamation Fee Report	This Notice, under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA), announces that the OSMRE will ask the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to renew its approval of the collection of information pertaining to the Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fund - Fee Collection and Coal Production Reporting. The OSMRE is requesting public comments on the renewal for 30 days.	Notice	12/07/2017

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Mark Lawyer

Deputy Director - Policy and Regulatory Affairs
Executive Secretariat and Regulatory Affairs
Office of the Secretary
Department of the Interior

Email: mark_lawyer@ios.doi.gov
Voice: (202) 208-5257

Fax: (202) 219-2100

From: Lori Mashburn
To: [Natalie Davis](mailto:Natalie.Davis)
Subject: Fwd: Cleared today to be sent to the Federal Register
Date: Friday, December 08, 2017 8:56:28 AM

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Lawyer, Mark" <mark_lawyer@ios.doi.gov>
Date: December 7, 2017 at 5:12:01 PM EST
To: Scott Hommel <scott_hommel@ios.doi.gov>, Downey Magallanes <downey_magallanes@ios.doi.gov>, Lori Mashburn <lori_mashburn@ios.doi.gov>, "Jorjani, Daniel" <daniel.jorjani@sol.doi.gov>
Cc: Juliette Lillie <juliette_lillie@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Fwd: Cleared today to be sent to the Federal Register

Cleared Today for Federal Register Publication

Date:
12/07/2017
Records: 2

DCN	Bureau	Title	Synopsis	Type	Approved
REG0007684	BOE	Agency Information Collection Activities; 30 CFR 550, Subpart B, Plans and Information	This Notice, under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA), announces that the BOEM will ask the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to renew its approval of an information collection pertaining to the paperwork requirements under 30 CFR part 550, subpart B, Plans and Information. The BOEM requests public comments on the proposed collection for 60 days.	Notice	12/07/2017
REG0007680	OSM	Agency Information Collection Activities: Submission to the OMB for Review and Approval; Fee Collection and Coal Production Reporting and Form OSM-1, Coal Reclamation Fee Report	This Notice, under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA), announces that the OSMRE will ask the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to renew its approval of the collection of information pertaining to the Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fund - Fee Collection and Coal Production Reporting. The OSMRE is requesting public comments on the renewal for 30 days.	Notice	12/07/2017

--

Mark Lawyer

Deputy Director - Policy and Regulatory Affairs
Executive Secretariat and Regulatory Affairs
Office of the Secretary
Department of the Interior

Email: mark_lawyer@ios.doi.gov
Voice: (202) 208-5257

Fax: (202) 219-2100

From: Mark Lawyer
To: scott_hommel@ios.doi.gov; downey_magallanes@ios.doi.gov; lbr_i_mashburn@ios.doi.gov; daniel_jorjani@sol.doi.gov
Cc: [Juliette Lulle](mailto:Juliette.Lulle)
Subject: Fwd: Cleared today to be sent to the Federal Register
Date: Friday, December 08, 2017 4:40:38 PM

Subject: Cleared today to be sent to the Federal Register

Cleared Today for Federal Register Publication

Date:
 12/08/2017
 Records: 3

DCN	Bureau	Title	Synopsis	Type	Approved
REG0007689	NPS	National Register of Historic Places, November 25, 2017	The NPS is soliciting comments on the significance of properties nominated before November 25, 2017, for listing in the National Register of Historic Places or related actions	Notice	12/08/2017
REG0007685	OSM	Agency Information Collection Activities: Submission to the Office of Management and Budget for Review and Approval; Abandoned Mine Reclamation Funds	This Notice, under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA), announces that the OSMRE will ask the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to renew its approval of the collection of information relating to Abandoned Mine Reclamation Funds The OSMRE is requesting public comments on the renewal for 30 days	Notice	12/08/2017
REG0007688	OSM	Agency Information Collection Activities: Submission to the Office of Management and Budget for Review and Approval; Subsidence Insurance Program Grants	This Notice, under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA), announces that the OSMRE will ask the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to renew its approval of the collection of information pertaining to Subsidence Insurance Program Grants The OSMRE is requesting public comments on the renewal for 30 days	Notice	12/08/2017

From: Lawyer, Mark
To: [Scott Hommel](#); [Downey Magallanes](#); [Lori Mashburn](#); [Jorjani, Daniel](#)
Cc: [Juliette Lillie](#)
Subject: Fwd: Cleared today to be sent to the Federal Register
Date: Monday, December 11, 2017 4:37:25 PM

Cleared Today for Federal Register Publication

Date:
12/11/2017
Records: 4

DCN	Bureau	Title	Synopsis	Type	Approved
REG0007676	FWS	Draft Habitat Conservation Plan for the Desert Tortoise and Mohave Ground Squirrel and Draft Environmental Assessment; Hinkley Groundwater Remediation Project; San Bernardino County, California	This notice informs the public of receipt of an application from the Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E, applicant) for a 50-year Incidental Take Permit Notice (ITP) for their Groundwater Remediation Project in and around Hinkley, CA		12/11/2017
REG0007681	FWS	U S Endangered Species; Receipt of Recovery Permit Applications (Zion National Park and Others)	This is a batched notice announcing the receipt by FWS of applications for Endangered Species Act (ESA)	Notice permits	12/11/2017
REG0007682	FWS	Endangered Species Recovery Permit Apps (first: Dept of Natural and Environmental Resources, San Juan, PR)	This is a batched notice announcing the receipt by FWS of applications for Endangered Species Act (ESA)	Notice permits	12/11/2017
REG0007697	FWS	Agency Information Collection Activities; Submission to the Office of Management and Budget for Review and Approval: Conservation Order for Light Geese	This Notice, under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA), announces that the FWS will ask the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to renew its approval of the collection of information necessary to administer a light goose conservation order The FWS is requesting public comments on the renewal for 30 days	Notice	12/11/2017

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Mark Lawyer

Deputy Director - Policy and Regulatory Affairs
Executive Secretariat and Regulatory Affairs
Office of the Secretary
Department of the Interior

Email: mark_lawyer@ios.doi.gov
Voice: (202) 208-5257

Fax: (202) 219-2100

From: Lawyer, Mark
To: [Scott Hommel](#); [Downey Magallanes](#); [Lori Mashburn](#); [Jorjani, Daniel](#)
Cc: [Juliette Lillie](#)
Subject: Fwd: Cleared today to be sent to the Federal Register
Date: Wednesday, December 13, 2017 4:46:42 PM

Cleared Today for Federal Register Publication

Date:
 12/13/2017
 Records: 8

DCN	Bureau	Title	Synopsis	Type	Approved
REG0007703	BIA	Notice of Public Meeting: Advisory Board for Exceptional Children	<p>The Bureau of Indian Education is announcing that the Advisory Board for Exceptional Children will hold a public meeting in Albuquerque, New Mexico, to meet the requirements of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act of 2004 (IDEA) for Indian children with disabilities</p> <p>The meeting will be held on January 11-12, 2018</p> <p>The BLM New Mexico State Office is issuing final supplementary rules applicable to BLM-administered public lands in New Mexico. Some of the supplementary rules apply to all BLM-administered public lands in the State, and others apply to specified locations</p>	Notice	12/13/2017
REG0007493	BLM	Notice of Final Supplementary Rules for Public Lands in New Mexico	<p>The BLM announces its intent to prepare two programmatic environmental impact statements (PEISs) for BLM Districts in the Great Basin region to analyze the effects of fuel breaks and fuels reduction and rangeland restoration projects. This Notice initiates a 60-day public scoping period and requests comments on issues to be addressed in the PEISs</p> <p>By operation of the Congressional Review Act (CRA), the BLM Resource Management Planning Rule (Planning 2.0 Rule) published in December 2016 shall be treated as if it had never taken effect. This document will effect the removal of any amendments, deletions or other modifications made by the nullified rule and the reversion to the text of the regulations in effect immediately prior to the January 11, 2017, effective date of the Planning 2.0 Rule</p>	Final Rule	12/13/2017
REG0007511	BLM	Notice of Intent to Prepare Two Great-Basin-Wide Programmatic EISs to Reduce the Threat of Wildfire and Support Rangeland Productivity	<p>The Draft EIS/EIR addresses methods to improve fish passage and increase floodplain fisheries rearing habitat in the Yolo Bypass to benefit Sacramento River winter-run Chinook salmon, Central Valley spring-run Chinook salmon, Central Valley steelhead, and Southern Distinct Population Segment green sturgeon</p>	Notice	12/13/2017
REG0007606	BLM	Effectuating Congressional nullification of the Resource Management Planning Rule under the Congressional Review Act	<p>The Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE) proposes to amend the regulations regarding oil and natural gas production to address certain overly burdensome requirements</p>	Final Rule	12/13/2017
REG0007644	BOR	Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report for the Yolo Bypass Salmonid Habitat Restoration and Fish Passage Project, Yolo, Sutter, and Solano Counties, California	<p>FWS completed 90-day findings on petitions to list five species under the ESA. FWS finds that the petitions present substantial scientific or commercial information indicating that the petitioned actions may be warranted with respect to: oblong rocksnail, sicklefin chub, sturgeon chub, tricolored bat, and venus flytrap</p>	Notice	12/13/2017
REG0007687	BSEE	Oil and Gas and Sulphur Operations on the Outer Continental Shelf - Oil and Gas Production Safety Systems - Revisions	<p>The National Park Service (NPS) provides notice of the cancellation of its planning process for the Golden Gate National Recreation Area dog management plan. The NPS no longer intends to prepare a final rule or issue a Record of Decision and has terminated the associated environmental impact statement (EIS) and rulemaking process</p>	Proposed Rule	12/13/2017
REG0007666	FWS	Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; 90-Day Findings for Five Species		Notice	12/13/2017
REG0007671	NPS	Termination Notice for the Dog Management Plan, Environmental Impact Statement, and Rule for Golden Gate National Recreation Area, CA		Notice	12/13/2017

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Mark Lawyer

Deputy Director - Policy and Regulatory Affairs
 Executive Secretariat and Regulatory Affairs
 Office of the Secretary
 Department of the Interior

Email: mark_lawyer@ios.doi.gov
 Voice: (202) 208-5257

Fax: (202) 219-2100

From: Lawyer, Mark
To: [Scott Hommel](#); [Downey Magallanes](#); [Lori Mashburn](#); [Jorjani, Daniel](#)
Cc: [Juliette Lillie](#)
Subject: Fwd: Cleared today to be sent to the Federal Register
Date: Thursday, December 14, 2017 4:57:57 PM

Cleared Today for Federal Register Publication

Date:
12/14/2017
Records: 3

DCN	Bureau	Title	Synopsis	Type	Approved
REG0007268	BLM	Final Supplementary Rules for Guffey Gorge in Park County, Colorado	The BLM announces supplementary rules to regulate certain activities on public lands within Guffey Gorge in Park County, Colorado. The supplementary rules implement the Guffey Gorge Management Plan approved in June 2015 to protect persons, property, and public lands and resources within the 80-acre site.	Final Rule	12/14/2017
REG0007641	BLM	Notice of Realty Action: Proposed Non-Competitive (Direct) Sale of Public Land in Santa Barbara County, CA	The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is proposing to sell 5.93 acres of public land in Santa Barbara County, California, to Arc Vineyards, LLC, to resolve an inadvertent unauthorized use and occupancy. The BLM requests comments over 45 days.	Notice	12/14/2017
REG0007656	FWS	Availability of Proposed Low-Effect Habitat Conservation Plan for the Sand Skink; Lennar Corporation, Orange County, FL	Lennar Corporation has requested a permit for take of the federally threatened sand skink incidental to the planned construction of residential development in Orange County, Florida.	Notice	12/14/2017

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Mark Lawyer

Deputy Director - Policy and Regulatory Affairs
Executive Secretariat and Regulatory Affairs
Office of the Secretary
Department of the Interior

Email: mark_lawyer@ios.doi.gov
Voice: (202) 208-5257

Fax: (202) 219-2100

From: Lawyer, Mark
To: [Scott Hommel](#); [Downey Magallanes](#); [Lori Mashburn](#); [Jorjani Daniel](#)
Cc: [Juliette Lillie](#)
Subject: Fwd: Cleared today to be sent to the Federal Register
Date: Friday, December 15, 2017 4 52:32 PM

Cleared Today for Federal Register Publication

Date:
12/15/2017
Records: 4

DCN	Bureau	Title	Synopsis	Type	Approved
REG0007659	BIA	Request for Nominations: BIE Advisory Board for Exceptional Children	The nomination period will be open for 30 days from the date of publication in the Federal Register	Notice	12/15/2017
REG0007690	BIA	Addition of the Wind River Indian Reservation to the List of Courts of Indian Offenses	The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) is confirming an October 2016 interim final rule (IFR) establishing a Court of Indian Offenses (also known as a CFR Court) for the Wind River Indian Reservation in Wyoming	Final Rule	12/15/2017
REG0007692	BIA	Court of Indian Offenses Serving the Wind River Indian Reservation	This Notice accompanies the final rule confirming the establishment of a Court of Indian Offenses (also known as a CFR Court) for the Wind River Indian Reservation in Wyoming. This Notice waives certain provisions of 25 CFR part 11 for the Court of Indian Offenses serving the Reservation	Notice	12/15/2017
REG0007710	NPS	National Register of Historic Places, December 2, 2017	The NPS is soliciting comments on the significance of properties nominated before December 2, 2017, for listing in the National Register of Historic Places or related actions	Notice	12/15/2017

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Mark Lawyer

Deputy Director - Policy and Regulatory Affairs
Executive Secretariat and Regulatory Affairs
Office of the Secretary
Department of the Interior

Email: mark_lawyer@ios.doi.gov
Voice: (202) 208-5257

Fax: (202) 219-2100

From: Lawyer, Mark
To: [Scott Hommel](#); [Downey Magallanes](#); [Lori Mashburn](#); [Jorjani, Daniel](#)
Cc: [Juliette Lillie](#)
Subject: Fwd: Cleared today to be sent to the Federal Register
Date: Wednesday, December 20, 2017 5:52:14 PM

Cleared Today for Federal Register Publication

Date:
12/20/2017
Records: 2

DCN	Bureau	Title	Synopsis	Type	Approved
REG0007705	FWS	Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Listing the Yangtze Sturgeon as an Endangered Species	FWS is proposing to list the Yangtze sturgeon as an endangered species under the Endangered Species Act. This species of fish is found in the Yangtze River in China.	Proposed Rule	12/20/2017
REG0007711	NPS	Notice of Intent to Repatriate Cultural Items: The Museum of Anthropology at Washington State University, Pullman, WA; Correction N2891	This Notice corrects a Notice previously published pursuant to the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) of the intent to repatriate cultural items under the control of The Museum of Anthropology at Washington State University. The correction concerns the cultural affiliation determination for the items, which meet NAGPRA's definition of unassociated funerary objects under 25 U.S.C. 3001.	Notice	12/20/2017

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Mark Lawyer

Deputy Director - Policy and Regulatory Affairs
Executive Secretariat and Regulatory Affairs
Office of the Secretary
Department of the Interior

Email: mark_lawyer@ios.doi.gov
Voice: (202) 208-5257

Fax: (202) 219-2100

From: Lawyer, Mark
To: [Scott Hommel](#); [Downey Magallanes](#); [Lori Mashburn](#); [Jorjani Daniel](#)
Cc: [Juliette Lillie](#); [Megan Appgar](#); [Kerry Rodgers](#)
Subject: Fwd: Cleared today to be sent to the Federal Register
Date: Thursday, December 21, 2017 5:54:10 PM

Cleared Today for Federal Register Publication

Date:
 12/21/2017
 Records: 8

DCN	Bureau	Title	Synopsis	Type	Approved
REG0007729	BIA	Agency Information Collection Activities; Submission to the Office of Management and Budget for Review and Approval; Certificate of Degree of Indian or Alaska Native Blood	This Notice, under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, announces that the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) will ask the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to renew its approval of the collection of information for the Request for Certificate of Degree of Indian or Alaska Native Blood (CDIB) The BIA is requesting public comments on the renewal for 30 days	Notice	12/21/2017
REG0007730	BIA	Agency Information Collection Activities; Submission to the Office of Management and Budget for Review and Approval; Solicitation of Nominations for the Advisory Board for Exceptional Children	This Notice, under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA), announces that the Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) will ask the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to renew its approval of the collection of information regarding individuals' qualifications to serve on the Federal Advisory Board for Exceptional Children The BIE is requesting public comments on the renewal for 30 days	Notice	12/21/2017
REG0007735	BIA	Approval of Swinomish Indian Tribal Community Regulations	This Notice announces that the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) has approved the Swinomish Indian Tribal Community leasing ordinance under statutory authority specific to the Tribe	Notice	12/21/2017
REG0007726	FWS	Foreign Endangered Species; Issuance of Permits	This batched notice informs the public that the Service has issued 7 Endangered Species Act permits	Notice	12/21/2017
REG0007728	FWS	Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Permit Applications	This is a batched notice announcing the receipt by FWS of applications for Endangered Species Act (ESA) permits	Notice	12/21/2017
REG0007731	NPS	National Register of Historic Places, December 9, 2017	The NPS is soliciting comments on the significance of properties nominated before December 9, 2017, for listing in the National Register of Historic Places or related actions	Notice	12/21/2017
REG0007673	OS	Call for Nominations: Invasive Species Advisory Committee	Renewal charter needed to be signed and filed before the FR Call for Nominations could be processed Charter was signed on December 12, 2017 and filed on December 18, 2017 There are four (4) vacancies currently on the Committee	Notice	12/21/2017
REG0007718	USGS	Notice of Public Meeting: Advisory Committee on Water Information	The Advisory Committee on Water Information will have a meeting on January 17-18, 2018, at the U S Geological Survey facility in Reston, VA	Notice	12/21/2017

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Mark Lawyer

Deputy Director - Policy and Regulatory Affairs
 Executive Secretariat and Regulatory Affairs
 Office of the Secretary
 Department of the Interior

Email: mark_lawyer@ios.doi.gov
 Voice: (202) 208-5257

Fax: (202) 219-2100

From: Mark Lawyer
To: scott_hommel@ios.doi.gov; downey_magallanes@ios.doi.gov; lori_mashburn@ios.doi.gov; daniel_jorjani@sol.doi.gov
Cc: [Juliette Lille](mailto:Juliette.Lille)
Subject: Fwd: Cleared today to be sent to the Federal Register
Date: Friday, December 22, 2017 4:44:19 PM

Cleared Today to be Scheduled for Federal Register Publication

Date: 12/22/2017

Records:14

DCN	Bureau	Title	Synopsis	Type	Approved
REG0007687	BSEE	Oil and Gas and Sulphur Operations on the Outer Continental Shelf - Oil and Gas Production Safety Systems - Revisions	The Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE) proposes to amend the regulations regarding oil and natural gas production to address certain overly burdensome requirements	Proposed Rule	12/22/2017
REG0007740	BIA	Indian Gaming; Approval of an Amendment to a Tribal-State Class III Gaming Compact in the State of Washington	This Notice announces the approval of an amended Tribal-State Compact for Class III Gaming between the Puyallup Indian Tribe and the State of Washington This Compact will take effect upon publication of this Notice	Notice	12/22/2017
REG0007738	BLM	Notice of Temporary Closures: Selected Public Lands in La Paz County, Arizona	The BLM announces temporary closures of certain public lands in La Paz County, Arizona, for the annual GMZ Utility Terrain Vehicle (UTV) "Best in the Desert" races scheduled for January 5-6 and February 2-4, 2018	Notice	12/22/2017
REG0007675	FWS	Proposed Graysmarsh Safe Harbor Agreement for the Taylors Checkerspot Butterfly, Clallam County, Washington	FWS has received from Graysmarsh LLC an application for an enhancement of survival permit under the Endangered Species Act associated with a proposed Safe Harbor Agreement for the Taylor's checkerspot butterfly	Notice	12/22/2017
REG0007677	FWS	Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Threatened Species Status for the Panama City Crayfish	FWS is proposing to list the Panama City crayfish as a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act Designating critical habitat for the Panama City crayfish is prudent but not determinable at this time	Proposed Rule	12/22/2017
REG0007693	FWS	Application for Right of Way Permit for an Ethane Pipeline and Approved Compatibility Determination; San Bernard National Wildlife Refuge	Lavaca Pipeline Company has requested to purchase a 30-foot-wide pipeline easement across a 203-foot-long section of the San Bernard National Wildlife Refuge The right of way (ROW) permit would enable the applicant to install, own, and operate a 16-inch-diameter pipeline to transport ethane gas	Notice	12/22/2017
REG0007694	FWS	Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Initiation of 5-Year Status Reviews for 18 Species in Hawaii, Oregon, Washington, Idaho, and Canada	Region 1 is initiating 5-year reviews for 18 federally listed wildlife and plant species endemic to Hawaii, Oregon, Washington, Idaho, and Canada The purpose of our reviews is to determine whether these species are still appropriately classified under the U S Endangered Species Act	Notice	12/22/2017
REG0007696	FWS	Draft Habitat Conservation Plan for the California Department of Parks and Recreation Oceano Dunes District, San Luis Obispo County, CA; Notice of Intent to Prepare EA or EIS	This Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) is for management and operation of Pismo State Beach and Oceano Dunes State Vehicular Recreation area and would be submitted as part of the application for an incidental take permit for the endangered California least tern and tidewater goby, and threatened western snowy plover and California red-legged frog	Notice	12/22/2017
REG0007723	FWS	Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; 12-month Findings on Petitions to List a Species and Remove a Species from the Federal Lists of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants	FWS has determined that 1) the beaverpond marstonia (a freshwater snail formerly found in Georgia) is not warranted for listing due to extinction; and 2) the Southwestern willow flycatcher (a small migratory bird found in the southwestern United States), currently listed as endangered, is not warranted for delisting	Notice	12/22/2017
REG0007727	FWS	Endangered Species; Marine Mammals; Receipt of Permit Applications	This is a batched notice announcing the receipt by FWS of applications for Endangered Species Act (ESA) and Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) permits	Notice	12/22/2017
REG0007736	FWS	Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Removing the Foskett Speckled Dace From the List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife	FWS proposes to remove the Foskett speckled dace, a fish native to Oregon, from the Federal List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife on the basis of recovery	Proposed Rule	12/22/2017
REG0007739	FWS	Establishment of Discretionary Committee: Hunting and Shooting Sports Conservation Council	The Council provides recommendations to the Federal Government, through the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture, regarding the establishment and implementation of existing and proposed policies and authorities with regard to wildlife and habitat conservation endeavors that:(a) benefit wildlife resources; (b) encourage partnership among the public; sporting conservation organizations; Federal, state, tribal, and territorial governments; and (c) benefit recreational hunting and recreational shooting sports	Notice	12/22/2017
REG0007722	OS	Notice Regarding Upper Klamath Basin Comprehensive Agreement (UKBCA)	This is a "Negative Notice" that the Upper Klamath Basin Comprehensive Agreement (UKBCA) is terminated pursuant to the terms of subsection 10 2 of the Agreement The Agreement was executed by the	Notice	12/22/2017

REG0007719 OSM

Notice of Availability of the Western
Energy Company's Rosebud Mine Area F
Draft Environmental Impact Statement

Klamath Tribes, the State of Oregon, and numerous irrigators in the Upper Klamath Basin
The Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE) announces the availability of a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Western Energy Company's Rosebud Mine Area F in southeastern Montana. The OSMRE jointly prepared the DEIS with the Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and invites public comments over 45 days.

Notice

12/22/2017

From: Lawyer, Mark
To: [Scott Hommel](#); [Downey Magallanes](#); [Lori Mashburn](#); [Jorjani, Daniel](#); [Laura Rigas](#); [Newell, Russell](#)
Cc: [Juliette Lillie](#); [Megan Appar](#); [Kerry Rodgers](#)
Subject: Fwd: Cleared today to be sent to the Federal Register
Date: Wednesday, December 27, 2017 5:05:56 PM

Cleared Today for Federal Register Publication

Date:
 12/27/2017
 Records: 6

DCN	Bureau	Title	Synopsis	Type	Approved
REG0007698	BLM	Notice of Availability of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Converse County Oil and Gas Project, Converse County, Wyoming	The BLM, as the lead Federal agency, and the United States Forest Service (USFS), as a cooperating agency, have prepared a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for a proposal to develop oil and natural gas in Converse County, Wyoming. The BLM seeks public comments over 45 days under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. The BLM announces the availability of an	Notice	12/27/2017
REG0007700	BLM	Notice of Availability of Final Environmental Impact Statement and Notice of Decision for Proposed Land Exchange between the BLM and Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians, California	Abbreviated Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Record of Decision (ROD) approving a proposed land exchange between the BLM and the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians. The Federal and Tribal lands subject to the exchange are within the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument in California.	Notice	12/27/2017
REG0007709	BLM	Notice of Temporary Closure on Public Lands for the Annual King of the Hammers Race, San Bernardino County, CA	The BLM provides notice that certain public lands near Johnson Valley, California, within the Johnson Valley Off-Highway Vehicle Recreation Area will be temporarily closed to all public use to enhance public safety during the annual King of the Hammers desert race authorized under a Special Recreation Permit (SRP). The closure will be in effect from February 2-10, 2018.	Notice	12/27/2017
REG0007683	BOE	Oil Spill Financial Responsibility Adjustment of the Limit of Liability for Offshore Facilities	The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) is adjusting the offshore facility limit of liability for damages under the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 (OPA) to reflect the increase in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) since 2013. Effective 30 days after publication, this final rule will increase the OPA offshore facility limit of liability for damages from \$133.65 million to \$137.6595 million.	Final Rule	12/27/2017
REG0007704	BOE	Availability of World Geodetic System Datum of 1984 Outer Continental Shelf Official Protraction Diagrams	The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) announces the availability of new World Geodetic System Datum of 1984 Outer Continental Shelf Official Protraction Diagrams depicting geographic areas in the Pacific Ocean.	Notice	12/27/2017
REG0007712	FWS	Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Endangered Species Status for Black Warrior Waterdog and Designation of Critical Habitat	This rule will finalize the listing of the Black Warrior waterdog, an aquatic salamander, as an endangered species. The final critical habitat designation includes approximately 420 river miles in Alabama.	Final Rule	12/27/2017

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Mark Lawyer

Deputy Director - Policy and Regulatory Affairs
 Executive Secretariat and Regulatory Affairs
 Office of the Secretary
 Department of the Interior

Email: mark_lawyer@ios.doi.gov
 Voice: (202) 208-5257

Fax: (202) 219-2100

From: Lawyer, Mark
To: [Scott Hommel](#); [Downey Magallanes](#); [Lori Mashburn](#); [Jorjani, Daniel](#); [Laura Rigas](#); [Newell, Russell](#)
Cc: [Juliette Lillie](#)
Subject: Fwd: Cleared today to be sent to the Federal Register
Date: Thursday, December 28, 2017 3:58:24 PM

Cleared Today for Federal Register Publication

Date:
12/28/2017
Records: 2

DCN	Bureau	Title	Synopsis	Type	Approved
REG0007742	BIA	Rate Adjustments for Indian Irrigation Projects	The BIA owns or has an interest in irrigation projects located on or associated with various Indian reservations throughout the United States. We are required to establish irrigation assessment rates to recover the costs to administer, operate, maintain, and rehabilitate these projects.	Notice	12/28/2017
REG0007741	FWS	Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Endangered Species Status for Barrens Topminnow	FWS proposes to list the Barrens topminnow, a freshwater fish from Tennessee, as an endangered species under the Endangered Species Act. Critical habitat is not determinable at this time.	Proposed Rule	12/28/2017

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Mark Lawyer

Deputy Director - Policy and Regulatory Affairs
Executive Secretariat and Regulatory Affairs
Office of the Secretary
Department of the Interior

Email: mark_lawyer@ios.doi.gov
Voice: (202) 208-5257

Fax: (202) 219-2100

From: Lawyer, Mark
To: [Scott Hommel](#); [Downey Magallanes](#); [Lori Mashburn](#); [Jorjani, Daniel](#); [Laura Rigas](#); [Newell, Russell](#)
Cc: [Juliette Lillie](#)
Subject: Fwd: Cleared today to be sent to the Federal Register
Date: Tuesday, January 02, 2018 4:56:56 PM

Cleared Today for Federal Register Publication

Date:
01/02/2018
Records: 2

DCN	Bureau	Title	Synopsis	Type	Approved
REG0007755	BIA	Rincon Band of Luiseño Mission Indians of the Rincon Reservation; Amendments to Rincon Alcohol Control Ordinance	This Notice publishes comprehensive amendments to the Rincon Band of Luiseño Mission Indians of the Rincon Reservation's Rincon Alcohol Control Ordinance (Tribal Code section 7 400) The Ordinance amends and supersedes the existing Ordinance No 99-01, enacted on June 13, 2000	Notice	01/02/2018
REG0007674	BOE	Notice of Availability of the 2019-2024 National Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Program and Notice of Intent to Prepare a Programmatic EIS	BOEM announces the availability of the Draft Proposed Program (DPP) for the 2019-2024 Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Program BOEM also announces that it will prepare a Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) for the Program and initiates the scoping process BOEM requests comments on the DPP or the PEIS scope over 60 days	Notice	01/02/2018

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Mark Lawyer

Deputy Director - Policy and Regulatory Affairs
Executive Secretariat and Regulatory Affairs
Office of the Secretary
Department of the Interior

Email: mark_lawyer@ios.doi.gov
Voice: (202) 208-5257

Fax: (202) 219-2100

From: Lawyer, Mark
To: [Scott Hommel](#); [Downey Magallanes](#); [Lori Mashburn](#); [Jorjani, Daniel](#); [Laura Rigas](#); [Newell, Russell](#)
Cc: [Juliette Lillie](#)
Subject: Fwd: Cleared today to be sent to the Federal Register
Date: Wednesday, January 03, 2018 5:41:53 PM

Cleared Today for Federal Register Publication

Date:
01/03/2018
Records: 5

DCN	Bureau	Title	Synopsis	Type	Approved
REG0007706	FWS	Species Proposals for Consideration at the Eighteenth Regular Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora	This Federal Register notice requests information and recommendations on animal and plant species that should be considered as candidates for U S proposals to amend Appendices I and II of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES, or the Convention) at the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP18), which is tentatively scheduled to take place in May 2019	Notice	01/03/2018
REG0007725	FWS	Foreign Endangered and Threatened Species; Receipt of Permit Applications (Smithsonian)	This is a batched notice announcing the receipt by FWS of applications for Endangered Species Act (ESA) permits	Notice	01/03/2018
REG0007751	FWS	Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Taxonomical Update for Orangutan	FWS is revising the List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife to reflect the current scientifically accepted taxonomy and nomenclature of the orangutan	Final Rule	01/03/2018
REG0007752	FWS	Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Removal of the Monito Gecko (Sphaerodactylus micropithecus) From the Federal List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife	FWS proposes to remove the Monito gecko from the Federal List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife due to recovery	Proposed Rule	01/03/2018
REG0007747	NPS	Rights of Way; Removal of Reference to Outdated Environmental Criteria	This rule removes an outdated reference to a document establishing environmental criteria for electric transmissions lines that is no longer used by the NPS to evaluate applications for right-of-way permits	Final Rule	01/03/2018

--

Mark Lawyer

Deputy Director - Policy and Regulatory Affairs
Executive Secretariat and Regulatory Affairs
Office of the Secretary
Department of the Interior

Email: mark_lawyer@ios.doi.gov
Voice: (202) 208-5257

Fax: (202) 219-2100

From: Lawyer, Mark
To: [Scott Hommel](#); [Downey Magallanes](#); [Lori Mashburn](#); [Jorjani, Daniel](#); [Laura Rigas](#); [Newell, Russell](#)
Cc: [Juliette Lillie](#)
Subject: Fwd: Cleared today to be sent to the Federal Register
Date: Thursday, January 04, 2018 5:02:07 PM

Cleared Today for Federal Register Publication

Date:
01/04/2018
Records: 3

DCN	Bureau	Title	Synopsis	Type	Approved
REG0007732	NPS	Notice of Inventory Completion: Peabody Museum of Natural History, Yale University, New Haven, CT N2893	This is a Notice pursuant to the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) of the completion of an inventory of human remains under the control of the Peabody Museum of Natural History at Yale University in New Haven, Connecticut. The remains were removed from the Arikaree Fork of the Republican River in Cheyenne County, Kansas, prior to 1871.	Notice	01/04/2018
REG0007760	NPS	National Park System Advisory Board; Charter Renewal	This Notice announces the charter renewal for the National Park System Advisory Board.	Notice	01/04/2018
REG0007627	USGS	Agency Information Collection Activities; Submission to the Office of Management and Budget for Review and Approval; Current and Future Landsat User Requirements	This Notice, under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA), announces that the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) will ask the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to approve a new collection of information pertaining to current and future Landsat user requirements. The USGS is requesting public comments on the renewal for 30 days.	Notice	01/04/2018

--

Mark Lawyer

Deputy Director - Policy and Regulatory Affairs
Executive Secretariat and Regulatory Affairs
Office of the Secretary
Department of the Interior

Email: mark_lawyer@ios.doi.gov
Voice: (202) 208-5257

Fax: (202) 219-2100

From: Lawyer, Mark
To: [Scott Hommel](#); [Downey Magallanes](#); [Lori Mashburn](#); [Jorjani, Daniel](#); [Laura Rigas](#); [Newell, Russell](#)
Cc: [Juliette Lillie](#)
Subject: Fwd: Cleared today to be sent to the Federal Register
Date: Friday, January 05, 2018 4:11:27 PM

Cleared Today for Federal Register Publication

Date:
01/05/2018
Records: 3

DCN	Bureau	Title	Synopsis	Type	Approved
REG0007750	FWS	Marine Mammal Protection Act; Stock Assessment Report for the Northern Sea Otter in Washington	This notice announces the availability of the draft revised Washington northern sea otter Stock Assessment Report The SAR is primarily used for the management of fisheries	Notice	01/05/2018
REG0007756	FWS	Subsistence Management Regulations for Public Lands in Alaska--2017-18 and 2018-19 Subsistence Taking of Fish Regulations	This final rule establishes regulations for seasons, harvest limits, methods, and means related to taking of fish for subsistence uses in Alaska during the 2017 to 2018 and 2018 to 2019 regulatory years	Final Rule	01/05/2018
REG0007594	OS	Notice of Public Meeting: U S Coral Reef Task Force	The U S Coral Reef Task Force is scheduled to meet on February 22, 2018 at the Main Interior Building	Notice	01/05/2018

--

Mark Lawyer

Deputy Director - Policy and Regulatory Affairs
Executive Secretariat and Regulatory Affairs
Office of the Secretary
Department of the Interior

Email: mark_lawyer@ios.doi.gov
Voice: (202) 208-5257

Fax: (202) 219-2100

From: Lawyer, Mark
To: [Scott Hommel](#); [Downey Magallanes](#); [Jorjani, Daniel](#); [Lori Mashburn](#); [Todd Willens](#); [Laura Rigas](#); [Newell, Russell](#)
Cc: [Juliette Lillie](#); [Megan Apgar](#); [Kerry Rodgers](#)
Subject: Fwd: Cleared today to be sent to the Federal Register
Date: Tuesday, January 09, 2018 4:03:47 PM

Cleared Today for Federal Register Publication

Date:
 01/09/2018
 Records: 5

DCN	Bureau	Title	Synopsis	Type	Approved
REG0007782	BIA	The Chickasaw Nation; Amendments to Title 3, Chapter 2 (the Beverage Control Act of 2007), and Title 5, Chapter 15, of the Chickasaw Nation Code	This Federal Register notice publishes amendments to the Chickasaw Nation liquor code	Notice	01/09/2018
REG0007772	BLM	Agency Information Collection Activities; Submission to the Office of Management and Budget for Review and Approval; Onshore Oil and Gas Operations and Production	This Notice, under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA), announces that the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) will ask the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to renew its approval of the collection of information pertaining to Onshore Oil and Gas Operations and Production (43 CFR parts 3160 and 3170) The BLM is requesting public comments on the renewal for 30 days	Notice	01/09/2018
REG0007773	BLM	Agency Information Collection Activities; Conveyance of Federally-Owned Mineral Interests	This Notice, under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA), announces that the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) will ask the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to renew its approval of the collection of information for the Conveyance of Federally-Owned Mineral Interests The BLM is requesting public comments on the renewal for 60 days	Notice	01/09/2018
REG0007774	BLM	Agency Information Collection Activities; Cave Management: Cave Nominations and Requests for Confidential Information	This Notice, under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA), announces that the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) will ask the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to renew its approval of the collection of information pertaining to Cave Management with revisions The BLM is requesting public comments on the renewal for 60 days	Notice	01/09/2018
REG0007775	OS	Agency Information Collection Activities; Documenting, Managing and Preserving DOI Museum Collections Housed in Non-Federal Repositories	This Notice, under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA), announces that the Office of the Secretary (OS) will ask the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to renew its approval of the collection of information pertaining to Documenting, Managing and Preserving DOI Museum Collections Housed in Non-Federal Repositories The OS is requesting public comments on the renewal for 60 days	Notice	01/09/2018

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Mark Lawyer

Deputy Director - Policy and Regulatory Affairs
 Executive Secretariat and Regulatory Affairs
 Office of the Secretary
 Department of the Interior

Email: mark_lawyer@ios.doi.gov
 Voice: (202) 208-5257

Fax: (202) 219-2100

From: Lawyer, Mark
To: [Scott Hommel](#); [Downey Magallanes](#); [Jorjani, Daniel](#); [Lori Mashburn](#); [Todd Willens](#); [Laura Rigas](#); [Newell, Russell](#)
Cc: [Juliette Lillie](#)
Subject: Fwd: Cleared today to be sent to the Federal Register
Date: Wednesday, January 10, 2018 5:36:08 PM

Cleared Today for Federal Register Publication

Date:
01/10/2018
Records: 1

DCN	Bureau	Title	Synopsis	Type	Approved
REG0007776	BIA	Indian Gaming; Approval of an Amendment to a Tribal-State Gaming Compact in the State of Nevada	This Notice announces the approval of the First Amended Compact between the Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California and the State of Nevada governing Class III gaming. The amended compact will take effect upon publication of this Notice.	Notice	01/10/2018

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Mark Lawyer

Deputy Director - Policy and Regulatory Affairs
Executive Secretariat and Regulatory Affairs
Office of the Secretary
Department of the Interior

Email: mark_lawyer@ios.doi.gov
Voice: (202) 208-5257

Fax: (202) 219-2100

From: Lawyer, Mark
 To: [Scott Hommel](#); [Downey Magallanes](#); [Jorjani, Daniel](#); [Todd Willens](#); [Lori Mashburn](#); [Laura Rigas](#); [Newell, Russell](#)
 Cc: [Juliette Lillie](#); [Megan Appgar](#); [Kerry Rodgers](#)
 Subject: Fwd: Cleared today to be sent to the Federal Register
 Date: Friday, January 12, 2018 4:24:48 PM

Cleared Today for Federal Register Publication

Date:
 01/12/2018
 Records: 9

DCN	Bureau	Title	Synopsis	Type	Approved
REG0007777	BIA	Indian Gaming; Tribal-State Class III Gaming Compacts Taking Effect in the State of California	This Notice announces that nine Tribal-State Class III Gaming Compacts entered into between the Dry Creek Band of Pomo Indians, the Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria, the Morongo Band of Mission Indians, the Quechan Tribe of the Fort Yuma Indian Reservation, the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians, the Tule River Indian Tribe of the Tule River Indian Reservation, the Tuolumne Band of Me-Wuk Indians of the Tuolumne Rancheria of California, the United Auburn Indian Community of the Auburn Rancheria of California, and the Wilton Rancheria, respectively, and the State of California are taking effect upon publication of this Notice	Notice	01/12/2018
REG0007633	BLM	Notice of Application for a Recordable Disclaimer of Interest: New Mexico	The BLM received an application for a Recordable Disclaimer of Interest (RDI) in the surface estate of certain lands in Ojo Caliente, New Mexico, from Eric Oppenheimer/The Simmons Firm. The BLM intends to grant the RDI. The BLM invites public comments for 90 days, after which time it may grant the RDI.	Notice	01/12/2018
REG0007787	BSEE	Oil and Gas and Sulfur Operations on the Outer Continental Shelf - Civil Penalty Inflation Adjustment	This final rule adjusts the level of the maximum civil monetary penalty contained in the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE) regulations pursuant to the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (OCSLA), the Federal Civil Penalties Inflation Adjustment Act Improvements Act of 2015, and Office of Management and Budget (OMB) guidance. The civil penalty inflation adjustment using a 1.02041 multiplier accounts for one year of inflation spanning from October 2016 to October 2017.	Final Rule	01/12/2018
REG0007749	FWS	Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Removing Eastern Puma (=cougar) from the Federal List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife	The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is removing this subspecies from the Federal List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife due to extinction.	Final Rule	01/12/2018
REG0007778	FWS	Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Incidental Take Permit Application, Habitat Conservation Plan for Skink Species, and Environmental Assessment for Roadway Relocation in Polk County, FL	Cemex Construction Materials Florida has applied for an incidental take permit under the Endangered Species Act. The HCP and EA related to the application are available for public review and comment.	Notice	01/12/2018
REG0007764	ONRR	Inflation Adjustments to Civil Monetary Penalties for Calendar Year 2018	ONRR publishes this final rule to increase maximum civil monetary penalty rates for inflation occurring between October 2016 and October 2017.	Final Rule	01/12/2018
REG0007765	ONRR	Repeal of Regulatory Amendment and Restoration of Office of Natural Resources Revenue's Former Regulatory Language Governing Service of Official Correspondence	The Office of Natural Resources Revenue (ONRR) publishes this rule to repeal a 2013 direct final rule and restore the former regulatory language governing service of official correspondence.	Final Rule	01/12/2018
REG0007766	ONRR	States' Decisions on Participating in Accounting and Auditing Relief for Federal Oil and Gas Marginal Properties	ONRR regulations provide two types of accounting and auditing relief for Federal onshore or Outer Continental Shelf lease production from marginal properties. This notice announces the States' decision to participate in accounting and auditing relief for Federal oil and gas marginal properties.	Notice	01/12/2018
REG0007707	OSM	Alabama Regulatory Program (SATS No AL-082-FOR)	The Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE) announces receipt of a proposed amendment to the Alabama regulatory program under the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 (SMCRA). The OSMRE will accept public comments on the proposed amendment over 30 days and will accept requests to speak at a public hearing over 15 days.	Proposed Rule	01/12/2018

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Mark Lawyer

Deputy Director - Policy and Regulatory Affairs
 Executive Secretariat and Regulatory Affairs
 Office of the Secretary
 Department of the Interior

Email: mark_lawyer@ios.doi.gov
 Voice: (202) 208-5257

Fax: (202) 219-2100

From: Lawyer, Mark
To: [Scott Hommel](#); [Downey Magallanes](#); [Jorjani, Daniel](#); [Todd Willens](#); [Laura Rigas](#); [Newell, Russell](#); [Lori Mashburn](#)
Cc: [Juliette Lillie](#); [Megan Apgar](#); [Kerry Rodgers](#)
Subject: Fwd: Cleared today to be sent to the Federal Register
Date: Tuesday, January 16, 2018 5:31:24 PM

Cleared Today for Federal Register Publication

Date:
01/16/2018
Records: 1

DCN	Bureau	Title	Synopsis	Type	Approved
REG0007792	NPS	National Register of Historic Places, December 23, 2017	The NPS is soliciting comments on the significance of properties nominated before December 23, 2017, for listing in the National Register of Historic Places or related actions	Notice	01/16/2018

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Mark Lawyer

Deputy Director - Policy and Regulatory Affairs
Executive Secretariat and Regulatory Affairs
Office of the Secretary
Department of the Interior

Email: mark_lawyer@ios.doi.gov
Voice: (202) 208-5257

Fax: (202) 219-2100

From: Lawyer, Mark
To: [Scott Hommel](#); [Downey Magallanes](#); [Jorjani, Daniel](#); [Todd Willens](#); [Lori Mashburn](#); [Laura Rigas](#); [Newell, Russell](#)
Cc: [Juliette Lillie](#); [Megan Apgar](#); [Kerry Rodgers](#)
Subject: Fwd: Cleared today to be sent to the Federal Register
Date: Wednesday, January 17, 2018 5:25:59 PM

Cleared Today for Federal Register Publication

Date:
 01/17/2018
 Records: 7

DCN	Bureau	Title	Synopsis	Type	Approved
REG0007793	BIA	Agency Information Collection Activities; Submission to the Office of Management and Budget for Review and Approval; Verification of Indian Preference for Employment in BIA and IHS	This Notice, under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA), announces that the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) will ask the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to renew its approval of the collection of information regarding the verification of Indian preference for employment. The BIA is requesting public comments on the renewal for 30 days.	Notice	01/17/2018
REG0007794	BIA	Agency Information Collection Activities; Submission to the OMB for Review and Approval; Application for Admission to Haskell Indian Nations University and to Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute	This Notice, under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA), announces that the Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) will ask the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to renew its approval of the collection of information pertaining to the application forms for admission to Haskell Indian Nations University and to Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute (SIPI). The BIE is requesting public comments on the renewal for 30 days.	Notice	01/17/2018
REG0007795	BIA	Agency Information Collection Activities; Bureau of Indian Education Adult Education Program	This Notice, under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, announces that the Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) will ask the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to renew its approval of the collection of information for the BIE Adult Education Program. The BIE is requesting public comments on the renewal for 60 days.	Notice	01/17/2018
REG0007796	BIA	Agency Information Collection Activities; Sovereignty in Indian Education Grant Program	This Notice, under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, announces that the Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) will ask the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to renew its approval of the collection of information for the Sovereignty in Indian Education Grant Program. The BIE is requesting public comments on the renewal for 60 days.	Notice	01/17/2018
REG0007779	BLM	Notice of Public Meetings: Boise District Resource Advisory Council	The Boise District Resource Advisory Council is scheduled to meet on January 30, 2018, and April 4, 2018.	Notice	01/17/2018
REG0007785	BLM	Notice of Application for Recordable Disclaimer of Interest in Lands, Bingham County, Idaho	This Notice announces that the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has received an application from Claire Rich Blakely for a Recordable Disclaimer of Interest (RDI) from the United States affecting an approximately 56-acre unsurveyed parcel along the upper Snake River in Idaho. The BLM invites comments on the pending application over 90 days.	Notice	01/17/2018
REG0007789	BLM	Agency Information Collection Activities; Submission to the Office of Management and Budget for Review and Approval; Use and Occupancy under the Mining Laws	This Notice, under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA), announces that the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) will ask the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to renew its approval of the collection of information pertaining to Use and Occupancy under the Mining Laws. The BLM is requesting public comments on the renewal for 30 days.	Notice	01/17/2018

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Mark Lawyer

Deputy Director - Policy and Regulatory Affairs
 Executive Secretariat and Regulatory Affairs
 Office of the Secretary
 Department of the Interior

Email: mark_lawyer@ios.doi.gov
 Voice: (202) 208-5257

Fax: (202) 219-2100

From: Apgar, Megan
To: [Scott Hommel](#); [Downey Magallanes](#); [Jorjani, Daniel](#); [Todd Willens](#); [Lori Mashburn](#); [Laura Rigas](#); [Newell, Russell](#)
Cc: [Lillie, Juliette](#); [Kerry Rodgers](#); [Mark Lawyer](#)
Subject: Fwd: Cleared today to be sent to the Federal Register
Date: Thursday, January 18, 2018 4:29:01 PM

Cleared Today for Federal Register Publication

Date:
01/18/2018
Records: 1

DCN	Bureau	Title	Synopsis	Type	Approved
REG0007801	BLM	Agency Information Collection Activities; Oil and Gas, or Geothermal Resources: Transfers and Assignments	This Notice, under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA), announces that the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) will ask the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to renew its approval of the collection of information entitled Oil, Gas, and Geothermal Resources: Transfers and Assignments. The BLM is requesting public comments on the renewal for 60 days.	Notice	01/18/2018

Thanks,
Megan Apgar
Executive Secretariat and Regulatory Affairs
Office of the Secretary
Department of the Interior
office: (202) 208-4582

From: Juliette Lillie
To: lori_mashburn@ios.doi.gov; Hommel.Scott@ios.doi.gov; downey_magallanes@ios.doi.gov; jorjani.Daniel@ios.doi.gov
Subject: Fwd: Cleared today to be sent to the Federal Register - UPDATED
Date: Friday, October 27, 2017 6:07:39 PM

Good evening Below are the documents cleared today for the FR

Juliette Lillie
Director Executive Secretariat and Regulatory Affairs
U S Department of the Interior
1849 C St NW
Washington DC 20240

PH: 202-219-7724

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Rodgers, Kerry" <kerry_rodgers@ios.doi.gov>
Date: October 27, 2017 at 5:20:52 PM EDT
To: Juliette Lillie <juliette_lillie@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: "Lawyer, Mark" <mark_lawyer@ios.doi.gov>, Megan Apgar <megan_apgar@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Cleared today to be sent to the Federal Register - UPDATED

Cleared Today for Federal Register Publication

Date:
10/27/2017
Records: 4

DCN	Bureau	Title	Synopsis	Type	Approved
REG0007480	NPS	NIC - U S Fish and Wildlife Service, Alaska Region, Anchorage, AK N2857	This is a Notice of Inventory Completion pursuant to the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) of an inventory of human remains and associated funerary objects under the control of the Alaska Region, U S Fish and Wildlife Service The human remains and associated funerary objects were recovered from Kodiak Island Borough, Alaska	Notice	10/27/2017
REG0007481	NPS	NIC - U S Department of the Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Washington, DC N2860	This is a Notice pursuant to the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA), 25 U S C 3003 of the completion of an inventory of human remains and associated funerary objects under the control of the U S Department of the Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Washington, DC The Human remains and associated funerary objects were removed from a site in the southern portion of the Blackfeet Indian Reservation of Montana, Glacier County, MT	Notice	10/27/2017
REG0007570	NPS	National Register of Historic Places, October 14, 2017	The NPS is soliciting comments on the significance of properties nominated before October 14, 2017, for listing in the National Register of Historic Places or related actions	Notice	10/27/2017
REG0007566	ONRR	Cancellation Meeting Notice: U S Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative Multi-Stakeholder Group Advisory Committee	Meeting is scheduled for November 15-16, 2017	Notice	10/27/2017

Kerry E Rodgers
Management Analyst, Policy and Regulatory Affairs
Executive Secretariat and Regulatory Affairs
Office of the Secretary
U S Department of the Interior
Phone (202) 513-0705
E-mail: kerry_rodgers@ios.doi.gov

From: Juliette Lillie
To: lori_mashburn@ios.doi.gov; Hommel.Scott@downey_magallanes@ios.doi.gov; lorjani.Daniel@ios.doi.gov
Subject: Fwd: Cleared today to go to the Federal Register
Date: Friday, October 20, 2017 6:26:04 PM

Good evening Below are the FR documents that cleared today

Juliette Lillie
 Director Executive Secretariat and Regulatory Affairs
 U S Department of the Interior
 1849 C St NW
 Washington DC 20240

PH: 202-219-7724

Cleared Today for Federal Register Publication

Date:
 10/20/2017
 Records: 5

DCN	Bureau	Title	Synopsis	Type	Approved
REG0007512	BLM	Notice of National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska Oil and Gas Lease Sale 2017	This Notice announces that the BLM Alaska State Office will hold an oil and gas lease sale bid opening for available tracts in the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska (NPR-A) on December 6, 2017. The opening and the reading of bids will be available for public viewing via video livestreaming.	Notice	10/20/2017
REG0007533	BOE	Notice of Availability of the Proposed Notice of Sale for Gulf of Mexico Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Region-wide Lease Sale 250	BOEM announces the availability of the Proposed Notice of Sale (NOS) for the proposed Gulf of Mexico (GOM) Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Oil and Gas Lease Sale 250. BOEM invites affected States to comment on the proposed lease sale within 60 days of their receipt of the Proposed NOS.	Notice	10/20/2017
REG0007548	NPS	National Register of Historic Places, October 7, 2017	The NPS is soliciting comments on the significance of properties nominated before October 7, 2017, for listing in the National Register of Historic Places or related actions.	Notice	10/20/2017
REG0007554	NPS	National Register of Historic Places, September 30, 2017	The NPS is soliciting comments on the significance of properties nominated before September 30, 2017, for listing in the National Register of Historic Places or related actions.	Notice	10/20/2017
REG0007555	NPS	Agency Information Collection Activities; Submission to the Office of Management and Budget for Review and Approval; Procedures for State, Tribal, and Local Government Historic Preservation Programs	This Notice, under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, announces that the National Park Service (NPS) will ask the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to renew its approval of the collection of information pertaining to the Procedures for State, Tribal, and Local Government Historic Preservation Programs (36 CFR part 61). The NPS is requesting public comments on the renewal for 30 days.	Notice	10/20/2017

From: Mashburn, Lori
To: [Natalie Davis](mailto:Natalie.Davis)
Subject: Fwd: Cleared today to go to the Federal Register
Date: Monday, October 23, 2017 11:02:12 AM

Lori K. Mashburn
White House Liaison
Department of the Interior
202 208 1694

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Juliette Lillie** <juliette_lillie@ios.doi.gov>
Date: Fri, Oct 20, 2017 at 6:26 PM
Subject: Fwd: Cleared today to go to the Federal Register
To: lori_mashburn@ios.doi.gov, [Hommel Scott <scott_hommel@ios.doi.gov>](mailto:Hommel.Scott@ios.doi.gov), downey_magallanes@ios.doi.gov, [Jorjani Daniel <daniel_jorjani@sol.doi.gov>](mailto:Jorjani.Daniel@sol.doi.gov)

Good evening Below are the FR documents that cleared today

Juliette Lillie
Director Executive Secretariat and Regulatory Affairs
U.S. Department of the Interior
[1849 C St NW](http://1849.C.St.NW)
[Washington DC 20240](http://Washington.DC.20240)
[PH: 202-219-7724](tel:202-219-7724)

Cleared Today for Federal Register Publication

Date:
10/20/2017
Records: 5

DCN	Bureau	Title	Synopsis	Type	Approved
REG0007512	BLM	Notice of National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska Oil and Gas Lease Sale 2017	This Notice announces that the BLM Alaska State Office will hold an oil and gas lease sale bid opening for available tracts in the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska (NPR-A) on December 6, 2017. The opening and the reading of bids will be available for public viewing via video livestreaming.	Notice	10/20/2017
REG0007533	BOE	Notice of Availability of the Proposed Notice of Sale for Gulf of Mexico Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Region-wide Lease Sale 250	BOEM announces the availability of the Proposed Notice of Sale (NOS) for the proposed Gulf of Mexico (GOM) Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Oil and Gas Lease Sale 250. BOEM invites affected States to comment on the proposed lease sale within 60 days of their receipt of the Proposed NOS.	Notice	10/20/2017
REG0007548	NPS	National Register of Historic Places, October 7, 2017	The NPS is soliciting comments on the significance of properties nominated before October 7, 2017, for listing in the National Register of Historic Places or related actions.	Notice	10/20/2017
REG0007554	NPS	National Register of Historic Places, September 30, 2017	The NPS is soliciting comments on the significance of properties nominated before September 30, 2017, for listing in the National Register of Historic Places or related actions.	Notice	10/20/2017
REG0007555	NPS	Agency Information Collection Activities; Submission to the Office of Management and Budget for Review and Approval; Procedures for State, Tribal, and Local Government Historic Preservation Programs	This Notice, under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, announces that the National Park Service (NPS) will ask the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to renew its approval of the collection of information pertaining to the Procedures for State, Tribal, and Local Government Historic Preservation Programs (36 CFR part 61). The NPS is requesting public comments on the renewal for 30 days.	Notice	10/20/2017

From: Mashburn, Lori
To: b - 6 Matthew Flynn
Subject: Fwd: Department of the Interior Releases Energy Burdens Report
Date: Wednesday, October 25, 2017 5:03:12 PM

FYI

Lori K. Mashburn
White House Liaison
Department of the Interior
202.208.1694

----- Forwarded message -----

From: U.S. Department of the Interior <interior_news@updates.interior.gov>
Date: Wed, Oct 25, 2017 at 4:52 PM
Subject: Department of the Interior Releases Energy Burdens Report
To: lori_mashburn@ios.doi.gov

news release



Date: October 25, 2017
Contact: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

Department of the Interior Releases Energy Burdens Report

Outlines Trump Administration's bold approach to achieving American energy dominance

WASHINGTON – Today, the U.S. Department of the Interior released the "[Review of the Department of the Interior Actions that Potentially Burden Domestic Energy](#)" report which was produced in response to Executive Order 13783. The report identified agency actions that potentially burden the development or use of domestically produced energy resources, with particular attention to oil, natural gas, coal, and nuclear energy resources. Interior oversees America's oil, gas, coal, hydropower, and renewable energy resources produced on federal lands and waters, which account for almost one-fifth of the Nation's energy and generate on average \$10 billion per year in annual revenue. Today, Secretary Zinke also signed [Secretarial Order 3358](#), that will establish the Executive Committee for Expedited Permitting.

“Developing our energy resources to grow our economy and protecting the environment are not mutually exclusive. However, while conducting the review outlined in the Executive Order, we found that several costly and burdensome regulations from the past threaten that

balance by hampering the production or transmission of our domestic energy,” **said U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke**. “Our public lands are meant to be managed for the benefit of the people. That means a multiple-use approach where appropriate and making sure that multiple-use includes energy development under reasonable regulations. Following President Trump’s leadership, Interior is fostering domestic energy production by streamlining permitting and revising and repealing Obama-era job killing regulations – all while doing so in an environmentally responsible way.”

“The federal government can and must be a better business partner,” **Vincent DeVito, Counselor to the Secretary for Energy Policy, said**. “Secretary Zinke’s bold approach to achieving American energy dominance is making our nation freer, more secure, and more prosperous. Regulations should not unnecessarily burden energy production, but that is what occurs in many cases. The recent actions outlined in this energy report show how Interior is rolling back some of these burdensome regulations that add little or no value, while promoting responsible energy development.”

The report identified a number of burdens that specifically impede the production and transportation of energy resources, including, but not limited to:

- **Obama-Era 5-Year Program** Under the last Administration, 94% of the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) was put off-limits from leasing, having an adverse effect on jobs and energy dominance, while drastically reducing access to future revenue.
 - Trump Administration Action: [Secretarial Order 3350, America-First Offshore Energy Strategy](#) started the process of developing a new 5-Year Program to responsibly develop the OCS and generate much-needed revenue.
- **Federal Coal Leasing Moratorium (Secretarial Order 3338, Discretionary Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement to Modernize the Federal Coal Program)** Nearly 40% of our nation's coal comes from public lands. The 2016 coal moratorium undermines American energy security, inhibits job creation, and reduces revenues to state and local governments.
 - Action: [Secretarial Order 3348, Concerning the Federal Coal Moratorium](#) repealed the Obama-era moratorium on new federal coal leases.
- **Hydraulic Fracturing on Federal and Indian Lands Rule** The compliance costs of the existing 2015 rule on hydraulic fracturing are not justified. All 32 states with federal oil and gas leases and some tribes currently have laws or regulations that address hydraulic fracturing operations.
 - Action: [Secretarial Order 3349: American Energy Independence](#) put the rule under review. The BLM published a rulemaking to rescind the rule on July 25th.
- **Waste Prevention, Production Subject to Royalties, and Resource Conservation AKA the Venting and Flaring Rule** The rule imposes a substantial burden on industry, especially for marginal well production in energy-rich states like New Mexico, particularly the requirements that are set to become effective on January 17, 2018.
 - Action: [Secretarial Order 3349: American Energy Independence](#) put the rules under review for subsequent action by the Department. On October 5, 2017, the BLM issued a proposed rule to temporarily suspend certain requirements of the rule. The BLM is also actively reviewing the underlying regulation for potential revision.

- **Unnecessarily lengthy NEPA reviews delay projects** The NEPA process has added extra time and analysis to project completion, which adds to uncertainty for industry and higher costs for taxpayers. This is particularly true for Departmental actions that impact energy and infrastructure projects, such as resource management planning, permitting, and issuance of rights-of-way for pipeline projects and electricity transmission.

 - Actions: The Department has identified a number of rules and regulations to revise or rescind such as the Master Leasing Plans, the NEPA Compliance for Oil and Gas Lease Reinstatement Petitions, and the Sage-Grouse Resource Management Plans. In addition, the Deputy Secretary issued an August memo setting a deadline of one year and limiting EIS statements to 150 pages or 300 pages for unusually complex projects.

- **Holding energy producers hostage via Compensatory Mitigation (Secretarial Order 3330)** Current compensatory mitigation policies have reduced predictability, created conflicts, and unnecessarily increased permitting/authorization timelines. Additionally, industry stakeholders believe the mitigation planning goal exceeds statutory authority. Currently, Interior and its bureaus lack a consistent terminology and framework for mitigation.

 - Action: [Secretarial Order 3349: American Energy Independence](#) reexamined the use of mitigation policies and practices in order to better balance conservation strategies and job creation. Bureaus at the Interior will review various handbooks and manuals on the use of mitigation for energy and infrastructure projects.

- **Systematic delays in the leasing program and permitting process** The long period from when acreage is first nominated to when those acres are offered at a lease sale, as well as delays between the lease sale date and when leases are awarded reduces industry certainty and hinders states from receiving their share of lease sale revenues. These delays have rendered industry less able to plan for and execute exploration and production strategies in a timely fashion, and less able to respond effectively to changing market conditions.

 - Action: [Secretarial Order 3354 Supporting and Improving the Federal Onshore Oil and Gas Leasing Program and Federal Solid Mineral Leasing Program](#). Secretarial Order 3358 to form a permit expediting committee. In January 2017 there were 92 vacancies in key positions related to the permitting process. Since that time this administration has filled nearly half of those positions. The BLM is also modernizing the software used to track and coordinate permitting while seeking to add regional teams that will be able to greatly streamline the permitting process. So far this year the BLM has decreased their processing time for APDs by an average of 46 days.

- **Endangered Species Act** The Endangered Species Act (ESA) is taken into consideration for both on- and offshore energy and infrastructure projects. It has far-reaching negative impacts on energy production and transmission as well as on critical infrastructure projects. ESA abuses have led to increased costs and delays on projects.

 - Action: [Secretarial Order 3353: Greater Sage-Grouse Conservation and Cooperation with Western States](#) Work with the Western Governors Association and other local partners to develop recommendations to improve the application of the ESA. Launch a review of ESA regulations and policy documents regarding outdated, unnecessary, ineffective, and inconsistently aligned with Executive and Secretarial Orders.

The report also detailed extensive action taken to advance American Energy Dominance at the Department of the Interior, including, but not limited to:

- [Secretarial Order 3351: Strengthening the Department of the Interior's Energy Portfolio](#)
- [Secretarial Order 3352: National Petroleum Reserve - Alaska](#)
- [Secretarial Order 3353: Greater Sage-Grouse Conservation and Cooperation with Western States](#)
- Reestablishing the Royalty Policy Committee to ensure the public continues to receive the full value of energy produced on federal lands.
- Review, repeal, and rewriting of the following rules: the BSEE Well Control and BOP Rules, the ONRR Valuation Rule, and the OSMRE Stream Protection Rule.

###



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This email was sent to lori_mashburn@ios.doi.gov by: U.S. Department of the Interior · 1849 C Street, N.W. · Washington DC 20240 · 202-208-3100



From: Scott Talbott
To: [Mashburn, Lori](mailto:Mashburn.Lori)
Subject: Fwd: Director Talbott Refuses to meet with Tribal Groups after saying yes
Date: Monday, July 17, 2017 9:38:23 AM

Lori,

I tried to reach you this morning to visit about this situation and provide an update. I called Mr. Dobson personally last night to clear all of the confusion in this situation and plan to visit with him today. Please let me know if you have any questions and I will let you know how my conversation with him later today goes.

Hope all is well.

Scott

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Aurelia Skipwith <aurelia_skipwith@ios.doi.gov>
Date: Sun, Jul 16, 2017 at 4:47 PM
Subject: Re: Director Talbott Refuses to meet with Tribal Groups after saying yes
To: Scott Talbott <scott.talbott@wyo.gov>

Hi Scott,

I think you need to be touch with Lori about this.

Aurelia Skipwith
Deputy Assistant Secretary
for Fish and Wildlife and Parks

U.S. Department of Interior
1849 C Street NW, Room 3148
Washington, DC 20240
[202-208-5837](tel:202-208-5837)

On Jul 16, 2017, at 4:41 PM, Scott Talbott <scott.talbott@wyo.gov> wrote:

Aurelia,

I am not sure where this will go but wanted to keep you updated as per our conversations last week.

Hope all is well.

Scott

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Protect The Wolves <protectthewolves9765@gmail.com>
Date: Fri, Jul 14, 2017 at 2:27 PM
Subject: Director Talbott Refuses to meet with Tribal Groups after saying yes
To: scott.talbott@wyo.gov

Director Talbott,

We find it very disturbing that after you said yes, knowing the participants we were bringing, that you'd do a 180 degree flip 3 days before the meeting and say no, after Our People have changed plans to fit this Important Religious Meeting in regarding our Sacred Resources.

It is blatant discrimination against the Native American People for you to allow our Sacred Wildlife to be called Vermin and you should be ashamed of yourself!! This petition is not a public comment!! it is a formal petition to change Wyoming Hunting Regulations. Do not try or attempt to make it into something that it is not please. Attached is a copy of the Press Release We are sending out!

Regards

Roger Dobson Director Protect The Wolves Pack

Patricia Herman President Protect The Wolves™

[208-571-0520](tel:208-571-0520)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: July 14th, 2017

Director Talbot refuses to meet with Tribal Groups

put together by Protect The Wolves Pack after saying Yes to All.

Protect The Wolves, sacred resource protection zone, Yellowstone/ Teton national parks.

Questions can be directed to Roger Dobson or Patricia Herman at [\(406\) 219-8690](tel:406-219-8690)

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Just a quick update, Department of Justice just called this am with Director Talbot changing the meeting location from Casper back to Cheyenne. He also has said no one can be present but me.... Director Talbot has been aware of all the Participants from the very beginning.... this is Very Very disturbing to us on all levels.

We are awaiting a call from the DOJ to see how to proceed.

She suggested a phone conference to begin with where the DOJ can be present at the least with us and Our Members, but again he refused.. It appears that Talbot is trying to hide..... perhaps doesn't know how to defend a Sacred Religious claim against them.....

Talbot refused to allow anyone even on the phone conference but me now as well.... We are deeply saddened that Talbot has done a 180 when he knew who all of the members of the meeting were going to be from Day 1. State or Federal offices do not need Individuals like this working for Taxpayers.

Agenda for Our Meeting put together with the assistance of the Department of Justice:

Wyoming Game and Fish Department & Protect the Wolves™

Casper Regional Office, 3030 Energy Lane, Casper, WY 82604

July 17, 2017

9:00-11:00 AM

Participants:

Wyoming Game and Fish: Scott Talbott

Protect The Wolves™: Roger Dobson, CEO; Deibre Bainbridge, J.D.,
Protect the Wolves;

Doug Smith, Eric Molvar, Sergio Maldonado

Purpose: Effective Protection and Preservation of Sacred Wolf Resources

Agenda:

Overview: Native American Spiritual connections with Sacred Wildlife.

Erosions/Circumventing of Grey Wolf Hunting Regulations and Wolf
Management Plan:

The use of Pup Calls and Bear Bait have resulted in unintended risks and taking
of Grey Wolves.

Interstate poacher herding intended to circumvent Wyoming State Laws.

Killing of Radio Collared Grey Wolves compromises effective WGF data
collection.

Establish a cross-species understandable 50 km Sacred Resource Protection Zone
around Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks. Enhance the effective
implementation of the Wolf Management Plan and Gray Wolf Hunting Seasons
regulations by establishing game management areas that are in alignment with the
sensory capacities of the Grey Wolf.

The Grey Wolf Management Plan must include protection of the Grey Wolf in the
National Elk Refuge toward the preservation of the existing ecosystem
homeostasis that allows for the natural culling of the Elk herd.

Shoot on site policy vs clarification based on predatory hunting of domestic
livestock.

Provide for public individual commissioner comment regarding the petition for
consideration of the Sacred Resource Protection Zone at the July 19, 2017
Wyoming Game and Fish Commission Meeting.

What Hunting Season or Big Game designations applies to tribal fee lands? How
has that been communicated to the general public and hunters?

Interest and Applicability of CITES (Convention on International Trade in
Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, 27 U.S.T. 108).

In what way can Tribal Communities assist the Wyoming Game and Fish Department in the effective preservation of Sacred Wildlife Resources?

Implementation & Next Steps

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

May 23, 2017

Contact:

Roger Dobson, Media Director, Protect The Wolves Pack, [\(406\) 219-8690](tel:4062198690)

Vicki Markus, Laramie Volunteer Staff Member, Protect The Wolves Pack, [\(816\) 830-1119](tel:8168301119)

Patricia Herman, President, Protect The Wolves™, [\(406\) 219-8690](tel:4062198690)

Dr. Tony Povilitis, Wildlife Biologist, Campaign for Yellowstone's Wolves, [\(520\)384-3886](tel:5203843886)

Indigenous Rights Group to Petition Wyoming Game & Fish for Sacred Resource Protection Safety Zone Around National Parks

LARAMIE, Wyo. – A Native American advocacy group, Protect the Wolves Pack, today announced that it will petition the Wyoming Game and Fish Commission to establish a 50-kilometer (31-mile) sacred resource protection safety zone around Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks where wolf killing, predator calls, and night time hunting would be entirely prohibited. The group plans to submit its petition this Wednesday, May 24th, at the Wyoming Game and Fish Department's public meeting in Laramie on wolf hunting regulations.

“We are concerned about reports that Wyoming guides and outfitters are using predator calls to lure wolves out of the national park so their clients can shoot them,” said Roger Dobson of Protect The Wolves Pack, a Cowlitz tribal member from Washington state. “If we don't protect the wolves as they wander outside national park boundaries, they're bound to get shot.”

Currently, the State of Wyoming wolf management plan allows trophy hunting of wolves right up to the boundaries of Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks, and as a result wolf packs that live inside national park boundaries are

vulnerable to hunting, trapping, and other causes of death when they wander across the invisible boundaries that separate protected National Park lands from national Forests and other land ownerships where they can be killed.

“Our National Parks are mandated to protect sacred tribal sites as well as sacred resources for the indigenous under National Park policy,” said Vicki Markus, a volunteer for Protect The Wolves Pack who resides in Centennial, Wyoming. “It is time that the trustees begin managing our resources for the public, and not the well-funded special interest trophy hunter and cattle rancher associations.

In Yellowstone, a preponderance of scientific studies show that the reintroduction of wolves has triggered a re-balancing of the natural system, helping shrubs and trees like aspen and cottonwood to recover and thrive, and improving habitat for native wildlife from songbirds to beavers and wolverines.

Protect the Wolves also plans to submit petitions to protect the Yellowstone wolves signed by over 350,000 members of the public at the meeting, that have been gathered by Dr. Tony Povilitis with Campaign for Yellowstone’s Wolves.

“It is disheartening that the vast majority of Americans in fact support wolves, yet are allowed to be controlled tiny group of well-connected and political powerful ranchers who seem to drive anti-wolf policies in the Wyoming state agencies” added Markus.

The petition is the brainchild of Native American rights advocates, who view wolves as a sacred resource of great importance to their culture.

“Wolves are a sacred resource to native peoples,” said Dobson. “Wolves are part of the Seven Teachings, teaching us humility and how to function as a family unit.”

The petition has garnered letters of support from the Alaska Inter-Tribal Council, NW Tribal Emergency Management, National Tribal Emergency Management.

“Protect The Wolves™ Pack has spoken with local Tribes in Wyoming and anticipate letters of support coming prior to the June 19th comment deadline period,” added Dobson. Further he stated that they have also been contacted by the Rocky Mountain Region of the Department of Justice, which has told them that they will help them set up meetings with Wyoming’s Game and Fish upper management regarding indigenous sacred resources.

--

Scott Talbott
Director

Wyoming Game and Fish Department
5400 Bishop Blvd.
Cheyenne, WY. 82006

wgfd.wyo.gov
scott.talbott@wyo.gov

W (307) 777-4501
F (307) 777-4699



E-Mail to and from me, in connection with the transaction of public business, is subject to the Wyoming Public Records Act and may be disclosed to third parties.

--

Scott Talbott
Director

Wyoming Game and Fish Department
5400 Bishop Blvd.
Cheyenne, WY. 82006
wgfd.wyo.gov
scott.talbott@wyo.gov

W (307) 777-4501
F (307) 777-4699



E-Mail to and from me, in connection with the transaction of public business, is subject to the Wyoming Public Records Act and may be disclosed to third parties.

From: Mashburn, Lori
To: [Alex Hinson](#); [Caroline Boulton](#); [Daniel Jorjani](#); [David Bernhardt](#); [Douglas Domenech](#); [Eli Nachmany](#); [Getto, Leila](#); [James Cason](#); [Laura Rigas](#); [Magallanes, Downey](#); [Mashburn, Lori](#); [Micah Chambers](#); [Natalie Davis](#); [Russell Newell](#); [Scott Hommel](#); [Swift, Heather](#); [Thiele, Aaron](#); [Willens, Todd](#)
Subject: Fwd: DOI Cabinet Affairs Report for 10/27
Date: Friday, October 27, 2017 1:27:14 PM

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR DAILY UPDATE FOR CABINET AFFAIRS – 10/27/17

Lori Mashburn, White House Liaison
Natalie Davis, Special Assistant to the Secretary

STATUS OF THE SECRETARY

TODAY:

10/27 DC – Call with Governor Mary Fallin (OK)

- Meeting with the President
- Meeting with Administrator Neomi Rao

NEXT WEEK: Secretary is on Personal leave

STATUS OF THE DEPUTY SECRETARY

TODAY: The Deputy Secretary is in DC conducting internal meetings

OF NOTE

Secretary Zinke and Interior Leadership host First-Ever Public Lands Access for Veterans Meeting at Interior

WASHINGTON – As part of “National Hunting and Fishing Month” today, U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke hosted a first-of-its-kind meeting with veteran service organizations to share experiences and ideas to make public lands more accessible to veterans with and without disabilities. The Hunting and Fishing Access for Veterans roundtable discussion was hosted by Secretary Zinke and included members of his leadership team. More than 20 veteran advocates participated, including many who specialize in hunting and fishing therapy for returning warriors.

“Hunting and fishing are more than a pastime. They are a way for us to connect with the land and the people we're with, while also helping recharge body, mind, and soul in the solace of nature,” **said Secretary Zinke**. “Hunting and fishing present such an incredible healing opportunity for our veterans who return home with physical and emotional wounds. Unfortunately, many of our public lands are either inaccessible to individuals with various physical disabilities, or we just don't offer programs to encourage veterans to access and use them. I want these warriors to be able to return home from their service and enjoy the very lands they fought to protect. I want to make sure hunting and fishing on public lands is easily accessible and available. Hearing ideas from leaders in the veteran community about how to achieve this goal has given my team some much-needed insight as we move forward.”

Army Green Beret John Wayne Walding and Benghazi warrior Mark "Oz" Geist, both motivational speakers and combat veterans, shared their personal stories about how hunting on public lands helped them recover from battlefield injuries and strengthened the bonds with their families. Walding spoke of the first hunt he took in Alaska after having his leg amputated, which proved to be the motivational force for him to reenter the military and return to duty. Geist spoke about the bond developed between him and his WWII veteran father stalking and hunting on Colorado public lands.

Following the opening remarks, breakout sessions were held so Interior leadership could solicit feedback regarding veteran affairs and veteran accessibility on public lands.

WH COMMS REPORT (submitted Thursday, 10/26)

Press Inquiries:

- Small inquiries and logistical inquiries.
- **New York Times:** (Deborah Acosta) --**REQUEST**—As part of the damage assessments that the DOI is conducting on the island, are they assessing any damage to electrical infrastructure?--**RESPONSE**-- Their efforts focus on accounting for employees at impacted parks and refuges, organizing for the work ahead, and bringing in additional staff resources that will conduct damage assessments, coordinate debris removal, and provide access to park areas.
- **The Guardian:** (Elizabeth Miller)—**REQUEST**-- I'm an independent journalist working on a story for The Guardian about oil and gas development near Chaco Culture National Historical Park and other national parks. I'm interested to know how Secretarial Order 3358 could affect the master leasing plans near national parks.—**RESPONSE**-- Could you outline to me what your story is about and what you perceive to be the connection between the committee and NPS sites?

Top Stories

- **NBC:** [Democrats Call for Investigation Into Whitefish Energy Contract in Puerto Rico](#)
- **THE HILL:** [Puerto Rico gov requests audit into contract awarded to tiny energy company](#)
- **Washington Post:** [Trump could make visiting a national park more expensive than a Six Flags ticket](#)
- **MSNBC:** [The political oddity of proposed fee hikes at national parks](#)
- **Washington Examiner:** [House passage of budget plan paves way for arctic drilling](#)
- **The Daily World:** [Zinke, Parks Service calling for big 'peak season' entry](#)

[fee hike at Olympic National Park](#)

Top Issues and Accomplishments

- Interior continues to support all Hurricane Harvey, Hurricane Irma, Hurricane Maria, and Hurricane Nate efforts. All bureaus are executing their emergency plans and assisting in Hurricane relief.
- Today, President Trump announced the nomination of Steven Gardner to be the Director of the office of Surface Mining, Reclamation & Enforcement (OSMRE). The DOI press release on his nomination can be seen [HERE](#).
- Today, Interior hosted a “Hunting and Fishing Access for Veterans” Round Table Meeting to improve coordination with and services for veterans. The press release/readout will be issued after the event concludes at 5:30pm EDT.
- Tomorrow, the Secretary will meet with POTUS.
- Next week, Secretary Zinke is out on personal leave.

AGENCY MEDIA (UPDATED)

WEEK AHEAD October 18 thru October 26, 2017 (Submitted 10/18)

U.S. Department of the Interior

Secretarial-level Announcements/Events/Interviews

- Secretary Zinke will be on personal leave next week (Oct. 31-Nov. 3).
- Friday, Secretary Zinke has a call with Governor Mary Fallin (OK).
- Friday, Secretary Zinke is meeting with the President. Closed press.
- Next week we plan to announce 2 new FACA boards, one related to sportsmen and one related to public/private partnerships.

Interior Social Media Updates

- **October 27: Department-level video:** DOI will release a video celebrating President Theodore Roosevelt's birthday and his conservation legacy.
- **November 1: Department-level blog post:** DOI will publish a blog post for Native American Heritage Month and highlighting the Department's work.

National Park Service

- **October 30: Local NPS Release:** Rock Creek Park will close the Old Stone House in Georgetown for approximately 1 year for fire suppression and rehabilitation work. The house and bookstore will remain open through Sunday October 29 with modified hours. Historic furniture and items have been removed from the house in preparation for the rehabilitation project.
- **October 31: Local NPS Release:** Glacier National Park will notify the public of the availability of the park's Lake McDonald Properties Management Plan

Environmental Assessment (EA). The EA will be available for a 30-day public review and comment period. Following the public review and comment period, the park will prepare a formal decision document. The EA analyzes alternatives to manage NPS-owned properties surrounding Lake McDonald, which includes buildings listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

- **November 2: Local NPS Release:** A ceremonial groundbreaking is scheduled for the Eisenhower Memorial, which will be administered by National Mall and Memorial Parks (NAMA). Final approvals have been granted by the National Capital Planning Commission and the Commission of Fine Arts. NAMA anticipates issuing a construction permit in late October, with completion tentatively scheduled for May 2020.
- **November TBD: National NPS Release:** Major announcement regarding Arlington Memorial Bridge.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

- **October 26 (tent.): National FWS Release:** FWS will issue a news release regarding the opening of the public comment period for the Mitigation Policy and Endangered Species Act Compensatory Mitigation Policy. The portions FWS will request comment on include the policies' reference to a mitigation planning goal of net conservation gain and the policies' references to the previous Administration's mitigation directives.
- **October 26 (tent.): National FWS Release:** FWS will issue a release on the opening of the public comment for both the Candidate Conservation Agreements with Assurances (CCAA) policy and the corresponding regulations. These notices will solicit public comments on the 2016 revised policy and regulations to determine if there are additional revisions, particularly to the CCAA standard, that will make the policy and regulations easier to implement for those entities choosing to participate in a CCAA.
- **October TBD: National FWS Release:** FWS will announce the 2017-18 Refuge-Specific Hunting and Sport Fishing Regulations. Final rule will open various national wildlife refuges to hunting and/or sport fishing for the first time (new hunts) and expand hunting and fishing opportunities at others.
- **October TBD: FWS News Bulletin:** FWS will issue a news bulletin regarding a NEPA Environmental Assessment related to lethal take permits for cormorants for aquaculture facilities.

Bureau of Land Management

- **October 27 (tent.): National BLM Release:** BLM will issue a release announcing that Sabinoso Wilderness Area is now open to the public.
- **November 1–2:** BLM-MT will host a tribal consultation meeting at the Montana/Dakotas State Office in Billings to discuss tribal issues and matters of interest related to the Denbury Resources, Inc. CO2 Pipeline and Enhanced Recovery Project (in southeast Montana); the BNI Coal Ltd. expansion proposal, "BNI-2" (in western North Dakota); and various fire fuels reduction projects in

eastern Montana. Tribal Council Presidents/Chairs and Tribal Historic Preservation Officers from 17 tribes have been invited to the meeting.

- **November 2:** Nevada Gov. Brian Sandoval will dedicate a section of Highway 140 in memory of BLM firefighters Will Hawkins and Jacob O'Malley, who were killed in a vehicle accident.
- **November 2 – 16:** Scoping meetings for the Notice of Intent to amend Greater sage-grouse land use plans will be held in the following Western cities and towns:
 - o Nov. 2: Twin Falls, ID
 - o Nov. 6: Cheyenne, WY; Idaho Falls, ID
 - o Nov. 7: Marsing, ID; Reno, NV; Burns, OR
 - o Nov. 8: Pinedale, WY; Elko, NV; Billings, MT, Craig, CO
 - o Nov. 9: Ely, NV
 - o Nov. 14: Vernal, UT
 - o Nov. 15: Cedar City, UT
 - o Nov. 16: Salt Lake City, UT
- **November TBD: Local BLM Release:** BLM-CO expects to issue a decision about whether to grant a royalty rate reduction for the West Elk Mine. The BLM proposes to approve Mountain Coal Company, LLC's application for a royalty rate reduction from 8 percent to 5 percent for 10.3 million tons of coal in the West Elk Mine in southwest Colorado's North Fork Valley.
- **November TBD: Local BLM Release:** BLM-CO expects to issue a decision whether to modify GCC Energy's King II Mine in Montezuma County in southwest CO by 951 acres to allow GCC to access an estimated 4.66 million tons of recoverable Federal coal reserves for an additional 6.5 years of mining.

U.S. Geological Survey

- **October 30 (tent.): Local USGS Release:** USGS will issue a release regarding a new USGS study that tracks millions of tons of rocks, gravel and silt carried by the Sauk River and its tributaries to the Skagit River.

Bureau of Reclamation

- **October 26 - November 1:** A six-member team from the Bureau of Reclamation will visit Taipei, Taiwan, to participate in the 30th anniversary meeting between Reclamation and Taiwan's Water Resources Agency. Reclamation serves as the designated technical representative of the American Institute in Taiwan, the official arm of the U.S. Department of State in Taiwan.
- **October 30:** Status Hearing on Columbia River System Operations EIS (OR). In Portland, Oregon, Federal District Court Judge Michael Simon will receive updates to the status report as part of ongoing litigation. The status conference hearing is scheduled for November 28. Reclamation, Bonneville Power

Administration and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers have four remaining years to complete the court-ordered EIS.

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management:

- **October/November TBD: BOEM Note to Stakeholders:** BOEM issue a note to stakeholders regarding Q3 FY17 study reports posting to ESPIS.
- **Nov TBD: BOEM Note to Stakeholders:** BOEM will issue a note to stakeholders on the path forward for future renewable energy leasing offshore the Atlantic Coast Request for Feedback (RFF).

Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement

- **October 27:** BSEE will issue a readout of Director Angelle's engagements in the Gulf of Mexico.

Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement

- **October 30: National OSMRE Release:** OSMRE will announce the winners of its 2017 Excellence in Surface Coal Mining Reclamation Awards. The awards are presented in partnership with the National Mining Association and will be formally presented on Nov. 6, 2017 in Wash, D.C.

CONGRESSIONAL UPDATE

UPCOMING ENR HEARING: The Committee on Energy and Natural Resources is holding a hearing to receive testimony on the potential for oil and gas exploration and development in the non-wilderness portion of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, known as the "1002 Area" or Coastal Plain, to raise sufficient revenue pursuant to the Senate reconciliation instructions included in H. Con. Res. 71.

Timing: November 2, 2017 at 9:30am

POLITICAL APPOINTEE UPDATE (updated)

DOI politicals on board = 61

3 PAS confirmed as of 9/18.

6 nominated awaiting confirmation:

- Pending Senate floor vote: Susan Combs, Assistant Secretary Policy Management and Budget.
- Pending Senate floor vote: Brenda Berman, Commissioner, Bureau of Reclamation.
- Pending Senate floor vote: Joe Balash, Assistant Secretary, Land and Minerals
- Pending Senate floor vote: Ryan Douglas Nelson, Solicitor
- Pending Hearing: Tara Sweeney, Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs
- **Pending Hearing: Steve Gardner, Director, Office of Surface Mining and Reclamation**

Overall:

- Schedule C: 34 of 68 onboard; 2 starting; 6 in process
- NC-SES: 24 of 44 onboard; 4 starting; 1 in process
- PAS: 3 Confirmed; 5 Announced; 14 of 17 Submitted to PPO

SECRETARY SPEAKING INVITATIONS

Accepted:

- 10/26- Hunting and Fishing Access for Veterans Roundtable (DC)
- 11/6 - National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Board of Directors Reception (DC)
- 11/7 - DOI Veterans Day Ceremony (DC)
- 11/8 – National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Board of Directors Meeting (DC)
- 11/9 – National WWI Memorial at Pershing Park (DC)
- 11/10 – Tour of Manassas National Battlefield Park
- 11/11 - Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund (DC)
- 11/11 - 64th Annual Veterans Day National Ceremony (DC)
- 11/ 11 - Veterans Day Observance at World War II Memorial (DC)
-
- Open (date TBC)- Americans for Tax Reform (DC)
- Open (date TBC)- Detroit Economic Club
- Event Postponed by organizers due to fire - 10/21 – DEPA BOD Meeting (CA)

Outstanding Invitations in Process:

- 10/28 Remarks at Washington International Horse Show DC)
- 10/29 Friends of Theodore Roosevelt Island (DC)
- 11/15 Motorcycle Industry Council Symposium (Carson, CA)
- 12/1-2 – Western Governors Association Annual Meeting (Phoenix, AZ)
- 12/9 – Western Caucus Foundation Winter Policy Meeting (Las Vegas, NV)

Declining

10/17 – Folsom Dam Joint Federal Project Completion Ceremony (Folsom, CA)

10/17 – National Association of Sporting Goods Wholesalers (San Antonio, TX)

10/18 - Environmental Law Institute (ELI) 2017 Award Dinner (DC)

10/19 – USO Gala (Washington, DC)

10/19 – Grand Junction Petroleum and Mining Club (Grand Junction, CO)

10/20 - TXOGA Lone Star Energy Forum (Woodlands, TX)

10/26 - Montana Chamber Annual Meeting (Great Falls, MT)

10/28 – Cattle Producers of Washington Annual Meeting (Airway Heights, WA)

10/30-11/3 – International Mining and Resources Conference (Melbourne, Australia)

10/30 – Interstate Mining Compact Commission Mid-Year Meeting (DC)

10/31 - George B. Hartzog, Jr. Awards and Speaker Program Clemson University (SC)

11/1 - 2017 SHIFT (Shaping How we Invest For Tomorrow) Festival (Jackson Hole, WY)

11/4 Governor Reynolds Annual Pheasant Hunt

11/8 – WY Governor Annual Business Forum (Cheyenne, WY)

11/7-9 National Ranger Council Annual Meeting (Gettysburg, PA)

11/9 - America First Energy Conference hosted by Heartland Institute (Houston, TX)

11/9 - Bass Fishing Hall of Fame Induction Dinner at the Wonders of Wildlife (Springfield, MO)

11/13 Montana Farm Bureau Federation Annual Meeting (Billings, MT)

11/14 – George Rogers Clark National Historical Park Quarter Launch (Vincennes, Indiana)

11/29 Association of California Water Agencies 2017 Fall Conference and Exhibition (Anaheim, CA)

12/5-7 America Outdoors Association's 29th Annual Marketing and Management Conference for Outfitters and Adventure Resorts (Reno, NV)

12/6 American Exploration and Mining Association Annual Meeting (Reno, NV)

12/8 - Valley Industry and Commerce Association Annual Meeting (Los Angeles, CA)

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT (new)

Emergency Closure at Big Cypress National Preserve:

Due to high water and deteriorating roads, an emergency closure in Big Cypress National Preserve was announced yesterday. The closure will limit public access to certain areas, including the Swamp Welcome Center which is closed, until water levels subside. This emergency closure was placed into effect to ensure visitor safety and to protect preserve resources. Although water levels at the preserve typically peak this time of year, record rainfall in June and precipitation from Hurricane Irma caused this year's annual crest to be higher and more prolonged than normal. No additional impacts have been reported at this time.

Hurricane Response/Recovery:

The Department of Homeland Security reports that, in Puerto Rico, power has been restored to approximately 26 (+1)-percent of customers and the expectation is that 95-percent of Puerto Rico will be restored by December 15. Potable water has been restored to more than 75 (+1)-percent of clients served by the Puerto Rico Aqueduct and Sewer Authority. Water levels at the Guajactaca Dam are seven feet below the spillway and evacuations will be lifted when the water drops another seven feet, which is expected around November 1. In the U.S. Virgin Islands, grid power has been restored for 30 (no change)-percent of the population on St. Thomas, 3 (no change)-percent on St. Croix, and efforts on St. John are expected to begin in two to three weeks. The Virgin Islands Water and Power Authority estimates 90-percent of the power will be restored by November 23. In total, there are over 20,000 federal personnel that are directly supporting recovery operations in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

OUTSIDE MEDIA OF INTEREST (new)

Park Service Denies Permit For A 45-foot Statue Of A Naked Woman On The Mall.

The [Washington Post](#) (10/26, Stein) reports that the National Park Service is “denying a permit to a group wanting to place a 45-foot statue of a naked woman on the Mall near the Washington Monument.” Mike Litterst, a spokesman with the agency, said earlier this month “the agency issued the group an exception to have a structure taller than 45 feet, meaning the agency wouldn’t deny permits because it exceeded the height limit.” However, “in the letter denying the permits, Rick Obernesser, acting regional director of the Park Service, wrote that the height exception should never have been approved and the agency was revoking the variance.” Obernesser “also wrote that the permit was denied because the agency was concerned the statue would damage the Mall’s turf.”

Also reporting are the [New York Times](#) (10/26, Stevens), [WRC-TV Washington](#) (10/26, Barnes) and [WUSA-TV Washington](#) (10/26, Cirruzzo).

House Panels Investigating \$300M Puerto Rico Power Grid Contract.

[The Hill](#) (10/26, Cama) reports two committees in the US House and the Department of Homeland Security's Office of Inspector General "have started investigating a \$300 million repair contract that Puerto Rico's electricity utility signed with" Whitefish Energy of Montana. The investigations "come amid growing questions in Puerto Rico and the mainland about how" the company, "which had only two employees before Hurricane Maria decimated the island, got the contract, and how it is managing the task of restoring electricity to millions of residents who have been without power for more than a month." The CEO of the company Andrew Techmanski "is from the same town as Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke and the two know each other, but they have denied that Zinke played any role in Whitefish getting the no-bid contract."

Trump Nominates Mining Engineer To Be Top Federal Coal Mine Regulator.

[The Hill](#) (10/26, Henry) reports that the White House on Thursday announced the nomination of J. Steven Gardner, the president of engineering firm ECSI, LLC, to be the director of the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement. Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke lauded the nomination, calling Gardner "an unbelievable asset to coal country and the entire team at the Department of the Interior." Gardner said in a statement Thursday, "My whole life, I have been involved with mining on multiple levels, and I understand the importance of these issues to the communities we serve." The [AP](#) (10/26, Lovan) reports that Kentucky Sen. Rand Paul said the nomination is a "welcome relief" to the coal industry. However, "environmentalists criticized Gardner's lack of experience as a government regulator and defense of mountaintop removal mining, a controversial mining technique that alters landscapes with blasting and dumping into valleys."

GOP Targets Environmental Rules After Wildfires.

The [AP](#) (10/26, Daly) reports that House Republicans are "targeting environmental rules to allow faster approval for tree cutting in national forests in response to the deadly wildfires in California." Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy "said lawmakers will vote next week on a bill to loosen environmental regulations for forest-thinning projects on federal lands." The Republican bill "includes reforms to keep our forests healthy and less susceptible to the types of fires that ravaged our state this month," McCarthy said Thursday.

· ***Firefighting Is Eating Up The Forest Service Budget.*** [Courthouse News](#) (10/26, Buchman) reports that "battling wildfires is sapping the U.S. Forest Service of 50 percent of its funding and threatening its ability to fight wildfires in the future, the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works heard Wednesday." The Forest Service and the Interior Department "must pay for wildfire response out of their own budgets." Dylan Kruse, policy director at the nonprofit Sustainable Northwest, "warned senators that 'reactive, not proactive' wildfire response will devour 67 percent of the budget in 2021 unless Congress takes action."

Senate Hearings Expected As Bipartisan Concerns Rise Over National Park Fee Hikes.

The [Washington Examiner](#) (10/26, Siciliano) reports that Senate Energy and Natural

Resources Chairwoman Lisa Murkowski “said Thursday morning she is concerned about the Interior Department’s proposed doubling of entrance fees for 17 of the most popular national parks and will be looking at holding a hearing on the National Park Service proposal.” The committee’s top Democrat, Sen. Maria Cantwell,” raised the issue at Thursday’s hearing on protecting the electric grid from cyberattack.” According to the article, “Murkowski agreed with Cantwell and said she would look into the increased costs.”

Interior Sets Strategic Goals Absent Data To Verify Its Work.

[E&E Publishing](#) (10/26) reports a draft of the Interior Department’s fiscal 2018-2022 strategic plan “details the agency’s priority goals and performance metrics.” Six “mission areas” outlined in the document include topics such as “land and water conservation, recreation expansion, and border control. Interior’s second mission area, revenue generation and natural resource utilization, is heavily geared toward oil, gas and mineral extraction – although renewables are mentioned as well.” The plan says DOI “will continue to expand production of both offshore and onshore conventional and renewable U.S. energy resources while ensuring safety and reliability through efficient permitting, appropriate standards, assessment, and oversight.” According to E&E Publishing, the phrase “climate change” does not appear in the draft document, but it does contain one important new keyword: “energy dominance.”

Interior, EPA Each Outline Efforts To Reduce Regulatory Burdens.

[PennEnergy](#) (10/26, Snow) reports the US Department of the Interior and the Environmental Protection Agency “separately reported energy regulatory burdens discovered within their operations and steps under way to relieve them.” The reports were in response to a March executive order “directing departments and agencies across the government ... to review and possibly change rules that impede in the nation’s energy development.” Interior Sec. Ryan Zinke said, “Developing our energy resources to grow our economy and protecting the environment are not mutually exclusive. However, while conducting the review outlined in the executive order, we found that several costly and burdensome regulations from the past threaten that balance by hampering the production or transmission of our domestic energy.” EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt said, “We can be both pro-jobs and pro-environment. At EPA, that means we are working to curb unnecessary and duplicative regulatory burdens that do not serve the American people—while continuing to partner with states, tribes, and stakeholders to protect our air, land, and water.”

Trump Administration Plans To Approve Southern California Solar Farm.

The [Palm Springs \(CA\) Desert Sun](#) (10/26, Roth) reports the Trump administration is planning “to approve a massive solar power plant in the Southern California desert.” The Interior Department announced Thursday “it will move forward with the Palen solar farm, which...would be built on public lands between Joshua Tree National Park and Interstate 10, in the open desert east of the Coachella Valley.” However, the Desert Sun says “some environmental groups have spent years fighting Palen, saying it would disrupt sensitive desert ecosystems and harm lizards, tortoises, birds and

other animals,” while Native American groups have said the project “would destroy ancient tribal artifacts and sacred sites.”

Federal Agent Describes Car Break-In That Led To The Killing Of Kate Steinle With Stolen Duty Weapon.

The [San Francisco Examiner](#) (10/26, Barba) reports, “The federal ranger whose stolen weapon was used to shoot a woman in San Francisco triggered a chain of events that led to the killing, a defense attorney for the undocumented immigrant charged with the crime argued Thursday.” Bureau of Land Management ranger John Woychowski “testified Thursday that he and his family had stopped in San Francisco on a trip up the California coast when someone busted into two rear windows of his car, stealing a fully loaded handgun he stashed in a backpack underneath the driver’s seat.” The Examiner says the police officer “who tested [Jose Ines] Garcia Zarate’s hands for gunshot residue after police arrested him also testified in court Thursday.” Officer Andrew Clifford “said in court that he took the samples within an hour of the arrest,” and the samples “resulted in the San Francisco Police Department crime lab finding just one gunshot residue particle.” The [AP](#) (10/26) reports Garcia Zarate’s attorney Matt Gonzalez “told the jury Monday that the negligent storage of the gun started a chain of events that led to the accidental shooting of Steinle.”

[Fox News](#) (10/26) reports the prosecution “brought out a P239 weapon as evidence which Woychowski confirmed was his and showed the jury how it worked, adding that he’d never had trouble with it.” Fox News says SFPD Officer Craig Dong took the stand on Wednesday. Dong was “on the scene on the day of the shooting and worked on enhancing video from a nearby fire station that appeared to capture video of Zarate and also [Kate] Steinle and her father at the moment of shooting.” During Dong’s testimony, “jurors saw a video that showed Steinle falling, the suspect walking away and something splashing in the water.” During the part of the video that showed Steinle falling, “people in the gallery of the court room could be heard gasping.”

Records: Tentative Deal Reached On Deadly ‘Cyanide Bombs’.

The [AP](#) (10/26, Brown) reports that “U.S. officials have reached a tentative deal with wildlife advocates trying to stop the use of predator-killing traps, including devices called ‘cyanide bombs’ that earlier this year injured an Idaho teenager and killed his dog, according to court documents filed Thursday.” Government lawyers “asked U.S. District Judge Dana Christensen to put on hold for 60 days a lawsuit over the poisoned traps pending final approval of the agreement by senior officials at the Interior Department.” Terms were not disclosed.

FEDERAL REGISTER LISTINGS:

Notices submitted to the Federal Register for Thursday, October 26:

REG0007562 BLM Correction Notice re NOI Amend Land Use Plans regarding Greater Sage-Grouse Conservation and Prepare Associated Environmental Impact Statements or Environmental Assessments -- This notice corrects a single digit in a

phone number and zip code. Notice 10/26/2017

REG0007545 FWS Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Permit Applications -- This is a batched notice announcing the receipt of applications received by FWS for Endangered Species Act permits. Notice 10/26/2017

REG0007520 FWS Mitigation Policies of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; Request for Comments -- FWS will solicit public review and comment on the Service-wide Mitigation Policy and the Endangered Species Act-Compensatory Mitigation Policy, asking whether the agency should remove references to net conservation gain as a mitigation planning goal and other references to the previous Administration's mitigation directives. Notice 10/26/2017

REG0007369 FWS Effectuating Congressional Nullification of the Non-subsistence Take of Wildlife, and Public Participation and Closure Procedures, on National Wildlife Refuges in Alaska Under the Congressional Review Act -- FWS is publishing a final rule effectuating the Congressional nullification of the "Non-subsistence Take of Wildlife, and Public Participation and Closure Procedures, on National Wildlife Refuges in Alaska." Final Rule 10/26/2017

REG0007365 NPS Intent to Initiate Rulemaking - Alaska; Hunting and Trapping in National Preserves --The NPS announces its intent to initiate a rulemaking process to consider changes to 2015 regulations applicable to sport hunting and trapping in national preserves in Alaska. The regulations are codified in 36 CFR part 13. Notice 10/26/2017

REG0007427 NPS Notice of Inventory Completion: Human Remains Repository, Department of Anthropology, University of Wyoming, Laramie, WY N2810 -- This is a Notice pursuant to the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) of the completion of an inventory of human remains and associated funerary objects under the control of the University of Wyoming. Notice 10/26/2017

REG0007428 NPS Notice of Inventory Completion: Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History, Norman, OK N2836 -- This is a Notice of Inventory Completion pursuant to the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) of an inventory of human remains and associated funerary objects under the control of the Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History in Norman, Oklahoma. Notice 10/26/2017

REG0007537 OS Final Report: Review of the Department of the Interior Actions that Potentially Burden Domestic Energy This Notice announces and publishes in its entirety the "Final Report: Review of the Department of the Interior Actions that Potentially Burden Domestic Energy." The Department prepared the report under Executive Order 13783, "Promoting Energy Independence and Economic Growth" (Mar. 28, 2017). Notice 10/26/2017

Lori K. Mashburn
White House Liaison
Department of the Interior

202.208.1694

From: Joe Balash
To: [Micah Chambers](#)
Cc: [Lori Mashburn](#)
Subject: Fwd: FINAL STATEMENT (approved by DS) -- JB Announcement
Date: Wednesday, July 19, 2017 2:39:47 PM

Last one.

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Anderson, Mike (Sullivan)" <Mike_Anderson@sullivan.senate.gov>
Date: July 19, 2017 at 2:03:31 PM EDT
To: "Balash, Joe (Sullivan)" <Joe_Balash@sullivan.senate.gov>
Cc: "Coyne, Amanda (Sullivan)" <Amanda_Coyne@sullivan.senate.gov>
Subject: FINAL STATEMENT (approved by DS) -- JB Announcement

"While I'm sad to see Joe leave the Senate, his departure is a big gain for Secretary Zinke, the Department of Interior, the United States and Alaska," **said Senator Sullivan.** "His wealth of knowledge and passion for Alaska – and more broadly federal land issues – cannot be overstated. His advice and counsel on natural resource matters will be invaluable as Secretary Zinke and the Trump administration chart a new path toward American energy dominance. Alaska can and should be a critical element of this important national objective."

From: Mashburn, Lori
To: [Hinson, Alex](#)
Subject: Fwd: FINAL STATEMENT (approved by DS) -- JB Announcement
Date: Wednesday, July 19, 2017 2:42:11 PM

Another one.

Lori K. Mashburn
White House Liaison
Department of the Interior
202.208.1694

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Joe Balash <(b) (6) - Joe Balash>
Date: Wed, Jul 19, 2017 at 2:39 PM
Subject: Fwd: FINAL STATEMENT (approved by DS) -- JB Announcement
To: Micah Chambers <micah_chambers@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: Lori Mashburn <lori_mashburn@ios.doi.gov>

Last one.

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Anderson, Mike (Sullivan)" <Mike_Anderson@sullivan.senate.gov>
Date: July 19, 2017 at 2:03:31 PM EDT
To: "Balash, Joe (Sullivan)" <Joe_Balash@sullivan.senate.gov>
Cc: "Coyne, Amanda (Sullivan)" <Amanda_Coyne@sullivan.senate.gov>
Subject: FINAL STATEMENT (approved by DS) -- JB Announcement

"While I'm sad to see Joe leave the Senate, his departure is a big gain for Secretary Zinke, the Department of Interior, the United States and Alaska," **said Senator Sullivan.** "His wealth of knowledge and passion for Alaska – and more broadly federal land issues – cannot be overstated. His advice and counsel on natural resource matters will be invaluable as Secretary Zinke and the Trump administration chart a new path toward American energy dominance. Alaska can and should be a critical element of this important national objective."

From: Heather Swift
To: lori_mashburn@ios.doi.gov; natalie_davis@ios.doi.gov; laura_rigas@ios.doi.gov
Subject: Fwd: FOR REVIEW: BLM RAC Meeting Release Template
Date: Thursday, September 07, 2017 12:16:04 PM

Heather Swift
Press Secretary
Department of the Interior

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Ross, Paul" <paul_ross@ios.doi.gov>
Date: September 7, 2017 at 12:10:53 PM EDT
To: "Swift, Heather" <heather_swift@ios.doi.gov>, Laura Rigas <laura_rigas@ios.doi.gov>, Russell Newell <russell_newell@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: FOR REVIEW: BLM RAC Meeting Release Template

All-

BLM created a template to announce Resource Advisory Council meetings. They want a standardized for state and local BLM offices to use. They have 17 upcoming RAC meetings that they foresee happening during the rest of the calendar year. Looking for you thoughts:

-Paul

BLM Advisory Council to meet in XXXXX

<<DATELINE>> – The Bureau of Land Management today announced it will hold a meeting of the <<Name>> Resource Advisory Council, demonstrating that partnerships and inclusion are vital to managing sustainable, working public lands. The public is welcome to attend the meeting which will occur on <<DATE>> at <<LOCATION>>, from <<TIME>> to <<TIME>>.

Planned agenda items at the meeting include <<AGENDA>>.

“<<Quote,>>” said <<District Manager or above>>. “<<Quote.>>”

A half-hour comment period, during which the public may address the RAC, will begin at <<TIME>>. Depending on the number of people wishing to comment and time available, the amount of time for individual oral comments may be limited.

Resource Advisory Councils are critical in assisting the BLM in continuing to be a good neighbor in the communities we serve. The <<NUMBER>>-member RAC provides advice and recommendations to the BLM on resource and land management issues within the BLM << <<district and/ or field office(s) >>.

For more information about the upcoming RAC meeting, please contact <<NAME>> at <<CONTACT INFORMATION>>.

-BLM-

The BLM manages more than 245 million acres of public land, the most of any Federal agency. This land, known as the National System of Public Lands, is primarily located in 12 Western states, including Alaska. The BLM also administers 700 million acres of sub-surface mineral estate throughout the nation. The BLM's mission is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of America's public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations. In Fiscal Year 2015, the BLM generated \$4.1 billion in receipts from activities occurring on public lands.

Paul R. Ross
Senior Public Affairs Specialist
Office of Communications
U.S. Department of the Interior
Office: (202) 501-4633 | Cell: (202) 507-1689

From: Davis, Natalie
To: [Lori Mashburn](mailto:Lori.Mashburn)
Subject: Fwd: Heads UP...
Date: Tuesday, December 12, 2017 1:53:36 PM

Hi Lori,

I can call him later today- but have to do a few things this afternoon. If it is pressing, do you mind checking in on him?

Thanks!

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Wackowski, Stephen** <stephen_wackowski@ios.doi.gov>
Date: Tue, Dec 12, 2017 at 1:44 PM
Subject: Fwd: Heads UP...
To: Natalie Davis <natalie_davis@ios.doi.gov>

When you get 10 mins free could you give me a call to discuss AK subsistence RACs? Would like to discuss the folks listed below.

Steve Wackowski
Senior Adviser for Alaskan Affairs
Department of the Interior
[4230 University Drive, Suite 300](#)
[Anchorage, AK 99508](#)
[907-271-5485](tel:907-271-5485)

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Wackowski, Stephen** <stephen_wackowski@ios.doi.gov>
Date: Tue, Dec 12, 2017 at 1:41 PM
Subject: Re: Heads UP...
To: "Peltola, Gene" <gene_peltola@fws.gov>, Lesia Monson <lesia_monson@ios.doi.gov>

I'll get the lands rule surname decision done today.

Happy to meet to discuss the RAC appointments. Make sure you double check criminal background on the folks we need to discuss.

Thanks,

Steve

Steve Wackowski
Senior Adviser for Alaskan Affairs
Department of the Interior

[4230 University Drive, Suite 300](#)
[Anchorage, AK 99508](#)
[907-271-5485](#)

On Wed, Dec 6, 2017 at 3:17 PM, Peltola, Gene <gene_peltola@fws.gov> wrote:

Steve:

1. The Exec Sect. Office said they expect items on the 30-Day List (Rule Making) to be in their office no later than 12/18/17. With regard to the FSP and your office, you have the Tongass Submerged Lands final rule waiting your surname which falls under this guidance;
2. RAC Appointments, we received the final vetting.

(b) (5)



I'm not making any judgement, nor argument, but when prior vetting resulted in the lack of reappointment of long-serving RAC members, the Program and your office received significant kick back (including some delegation questions).

I'm available this afternoon if you would like to discuss anything above. Not necessary but wanted to let you know I was available if you choose to do so.

Gene

--

Gene Peltola, Jr.
Assistant Regional Director
Office of Subsistence Management
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
[1011 East Tudor Rd.](#): MS121
Anchorage, AK 99503
907-786-3472 Office
907-545-4200 Cell

--

Natalie Davis
Special Assistant to the Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
202.208.4928

From: Swift, Heather
To: [Micah Chambers](#); [Lori Mashburn](#)
Subject: Fwd: Interior Secretary Zinke Announces Nomination of Joe Balash: TEST
Date: Thursday, July 20, 2017 11:00:30 AM

This is going soon.

-

Heather Swift
Department of the Interior
@DOIPressSec
Heather_Swift@ios.doi.gov | Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

----- Forwarded message -----

From: U.S. Department of the Interior <interior_news@updates.interior.gov>
Date: Thu, Jul 20, 2017 at 10:57 AM
Subject: Interior Secretary Zinke Announces Nomination of Joe Balash: TEST
To: nathan_adams@ios.doi.gov, heather_swift@ios.doi.gov, thomas_baptiste@ios.doi.gov

news release



Date: July 19, 2017
Contact: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

Interior Secretary Zinke Applauds Nomination of Alaska's Joe Balash as Assistant Secretary for Land and Mineral

WASHINGTON – President Donald J. Trump announced his intent to nominate Alaska's Joe Balash to serve as the Department of the Interior's Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management. A native of North Pole, Alaska, living in Washington D.C., Balash brings more than 19 years of experience in land and natural resource management.

Mr. Balash currently serves as the Chief of Staff to Alaska's Senator Dan Sullivan. He is the former Commissioner of the Alaska Department of Natural Resources, which has management responsibility for one of the largest single portfolios of land and water resources in the world. That Alaska Department of Natural Resources portfolio, containing more than 100 million acres of uplands, 40-60 million acres of submerged lands and tidelands, and more than 500,000 barrels of oil produced daily.

“It's been a long time since the Department had an Assistant Secretary from Alaska, and the

President's nomination of Joe Balash further proves his commitment to Alaska and rural America as a whole," **said Secretary Zinke**. "Joe is no stranger to the Department of the Interior having worked alongside the Department on a number of projects in Alaska. He brings an incredible combination of state and federal experience to the table, and he will be very effective in helping the Department work with Congress to do the work of the American people. I look forward to his speedy confirmation in the Senate."

"I am deeply honored to be able to serve at the Department of the Interior," **said Joe Balash**. "As a nation, we are blessed with tremendous public lands and resources that give our people unparalleled opportunities for recreation and job creation for generations to come. I look forward to working with Secretary Zinke and his incredible team to seize on those opportunities and deliver on President Trump's America First Energy Plan."

"While I'm sad to see Joe leave the Senate, his departure is a big gain for Secretary Zinke, the Department of Interior, the United States and Alaska," **said Senator Dan Sullivan**. "His wealth of knowledge and passion for Alaska – and more broadly federal land issues – cannot be overstated. His advice and counsel on natural resource matters will be invaluable as Secretary Zinke and the Trump administration chart a new path toward American energy dominance. Alaska can and should be a critical element of this important national objective."

"Joe Balash is an excellent choice for Assistant Secretary for Lands and Minerals Management, and I'm incredibly pleased that Secretary Zinke has chosen him for this important position," **Senate Energy and Natural Resources Chairman Lisa Murkowski said**. "From his time in the Alaska Governor's Office and as Commissioner of Natural Resources, to his service as a Senate Chief of Staff, Joe is uniquely qualified for this role. He has significant experience on energy and resource policy, a demonstrated record of upholding Alaska's interests as a landowner, and will make sure that America's interests are well represented at the Interior Department."

"The work being done by this administration in the areas of energy and public lands – including efforts to unleash our nation's energy potential and reform years of mismanagement by our agencies – is something we value greatly as Alaskans," **said Congressman Don Young**. "Critical to these efforts is the appointment of individuals and staff that understand the real-world impacts and consequences their decisions have on public lands and resources-oriented states like mine. As the Congressman for the state that was often ground zero for the countless missteps of the previous Interior Department, I commend Secretary Zinke for making Alaska a top-priority as he assembles his team. The addition of Joe Balash – someone I've worked with closely during his service as the Chief of Staff to Senator Dan Sullivan, a former Commissioner of the Alaska Department of Natural Resources and ardent supporter of responsible resource development – is an important step to begin solving the many challenges Alaskans and Americans have faced when dealing with the Department of the Interior."

"Joe Balash's appointment as Assistant Secretary will be good for Alaska and great for our nation. He is smart, honest, fair, and focused on solving problems and challenges in accordance with law while maximizing opportunity for Americans," **said former Alaska Governor Sean Parnell**. "He knows how to work with diverse groups of people and interests to protect our nation's interests in her public lands and environment while maximizing job creation and opportunity for all Americans. From an Alaska perspective, it is good to know that our state will have someone at Interior who understands the complexity of Alaska issues and the people affected by decision making in Washington. Joe Balash's selection is, indeed, an extremely solid pick for the President and for the people."

"As a lifelong Alaskan who understands the importance for the responsible management of our resources, I can't think of anyone who would do a better job at the Department of the Interior for all Americans," **said Eddie Grasser, Vice President, Safari Club International.**

"We welcome the pick of Joe as the Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management," **stated Khary Cauthen, American Petroleum Institute, senior director of Federal Affairs.** "He has a deep understanding of what our nation's natural resources mean for our national and economic security. We look forward to working with Joe and this administration to ensure the U.S. continues to benefit from our nation's energy renaissance."

"Joe will make an excellent Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals. He brings to the office a wealth of experience and skills. First of all, he understands the importance of energy development, both on and offshore. Alaska is a great training ground for the decisions that are important to the rest of the United States in overall energy policy," **said Randall Luthi, the President of the National Ocean Industries Association.** "His legislative experience will bode well for the Department with the Hill. His experience as Commissioner of the Department of Natural Resources means that he understands the importance of collecting different views and assuring energy development and the protection of other natural resources. The members of NOIA look forward to working with him to expand the US energy potential off our shores."

"We welcome the pick of Mr. Balash as the assistant secretary of Land and Minerals Management. With his background as commissioner for natural resources in Alaska, Balash brings a depth of experience to Secretary Zinke and the Department of Interior," **said Erik Milito, API group director of Upstream and Industry Operations.** "He should be a tremendous asset in helping to prioritize energy development and further strengthen U.S. energy and national security. We look forward to continuing to work with the Department of Interior on policies that will help keep energy affordable, create jobs, and protect our environment."

As the Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management, Balash will advise and oversee the Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement and the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement. The Assistant Secretary heads the Department of the Interior's management of all federal lands and waters, and their associated mineral and non-mineral resources, as well as the appropriate regulation of surface coal mining. The Assistant Secretary for land and Minerals Management is committed to managing, protecting, and improving lands and waters to serve the needs of the American people at all times.

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From: Heather Swift
To: lori_mashburn@ios.doi.gov
Subject: Fwd: Interior Secretary Zinke Announces Nomination of Joe Balash: TEST
Date: Thursday, July 20, 2017 12:28:51 PM

Is this good?

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "U.S. Department of the Interior" <interior_news@updates.interior.gov>
Date: July 20, 2017 at 12:11:51 PM EDT
To: <thomas_baptiste@ios.doi.gov>, <heather_swift@ios.doi.gov>, <nathan_adams@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Interior Secretary Zinke Announces Nomination of Joe Balash: TEST

news release



Date: July 20, 2017
Contact: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

Interior Secretary Zinke Applauds Nomination of Alaska's Joe Balash as Assistant Secretary for Land and Mineral

WASHINGTON – President Donald J. Trump announced his intent to nominate Alaska's Joe Balash to serve as the Department of the Interior's Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management. A native of North Pole, Alaska, living in Washington D.C., Balash brings more than 19 years of experience in land and natural resource management.

Mr. Balash currently serves as the Chief of Staff to Alaska's Senator Dan Sullivan. He is the former Commissioner of the Alaska Department of Natural Resources, which has management responsibility for one of the largest single portfolios of land and water resources in the world, containing more than 100 million acres of uplands, 40-60 million acres of submerged lands and tidelands,

and more than 500,000 barrels of oil produced daily.

“It’s been a long time since the Department had an Assistant Secretary from Alaska, and the President’s nomination of Joe Balash further proves his commitment to Alaska and rural America as a whole,” **said Secretary Zinke**. “Joe is no stranger to the Department of the Interior having worked alongside the Department on a number of projects in Alaska. He brings an incredible combination of state and federal experience to the table, and he will be very effective in helping the Department work with Congress to do the work of the American people. I look forward to his speedy confirmation in the Senate.”

“I am deeply honored to be able to serve at the Department of the Interior,” **said Joe Balash**. “As a nation, we are blessed with tremendous public lands and resources that give our people unparalleled opportunities for recreation and job creation for generations to come. I look forward to working with Secretary Zinke and his incredible team to seize on those opportunities and deliver on President Trump’s America First Energy Plan.”

“While I’m sad to see Joe leave the Senate, his departure is a big gain for Secretary Zinke, the Department of Interior, the United States and Alaska,” **said Senator Sullivan**. “His wealth of knowledge and passion for Alaska – and more broadly federal land issues – cannot be overstated. His advice and counsel on natural resource matters will be invaluable as Secretary Zinke and the Trump administration chart a new path toward American energy dominance. Alaska can and should be a critical element of this important national objective.”

“Joe Balash is an excellent choice for Assistant Secretary for Lands and Minerals Management, and I’m incredibly pleased that Secretary Zinke has chosen him for this important position,” **Senate Energy and Natural Resources Chairman Lisa Murkowski said**. “From his time in the Alaska Governor’s Office and as Commissioner of Natural Resources, to his service as a Senate Chief of Staff, Joe is uniquely qualified for this role. He has significant experience on energy and resource policy, a demonstrated record of upholding Alaska’s interests as a landowner, and will make sure that America’s interests are well represented at the Interior Department.”

“The work being done by this administration in the areas of energy and public lands – including efforts to unleash our nation’s energy potential and reform years of mismanagement by our agencies – is something we value greatly as Alaskans,” **said Congressman Don Young**. “Critical to these efforts is the appointment of individuals and staff that understand the real-world impacts and consequences their decisions have on public lands and resources-oriented states like mine. As the Congressman for the state that was often ground zero for the countless missteps of the previous Interior Department, I commend Secretary Zinke for making Alaska a top-priority as he assembles his team. The addition of Joe Balash – someone I’ve worked with closely during his service as the Chief of Staff to Senator Dan Sullivan, a former Commissioner of the Alaska Department of Natural Resources and ardent supporter of responsible resource development – is an important step to begin solving the many challenges Alaskans and Americans have faced when dealing with the Department of the Interior.”

“Joe Balash’s appointment as Assistant Secretary will be good for Alaska and great for our nation. He is smart, honest, fair, and focused on solving problems and challenges in accordance with law while maximizing opportunity for Americans,” **said former Alaska Governor Sean Parnell.** “He knows how to work with diverse groups of people and interests to protect our nation’s interests in her public lands and environment while maximizing job creation and opportunity for all Americans. From an Alaska perspective, it is good to know that our state will have someone at Interior who understands the complexity of Alaska issues and the people affected by decision making in Washington. Joe Balash’s selection is, indeed, an extremely solid pick for the President and for the people.”

"As a lifelong Alaskan who understands the importance for the responsible management of our resources, I can't think of anyone who would do a better job at the Department of the Interior for all Americans," **said Eddie Grasser, Vice-President, Safari Club International.**

“Joe will make an excellent Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals. He brings to the office a wealth of experience and skills. First of all, he understands the importance of energy development, both on and offshore. Alaska is a great training ground for the decisions that are important to the rest of the United States in overall energy policy,” **said Randall Luthi, the President of the National Ocean Industries Association.** “His legislative experience will bode well for the Department with the Hill. His experience as Commissioner of the Department of Natural Resources means that he understands the importance of collecting different views and assuring energy development and the protection of other natural resources. The members of NOIA look forward to working with him to expand the US energy potential off our shores.”

“We welcome the pick of Mr. Balash as the assistant secretary of Land and Minerals Management. With his background as commissioner for natural resources in Alaska, Balash brings a depth of experience to Secretary Zinke and the Department of Interior,” **said Erik Milito, API group director of Upstream and Industry Operations.** “He should be a tremendous asset in helping to prioritize energy development and further strengthen U.S. energy and national security. We look forward to continuing to work with the Department of Interior on policies that will help keep energy affordable, create jobs, and protect our environment.”

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From: Katharine MacGregor
To: [Lori Mashburn](mailto:Lori.Mashburn)
Subject: Fwd: Invitation to Serve
Date: Tuesday, October 31, 2017 4:17:07 PM

???

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Longan, Sara W (DNR)" <sara.longan@alaska.gov>
Date: October 30, 2017 at 6:25:12 PM EDT
To: "Pearce, Drue (PHMSA)" <drue.pearce@dot.gov>
Cc: "kate_macgregor@ios.doi.gov" <kate_macgregor@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Re: Invitation to Serve

Thank you. I am seeking BLM approval now.

Sara

On Oct 30, 2017, at 8:26 AM, Pearce, Drue (PHMSA) <drue.pearce@dot.gov> wrote:

Please go ahead and ask Karen for permission to serve – we are proceeding with the package of 4 appointees which will go to the Secretary for approval.

Let me know if you need any further data at this time. I know you talked to Alan Mayberry, the Pipeline Program A.A. He was blown away – as I'd known would happen.

Drue Pearce
Deputy Administrator
PHMSA

From: Longan, Sara W (DNR) [<mailto:sara.longan@alaska.gov>]
Sent: Saturday, October 21, 2017 4:45 AM
To: Pearce, Drue (PHMSA) <drue.pearce@dot.gov>
Subject: Re: Invitation to Serve

Checking in; hope you are still enjoying the new role.
I wanted to mention, it might be best for me to seek approval for the LPAC soon, while Acting Director Karen Moutitsen is still in AK. She should be here until December timeframe. Ted M likes to say no, Karen is very open to stakeholder and industry engagement.
Let me know if there is anything to do on my end.

Thanks,
Sara

On Sep 23, 2017, at 1:13 AM, Pearce, Drue (PHMSA)
<drue.pearce@dot.gov> wrote:

Hi, Sara,
PHMSA has two advisory committees that are chartered under FACA – the Technical Pipeline Safety Standards Committee (GPAC) and the Technical Hazardous Liquid Pipeline Safety Standards Committee (LPAC). I've attached the briefing sheet PHMSA prepared in advance of Secretary Chao's confirmation. Would you consider joining the LPAC – the Liquids Pipeline Advisory Committee as a Government member? It is the one I served on while I was at DOI and at the OFC; it was quite educational. You would be joining three state officials and a Coast Guard representative on the committee, along with the 5 industry members and the 5 general public members.

Meetings have traditionally been in Washington, D.C. but we are seriously considering meetings around the country.

Federal members are expected to have their travel costs paid by their agency.

If you think you would be interested, please discuss with your BLM superiors. You know what FACA appointments are like – will have to go through the whole vetting process and be approved by the White House.

There hasn't been an Alaska member for a number of years although Lois Epstein, Lisa Parker and I all served during the years when PHMSA was being created from RSPA, etc.

I'm copying Kate because I'm sure she'll be supportive of having someone from DOI once again involved.

Hope to see you soon! Let me know if you're interested and I can start the ball rolling on this end.

Drue Pearce
Acting Administrator
U.S. Department of Transportation
Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Office E27-312
Washington, DC 20590
202-366-4005 (office)
202-617-1240 (DOT mobile)

<image002.png>

<PHMSA FACA Briefing GPAC and LPAC 3
2017.docx>

From: Mashburn, Lori
To: [Natalie Davis](#)
Subject: Fwd: Morning Energy, presented by Chevron: Senate takes up massive disaster aid package — Pruitt science adviser directive coming — Interior political appointee lands new responsibilities
Date: Monday, October 23, 2017 11:02:02 AM

Lori K. Mashburn
White House Liaison
Department of the Interior
202.208.1694

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **POLITICO Pro Energy** <politicoemail@politico.com>
Date: Mon, Oct 23, 2017 at 5:44 AM
Subject: Morning Energy, presented by Chevron: Senate takes up massive disaster aid package — Pruitt science adviser directive coming — Interior political appointee lands new responsibilities
To: lori_mashburn@ios.doi.gov

By Anthony Adragna | 10/23/2017 05:42 AM EDT

With help from Esther Whieldon, Tim Starks and Darius Dixon

CONGRESS MOVING ON DISASTER AID: The Senate takes the first procedural step today toward getting additional resources to Puerto Rico — more than a month after Hurricane Maria hit — even as 80 percent of the island remains without power and 30 percent lacks clean drinking water. The House-passed \$36.5 billion disaster aid package [H.R. 2266 \(115\)](#) includes nearly \$19 billion for FEMA while also providing a much needed cash infusion to the National Flood Insurance Program's borrowing capacity. It's expected to pass by Wednesday after Senate Majority Whip [John Cornyn](#) received [a commitment](#) that additional hurricane aid for his state of Texas would come in a subsequent bill, removing one of the largest obstacles to passage.

Calls for an emergency response CEO: Calling the long delays in restoring electricity and clean water "unconscionable," Senate Minority Leader [Chuck Schumer](#), along with Reps. [Nydia Velazquez](#) and [Jose Serrano](#), are asking President Donald Trump to appoint a CEO of response and recovery to help coordinate the government's response. "This person will have the ability to bring all the federal agencies together, cut red tape on the public and private side, help turn the lights back on, get clean water flowing and help bring about recovery for millions of Americans who have gone too long in some of the worst conditions," Schumer said in a statement. He called for the person to have a "direct line" to Trump.

And time is of the essence: Thousands of low-income properties across the island may no longer be able to meet legal standards for housing assistance if power cannot be restored soon, Pro Financial Services' Lorraine Woellert [reports](#). "Due to the ongoing and unique circumstances in Puerto Rico, we're reviewing every available option to assist residents during this difficult time," HUD spokesman Brian Sullivan said.

Presidents tout fundraising: The five living former presidents announced Saturday they'd raised \$31 million in private funds from over 80,000 donors to help hurricane recovery in Texas, Florida, Puerto Rico and other areas. ME will admit to having Lin-Manuel Miranda's [benefit song](#) stuck in his head.

WELCOME TO MONDAY! I'm your host Anthony Adragna, and Andeavor's Stephen Brown was first to identify Rep. [Chris Stewart](#) as the author of Elizabeth Smart's book. For today: How many states have just one congressman? Send your tips, energy gossip and comments to aadragna@politico.com, or follow us on Twitter [@AnthonyAdragna](#), [@Morning_Energy](#) and [@POLITICOPro](#).

ON TAP THIS WEEK — PRUITT'S LATEST DIRECTIVE: The timing isn't exactly clear yet, but look for EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt to issue a directive limiting scientists who receive agency research grants from being able to serve on its various advisory boards. "If we have individuals that are on those boards that are receiving money from the agency, sometimes going back years and years to the tune of literally tens of millions of dollars, over time, that to me causes questions on the independence and the veracity of the transparency of the recommendations that are coming our way," Pruitt said in [an interview](#) posted Friday by the Heritage Foundation's Daily Signal. It's unclear if the same restrictions would apply to scientists that receive funding from industry groups regulated by EPA.

Pruitt's view on environmentalism: "True environmentalism from my perspective is using natural resources that God has blessed us with to feed the world, to power the world with the sensitivity that future generations cultivate, to harvest, to be respectful good stewards, good managers of our natural resources, to bequeath those natural resources for the next generation."

WORTH A READ: The New York Times [looks at](#) how the arrival of Nancy Beck, a former American Chemistry Council executive, at EPA has led to weaker chemical regulation that may result in the "underestimation of the potential risks to human health and the environment." Beck returned from the private sector in May after receiving an ethics waiver and began pressing right away for changes to chemical regulations long-sought by industry. "It was a clear demonstration this administration has been captured by the industry," said Elizabeth Southerland, an Office of Water employee who retired in July.

EPA's eyebrow-raising response: "No matter how much information we give you, you would never write a fair piece. The only thing inappropriate and biased is your continued fixation on writing elitist clickbait trying to attack qualified professionals committed to serving their country," Liz Bowman, a spokeswoman for the agency who worked at the American Chemistry Council before joining the administration, [said in an email](#) to the newspaper.

CLIMATE DATA PUSH GROWS: Seventeen cities around the U.S., including New Orleans, Atlanta and Boston, are now hosting climate change data that EPA has removed from its website, Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel announced. "While the Trump administration buries their heads deeper in the sand when it comes to climate change, local leaders from across the country continue to confront the challenge head-on," he said. Chicago wants to expand [its site](#) to include an open-sourced repository of new scientific research.

ARE YOU A YES PERSON OR A NOPR-SON? If you have any thought on the Energy Department's grid resilience pricing proposal, you're just about out of time. FERC set a

deadline on initial comments for today — less than a month after the rule was filed with regulators. The deadline for reply comments is Nov. 7, two weeks from Tuesday. If you've misplaced FERC's list of questions, [here it is](#).

Days for FERC to take a "final action": 49

MANY A TARGET: The Homeland Security Department and the FBI issued a joint [warning](#) about a sophisticated hacking campaign that has targeted the energy, nuclear, water, aviation and manufacturing sectors. The targets include both governments and other organizations. Although the alert, issued late last week, doesn't identify the nationality of the attackers, it does reflect a Symantec [report](#) from last month where the company found similarities between those attackers and a campaign that U.S. officials tied to Russia.

"This campaign comprises two distinct categories of victims: staging and intended targets. The initial victims are peripheral organizations such as trusted third party suppliers with less secure networks," the joint DHS-FBI report states. "The threat actor uses the staging targets' networks as pivot points and malware repositories when targeting their final intended victims. The ultimate objective of the cyber threat actors is to compromise organizational networks."

**** A message from Chevron:** When an endangered butterfly was found near a Chevron refinery, we protected the habitat and still plant the only thing they eat—buckwheat. Watch the video: <http://politi.co/2gyQXsp> **

TWO HOUSE BILLS OF NOTE: Lawmakers are expected to vote on two bills of interest to ME readers this week. One, [H.R. 732 \(115\)](#), would bar federal agencies from requiring defendants to donate money to outside groups as part of federal government settlements. The other, [H.R. 469 \(115\)](#), would place various limitations on the use of federal consent decrees that frequently require new regulatory actions. The House Rules Committee meets today at 5 p.m. to consider how to structure debate on both bills.

SECOND TIME'S THE CHARM? After winning the support of Sen. [Joni Ernst](#) for Trump's pick to run the EPA air office, the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee will try again on Wednesday to move a host of nominees. On deck is the highly controversial selection of Bill Wehrum to run the air office and Michael Dourson's selection for EPA chemicals chief, as well as the less contentious picks of David Ross as head of the EPA water office, Matthew Leopold for EPA general counsel, Jeff Baran's re-nomination to the NRC and Paul Trombino's selection to be administrator of the FHWA.

CELEBRATION FROM BIOFUEL BACKERS: Pruitt's letter Thursday making major concessions on the Renewable Fuel Standard led to sighs of relief from biofuel backers but frustration from oil refiners, Pro's Eric Wolff [reports](#). "[Pruitt] didn't kick tires on changing the RFS, he tried to take a baseball bat to the program, and the response was matching and in response to, from a magnitude perspective, to the initial foul," Brooke Coleman, head of the industry lobby group Advanced Biofuels Business Council, said.

That's not how refiners felt: "Some Midwesterners cannot accept any premise that the RFS could be improved. As a result, their overreaction included everything from holds on confirmations to even more personal threats launched at the White House and EPA," one refining source told Eric.

Help wanted: Meanwhile, Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Wolf sent Trump [a letter](#) Friday asking

him to take steps to help Northeast refiners deal with the high costs associated with compliance credits, known as RINs. "I specially request that you ask Administrator Pruitt to waive the renewable volume obligation for Northeast refiners until or unless the market prices deflate," Wolf wrote.

PRUITT VISITS NEBRASKA: Continuing his state visits, Pruitt stopped by Nebraska Friday where he met with Gov. Pete Ricketts and other officials to discuss the agency's efforts to revamp the Waters of the U.S. regulation. "In his work of rolling back the old rule and writing a new one, Pruitt is returning power to the states and protecting the rights of our farm families and small business owners," Ricketts said. Afterwards, Pruitt hit up Omaha where he met with officials from railroad giant Union Pacific about the agency's agenda.

BLM ANNOUNCES SAGE GROUSE PUBLIC MEETINGS: The Bureau of Land Management will hold a series of public meetings in Idaho, Colorado, California and Oregon in November on potential changes to plans for protecting greater sage grouse habitat. The meetings will be in [Idaho](#) on Nov. 2, 6 and 7, in [California](#) on Nov. 3, in [Oregon](#) on Nov. 7, and in [Colorado](#) on Nov. 9. The sage grouse plans involve 10 Western states, so BLM may announce more meetings in the weeks ahead and it will accept emailed comments through either Nov. 27 or 15 days after the last public meeting, whichever is later. The agency created the plans in 2015 under an agreement with states in lieu of listing the bird as either endangered or threatened under the Endangered Species Act but re-opened them at Zinke's bidding.

WESTERN VALUES PROJECT SUES FOR SAGE GROUSE RECORDS: The Montana-based Western Values Project, which focuses on public land issues, is [suing](#) Interior to release copies of emails between Zinke, members of his sage grouse review team and oil and gas groups to determine the extent to which they were able to influence the agency's decision to reshape the sage grouse plans and guidance on energy development.

ME FIRST -- INTERIOR BEEFS UP BLM, BOEM SENIOR STAFF OVER NOMINEE DELAY: The Interior Department last week quietly assigned a senior political staffer to lend an extra hand overseeing the agencies that are key to carrying out the administration's energy goals until the Senate confirms Joe Balash as secretary for land and minerals management.

In [Secretarial order No. 3357](#) dated Oct. 17, Deputy Secretary David Bernhardt said there is a "an immediate need for additional executive level supervision and direction" over the Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement and the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement and assigned Aurelia Skipworth, the deputy assistant secretary for fish, wildlife and parks; to help out.

Balash's nomination easily cleared the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee in September with a voice vote but Interior spokeswoman Heather Swift in an emailed statement accused Senate Democrats of dragging their feet on the nomination. "Rather than let that slow our progress, we are utilizing team members across the bureaus to move the ball forward for the American people," she said. In related news, Virginia Johnson, an Interior beachhead staffer and principle deputy secretary for fish wildlife and parks in July left for a job at the USO, according to her [LinkedIn](#) profile.

HANNITY V. INGRAHAM ON SOLAR TARIFFS: Whether to slap cheap imported solar equipment with tariffs has split Laura Ingraham and fellow Fox News host Sean Hannity, Pro's Eric Wolff [reports](#). Ingraham said on her radio show Friday that "Chinese manipulation of the

solar market has hurt U.S. manufacturers" and urged Trump to hit back with steep tariffs. But Hannity has made [an ad](#) warning that Suniva and SolarWorld are trying to manipulate U.S. trade laws and pointing out that both had foreign owners. "American taxpayers should not have to bail out one foreign company so another foreign company can get a payout," he said.

NO MINCING WORDS HERE: Russian President Vladimir Putin bashed efforts by some European nations, Poland and Denmark chief among them, to block two Russian gas pipelines, POLITICO Europe's David M. Herszenhorn [reports](#). "Attempts are being made to create obstacles in the way of our efforts to forge new energy routes - South Stream and Nord Stream - even though diversifying logistics is economically efficient, beneficial for Europe and promotes its security," Putin said in a speech at the Valdai Discussion Club.

SIGNED, SEALED, DELIVERED: The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management approved a key step of Deepwater Wind's 144-megawatt Revolution Wind project that will enable the company to collect the biological and wind performance data it needs to file a construction plan, Pro's Esther Whieldon [reports](#). Massachusetts is slated to pick the winning contracts in July, and Deepwater Wind has said it could bring the project online by the end of 2023.

FRIESS WON'T RULE OUT BARRASSO CHALLENGE: Wealthy GOP megadonor Foster Friess tells [Fox Business](#) he won't raise money to pick off Republican incumbents, but he's not ruling out launching a bid to unseat Wyoming Sen. [John Barrasso](#). "Better messaging, return of civility and untangling the health care logjam are my motivation; not that I am hell bent on replacing John Barrasso," he said.

Not amused: During an appearance on "Fox News Sunday," Senate Majority Leader [Mitch McConnell](#) referred to Steve Bannon and others not backing GOP incumbents as "specialists at nominating people who lose, and that isn't going to help President Trump achieve his agenda," POLITICO's Rebecca Morin [reports](#).

QUICK HITS

- E.P.A. Cancels Talk on Climate Change by Agency Scientists. [New York Times](#).
- Governor Brown Signs Order Allowing EPA to Help With Cleanup of Hazardous Waste from North Bay Fires. [NBC Bay Area](#).
- OKC firm secures \$200 million contract to restore power in Puerto Rico. [News OK](#).
- U.S.-backed forces take Syria's largest oil field from Islamic State. [Chicago Tribune](#).
- The World's Next Environmental Disaster. [Wall Street Journal](#).

HAPPENING THIS WEEK

MONDAY

1:00 p.m. — Press call with PJM president and CEO, contact: kassandra.meholick@edelman.com.

5:00 p.m. — House Rules Committee holds [a hearing](#) on various bills, H-313

6:00 p.m. — "Can Fossil Fuel Companies Be Held Liable for Climate Change?" Columbia

Law School, Jerome Greene Hall, Room 104, [435 West 116th Street, New York, NY](#)

TUESDAY

1:00 p.m. — Lawmakers host "Half-Earth Day" celebration and conversation with E.O. Wilson, U.S. Capitol Building Visitor Center: Congressional Auditorium and Atrium

2:30 p.m. — "[Reauthorization of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act: Fisheries Science](#)," Senate Commerce Coast Guard Subcommittee, Russell 253

4:00 p.m. — "[Crude Nation: How Oil Riches Ruined Venezuela](#)," Cato Institute, [1000 Massachusetts Ave. NW](#)

6:00 p.m. — 'Flint' viewing and panel discussion with Rep. Dan Kildee, U.S. Capitol Visitors Center Auditorium

WEDNESDAY

10:00 a.m. — "[Empowering State Based Management Solutions for Greater Sage Grouse Recovery](#)," House Natural Resources Committee, Longworth 1324

10:00 a.m. — Senate Environment and Public Works Committee holds a [business meeting](#) and hearing on "The [Wildfire Prevention and Mitigation Act of 2017](#)," Dirksen 406

2:00 p.m. — House Natural Resources subcommittee [hearing](#) on American Indian lands bill, House Natural Resources Indian, Insular, and Alaska Native Affairs Subcommittee, Longworth 1324

THURSDAY

10:00 a.m. — "[Examine Cyber Technology and Energy Infrastructure](#)," Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, Dirksen 366

10:00 a.m. — "[Improving Oversight of the Regulatory Process: Lessons from State Legislatures](#)," Senate Homeland Security Subcommittee on Regulatory Affairs and Federal Management, Dirksen 342

12:00 p.m. — Natural Gas Roundtable [hosts](#) USTDA's Energy Sector Worldwide Team Lead, Carl B. Kress, University Club, [1135 16th Street, NW](#)

THAT'S ALL FOR ME!

**** A message from Chevron:** This is a story about DOERS, butterflies, and buckwheat. In '75, the endangered El Segundo Blue butterfly was found near a Chevron refinery. We protected the habitat and planted the only thing they eat—buckwheat. We're still planting and keeping an eye on our littlest neighbor. Watch the video: <http://politi.co/2gyQXsp> **

To view online:

<https://www.politicopro.com/tipsheets/morning-energy/2017/10/senate-takes-up-massive-disaster-aid-package-today-025166>

Stories from POLITICO Pro

Cornyn extracts Trump pledge of Texas hurricane aid [Back](#)

By Sarah Ferris | 10/19/2017 05:47 PM EDT

The Senate's No. 2 Republican today endorsed a \$36.5 billion disaster aid package, resolving one of the standoffs holding up the bill.

A spokesman for Sen. [John Cornyn](#) (R-Texas) said Cornyn will support the House-passed aid package, [H.R. 2266 \(115\)](#), after personal assurances from the White House that more money for Texas will be delivered next month.

"The president strongly indicated his preference that a second appropriations request, which will come in November, will include funds specifically to aid Texans recovering from Harvey," Cornyn told Texas reporters in a call.

The [House package](#) includes nearly \$19 billion to replenish FEMA, largely intended for emergency efforts in Puerto Rico. It would also restore the National Flood Insurance Program's borrowing capacity to ensure all hurricane victims, including in Texas and Florida, receive timely payments.

But just two days ago, Cornyn said the package was "inadequate" for his home state, which was recently slammed by Hurricane Harvey.

Texas lawmakers in Congress have been pressured by Gov. Greg Abbott to seek more funding — and fast. After the House denied the Texas delegation's \$18.7 billion request for Harvey-specific aid last week, Abbott blasted the representatives for lacking a "[stiff spine](#)."

Without a cash infusion, the National Flood Insurance Program's claims funding would run dry on Oct. 23, a FEMA spokesman told POLITICO this week.

To view online [click here](#).

[Back](#)

Puerto Rico housing subsidies at risk as blackout drags on [Back](#)

By Lorraine Woellert | 10/20/2017 06:42 PM EDT

Puerto Rico could lose funding for thousands of low-income housing units if power to the island isn't restored soon.

The Department of Housing and Urban Development, which subsidizes 203 housing projects on the island, is prohibited by law from providing Section 8 assistance to buildings that aren't "decent, safe, and sanitary."

As an electrical blackout drags on a month after Hurricane Maria, it's likely that fewer

properties will be able to meet that standard, and the agency is being forced to review its options.

"Due to the ongoing and unique circumstances in Puerto Rico, we're reviewing every available option to assist residents during this difficult time," HUD spokesman Brian Sullivan said in a statement. About 20,000 housing units in 203 projects on the island receive project-based subsidies to provide affordable housing.

The agency has long interpreted "decent, safe and sanitary" housing to include continuous running water and electricity. In Puerto Rico, evaluating the livability of HUD's subsidized units has been slow going, and it's too soon to know how much damage has been done.

Meanwhile, property owners and managers say they're shipping generators to the island and sending couriers armed with cash to pay for gas to keep the machines running.

The Institute of Real Estate Management, an affiliate of the National Association of Realtors, whose members manage nearly 40 percent of federally assisted housing units, is urging HUD Secretary Ben Carson to keep the subsidies flowing.

"Penalizing these properties and, more importantly, these tenants, is simply adding more hardship to this community," the group wrote in a [letter](#) to HUD. "Without the federal portion of the rent, many of these properties will simply fail, and this stock of affordable housing will be lost."

After Hurricane Katrina hit New Orleans, some subsidies to ruined housing projects were converted to rental vouchers, which were distributed to individuals in need. Many of those low-income households pulled up roots and moved away from the city. In Puerto Rico, there are far fewer, if any, places for families to go.

"It's not only an invitation for people to leave the island, it means you're going to displace that many more families," said Mike Ford, NAR's point person on Puerto Rico. "Maybe it's not what we would call safe and decent housing in Mississippi or Arkansas, but it's better to have a house with a roof over your head in a rainstorm than be outside."

Colin Wilhelm contributed to this report.

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Biofuel backers claim victory in EPA battle [Back](#)

By Eric Wolff | 10/20/2017 05:37 PM EDT

Biofuels backers were breathing a sigh of relief on Friday after EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt backed away from changes to the Renewable Fuels Standard, a reversal that left oil refiners frustrated.

Pruitt [acceded](#) to demands from Sen. [Joni Ernst](#) that he publicly promise not to pursue plans to

change the biofuel program rules — changes that had been sought by oil refiners who have long complained about the costs of implementing the program that many see as a giveaway to the corn states.

Pruitt's letter to Ernst, Sen. [Chuck Grassley](#) and five other Midwestern Republican senators delivered what they'd asked for: A promise not to expand the group of companies required to comply with the program, to keep the biodiesel volume requirements at levels proposed in July, to not alter the policy that strips RFS credits from exported ethanol, and to explore allowing year-round sale of gasoline with 15 percent ethanol nationwide.

The quick reversal by Pruitt — at the [direction](#) of President Donald Trump — showed the influence of the biofuel lobby, corn growers and farm-state lawmakers to scuttle changes in the decade-old policy sought by the energy industry.

"This was a basket of bad ideas for biofuels," said Brooke Coleman, head of the industry lobby group Advanced Biofuels Business Council. "And there's no way that we could have any other response than to take this approach. [Pruitt] didn't kick tires on changing the RFS, he tried to take a baseball bat to the program, and the response was matching and in response to, from a magnitude perspective, to the initial foul."

The push by the senators, as well as Midwestern governors, "made a huge difference in this matter," said Michael McAdams, head of the Advanced Biofuels Association. "In addition, the collective unity of the entire biofuels industry, including those who distribute and market these fuels, made a significant impression on the importance and support for the RFS program."

But oil refiners who have said the high cost of biofuel credits, called Renewable Identification Numbers, was costing them hundreds of millions of dollars, lamented the power of the biofuels lobby and the corn-belt lawmakers.

"The [Pruitt] letter is a result of political pressure applied by Midwestern politicians," said one refining source. "Some Midwesterners cannot accept any premise that the RFS could be improved. As a result, their overreaction included everything from holds on confirmations to even more personal threats launched at the White House and EPA."

The unified and vociferous campaign by the biofuels industry in attacking the proposal that would have lowered biodiesel volume mandates surprised some in the refining industry, as well as the political staff in the EPA, sources tell POLITICO.

The Trump administration's embrace of the oil industry had raised refiners' hopes that it could have the best opportunity in years for significant RFS changes, and refining giant Valero Energy, along with a group of Pennsylvania companies, believed they would get relief from what they considered an onerous program.

But Grassley took to the Senate floor to blast Pruitt's biofuel plans as a "betrayal" of Trump's promises to protect ethanol, and he arranged a call with Trump and Pruitt that led to the meeting in his office with Pruitt and Ernst as well as [Deb Fischer](#) (Neb.), [John Thune](#) (S.D.), [Ben Sasse](#) (Neb.), [Pat Roberts](#) (Kan.) and [Mike Rounds](#) (S.D.). Following that meeting, Ernst demanded the public statement from Pruitt, and said she would withhold her support for Bill Wehrum, who was nominated to run the agency's air office, forcing a delay in the Environment and Public Works Committee's vote until next week.

Ernst spokeswoman Brook Hougesson told POLITICO, "Now that Sen. Ernst has received the assurances that the EPA will support the spirit and the letter of the RFS, she will support Mr. Wehrum."

Valero was disappointed its efforts to change the program had been shot down by the fierce political opposition.

"These senators have intervened in a regulatory process, and the proposals and concepts in the letter address RFS implementation problems to which these senators have offered no constructive solutions," Valero said in a statement. "The only unifying principle of their bullying opposition seems to be a desire to maintain the status quo at all costs and to protect windfall profits associated with unregulated trading of renewable identification numbers, or RINs. Their position advances neither the goals nor the efficient implementation of the RFS, and places U.S. manufacturing jobs at risk."

But in a statement, the White House made clear that Trump remained fully behind the biofuels program.

"President Donald J. Trump promised rural America that he would protect the Renewable Fuel Standard, and has never wavered from that promise," spokeswoman Kelly Love said in a statement. "The president has had constructive conversations with several key officials about the RFS over the past week, and he understands their concerns. The Trump administration will protect the RFS and ensure that our Nation's hardworking farmers continue to fuel America."

One energy executive said the biofuel backers were victorious because they were unified in their support for the RFS, while Republicans, the oil industry, and even the refiners were not on the same page.

"The ethanol boys won this round, no doubt, but at a pretty high cost," said Stephen Brown, vice president for federal government affairs for Andeavor. "The refining industry is anything but united on the RFS beyond a sunset as individual companies have each made investments and honed mitigation strategies to comply with the statute. As those investment decisions become increasingly operationally embedded, the industry will continue to splinter on the suite of RFS issues."

But some producers are still wary of Pruitt's pledge in his Thursday letter, and they note that he promised to release a final rule in which none of the mandatory volumes will be less than he proposed in July. For some producers, those volumes were already too low.

"There's some work to do here," Coleman said. "We won't know until the rule is done. And we recognize it's an ongoing rulemaking, it's not like they're going or republish the rule, they've said what they can say. The final rule really matters."

To view online [click here](#).

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Solar tariff fight pits Ingraham against Hannity [Back](#)

By Eric Wolff | 10/20/2017 03:53 PM EDT

Conservative talk radio host Laura Ingraham urged President Donald Trump to impose tariffs on solar equipment imports today — rebutting the argument by Fox News host Sean Hannity that such tariffs would be a bailout to two foreign-owned companies in the U.S.

"Chinese manipulation of the solar market has hurt U.S. manufacturers," Ingraham said on [her show](#) while interviewing Matt Card, an executive with Suniva, one of the companies that brought the trade case seeking tariffs on imported solar panels.

"This is where Trump fulfills his promises that he made on the campaign trail to stand up for American manufacturing by using current U.S. law that other presidents basically didn't pay that much attention to," Ingraham said.

But most of the industry opposes tariffs, and solar installers have enlisted Hannity to urge Trump not to implement trade barriers. He made [an ad](#) saying the two companies were trying to manipulate U.S. trade laws, and pointed out that both had foreign owners. "American taxpayers should not have to bail out one foreign company so another foreign company can get a payout," he says in the ad.

Suniva, which is backed by a Chinese solar company, and SolarWorld, a U.S. subsidiary of a German company, last month won a 4-0 decision from the U.S. International Trade Commission saying that they had been harmed by cheap solar panel imports.

WHAT'S NEXT: The ITC will hold a hearing to discuss tariff options next week.

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BOEM approves key step for Deepwater Wind-Tesla offshore wind project [Back](#)

By Esther Whieldon | 10/20/2017 04:17 PM EDT

The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management has approved a key step for Deepwater Wind's 144-megawatt Revolution Wind project proposed off the coast of Massachusetts and Rhode Island.

In a letter dated Oct. 12 and posted by the agency today, BOEM said it approved Deepwater's "site assessment plan" to install a meteorological buoy at the site of the project. The buoy will give the company the biological and wind performance data it needs to file a construction plan.

Deepwater has held a lease for the area since 2013 and in July announced plans with Tesla to combine the wind project with a 40 megawatt-hour onshore battery in their bid to win a long-term clean-energy contract in Massachusetts.





Deepwater late last year brought the nation's first offshore wind project online — the 30-megawatt Block Island project off the Rhode Island coast.

WHAT'S NEXT: Massachusetts is slated to pick the winning contracts in July, and Deepwater Wind has said it could bring the project online by the end of 2023.

To view online [click here](#).

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By Anthony Adragna | 09/14/2017 05:41 AM EDT

With help from Eric Wolff

PRUITT'S CARBON TIGHTROPE BALANCING ACT: Leaving the door open to rewrite the Obama administration's Clean Power Plan would help President Donald Trump's administration honor the wishes of power companies looking to avoid years of legal uncertainty but might not satisfy the demands of some conservative activists, Pro's Emily Holden [reports](#). EPA wants to move to collect comments about whether to write a new regulation, and is likely to write a new rule given the agency would be on much shakier legal ground if it simply opted not to regulate carbon dioxide from power plants.

Any replacement rule would be unlikely to take a meaningful bite out of carbon levels and would be based on a much narrower interpretation of EPA's Clean Air Act authority. That may be enough in the interim for some conservatives who would prefer a straight withdrawal of Clean Power Plan but who wouldn't oppose a replacement rule. "Ultimately, the responsibility to fix this mess lies with the Congress, so until they act, the only thing the Administration can do is minimize the damage," said Tom Pyle, a conservative lobbyist with the American Energy Alliance who led Trump's Energy Department transition team. But the details could have political implications for Pruitt, who is widely seen as a potential candidate for the U.S. Senate in his native Oklahoma.

Most utilities assume future regulations or laws will ultimately require them to curb carbon emissions even if the Obama administration's Clean Power Plan goes down and support EPA issuing a replacement rule — albeit a much weaker one. "We think that future regulation of carbon emissions from power production is

likely, and could provide additional planning certainty," Tammy Ridout, a spokeswoman with coal-heavy AEP, said. Regardless of the approach Pruitt ultimately selects, environmental groups are sure to vigorously contest his efforts in court.

DOMENECH CLEARS SENATE: Trump's pick for Interior assistant secretary nominee, Douglas Domenech, cleared the Senate by voice vote late Wednesday. The veteran of George W. Bush's Interior Department who was on the Trump transition team's landing team at the agency said during the confirmation process that he [still believes](#) that the human contribution to climate change is very small. Domenech also previously served as Virginia's secretary of natural resources.

But others will wait: Efforts to fill out the Trump energy team must wait a few more days again after the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee shelved votes slated for today on the nominations of five FERC, DOE and Interior nominees, Pro's Darius Dixon [reports](#). Votes are now slated for next Tuesday.

Democrats threaten to delay Bodine: Two EPW Democrats — [Sheldon Whitehouse](#) and [Jeff Merkley](#) — [threatened](#) to hold up Susan Bodine's nomination to be EPA enforcement chief until she provides details about her advisory role to the administrator and whether she played a role in the agency's decision to enforce its methane rule on a "case by case" basis. They said Bodine's assumption of a role at EPA without being confirmed first may run afoul of federal law.

EPA nominees up next week: Four EPA nominees will get their day at Senate EPW for a hearing next Wednesday. They are: Michael Dourson to run the agency's chemical office; Matt Leopold to be general counsel; David Ross to run the water office; and William Wehrum's contentious bid to be EPA's top air official. The committee also will consider Jeffery Baran's renomination to another five-year NRC term.

WELCOME TO THURSDAY! I'm your host Anthony Adragna, and Bracewell's Frank Maisano named Schuyler Colfax and John Nance Garner as the two House speakers that became vice president. For today, and in keeping with the theme: Who is the lone speaker that went on to become president? Send your tips, energy gossip and comments to aadragna@politico.com, or follow us on Twitter [@AnthonyAdragna](#), [@Morning_Energy](#), and [@POLITICOPro](#).

GET PUMPED! POLITICO Pro convenes its first-ever policy summit today (follow along [here](#)) with a little something for everyone. Of particular interest to energy fans: a 10:30 a.m. session hosted by Pro's Nick Juliano on the implications of the Trump administration on energy policy. Panelists include: Exelon CEO Chris Crane; Senate Energy staffer Spencer Gray; Business Council for Sustainable Energy President Lisa Jacobson and MWR Strategies' Mike McKenna. Other non-energy speakers throughout the day include: Treasury Secretary Steve Mnuchin, Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross and top House taxwriters [Kevin Brady](#) and [Richard Neal](#).

TEMPORARY REGULATORY WAIVERS GALORE: With Florida and Texas still restoring power and taking stock of damage following Hurricanes Harvey and Irma, federal regulators are temporarily relaxing regulatory

requirements to help those states get back online. As POLITICO Florida's Bruce Ritchie [reports](#), the EPA acknowledged in [a letter](#) Wednesday it recognized the need to use "flexibility" provided in federal stormwater discharge permits for facilities affected by the storm.

Jones Act waiver extended: Citing "severe disruptions of the oil supply system," DHS announced Wednesday it [extended](#) a Jones Act waiver through Sept. 22 to alleviate fuel shortages in the areas affected by the hurricanes. The decision will allow foreign-flagged vessels to deliver fuel from U.S. refineries to Florida and other impacted states, something barred under the 1920 Jones Act.

Texas' too: EPA [said](#) late Wednesday it would waive fuel requirements under the Clean Air Act for reformulated gasoline and low volatility gasoline in Texas through Oct. 1 to "help address the emergency circumstances" in the state from the hurricanes. In addition, the agency also continued to allow the use of Texas Low Emission Diesel in 110 Texas counties.

Three's a trend! OMB Chief Mick Mulvaney [told](#) CNN's Jake Tapper on Wednesday there's "plenty of time later" to discuss climate change but said the focus right now should be on helping hurricane victims in Texas and Florida. "I'd be more than happy to have a longer discussion another day about climate change, man-made climate change," he said. Energy Secretary Rick Perry previously said now's "[not the time](#)" to discuss climate change, while EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt called such talk "[insensitive](#)."

Curbelo fine with climate talk: Back on Capitol Hill after responding to Hurricane Irma's impacts on his district, Rep. [Carlos Curbelo](#) said climate change should be a part of post-storm discussion. "It shouldn't be the first thing people talk about — the first concern has to be all the people in the Florida Keys and throughout the state of Florida who are struggling," he told reporters. "[But] it's certainly not irresponsible to highlight how this storm was probably fueled — in part — by conditions that were caused by human-induced climate change."

Backs Nelson's climate comments: Curbelo said he "absolutely" agreed with his state's senior senator, [Bill Nelson](#), that Republicans were "[denying reality](#)" if they refused to acknowledge climate change. "I am critical of both the deniers and the alarmists because they don't contribute much to solving this problem," he said. "The deniers deny it so you can't address a problem you don't recognize and the alarmists scare everyone and take credibility away from the issue, and people who are convincible then shy away. People need to talk about this in a sober way, in a rational way."

Be on the lookout: Curbelo said his bipartisan Climate Solutions Caucus should hit 60 members in the near future, which would triple its membership from last Congress. The caucus grew to 56 members on Tuesday with the additions of Republicans [Chris Collins](#) and [Pat Tiberi](#) and Democrats [John Larson](#) and [Nydia Velazquez](#).

HOUSE PANEL TAKES FIRST LOOK AT RELIABILITY: They've split the original hearing into two, but the House Energy and Commerce Energy Subcommittee takes a first look at various issues associated at the reliability of the

U.S. electric grid. Making his first congressional appearance since confirmation is FERC Chairman Neil Chatterjee. Also testifying is Gerry Cauley, president of the North American Electric Reliability Corporation, and Patricia Hoffman, an official within DOE's Office of Electricity. The background memo for the hearing, which kicks off at 10 a.m. in Rayburn 2123, is available [here](#).

HERE'S SOMETHING YOU WON'T SEE EVERYDAY: Still looking to drum up momentum for their bipartisan bill boosting carbon capture and sequestration technologies, one of the Senate's most unusual possible quartets — [Heidi Heitkamp](#), [Shelley Moore Capito](#), [Sheldon Whitehouse](#) and [John Barrasso](#) — participate in an event hosted by the Center for Climate and Energy Solutions on the latest innovations in the technology and efforts to speed its deployment. It kicks off in Hart 902 at 8:30 a.m. Details [here](#).

PARTS OF EPA DISCHARGE RULE DELAYED: EPA issued a final [rule](#) Wednesday formally delaying key compliance dates from a 2015 regulation limiting toxic discharges in power plants' wastewater streams, Pro's Alex Guillén [reports](#). Specifically, the agency will delay deadlines related to limits on discharges of flue gas desulfurization wastewater and bottom ash transport water, two waste streams associated with burning coal for electricity, while it reconsiders those standards. EPA said the delays will provide annualized utility cost savings between \$27.5 million and \$36.8 million.

Environmental groups vowed to sue: Mary Anne Hitt, director of Sierra Club's Beyond Coal campaign, said in a statement her group would take "immediate action" to fight a decision she called "so unconscionable from a public health — and common sense — perspective, that [Pruitt] couldn't even name a valid legal reason for the delay." Earthjustice Attorney Thomas Cmar called the rule "a bold-faced gift to the coal industry at the expense of the health of families everywhere."

PROBE OF EPA GRANT PROCESS SOUGHT: The Center for American Progress and Union of Concerned Scientists are today asking EPA's inspector general in [a letter](#) to investigate the agency's grant review process, rumored cancellation of some grants and allegations of political interference. "We urge your office to begin an investigation of these matters immediately," they write.

REVAMPED FEDERAL LEASING PROGRAM SOUGHT: The Wilderness Society, along with several other petitioners, are [asking](#) Interior and BLM this morning to revamp the fiscal terms and management processes regarding oil and gas leasing on federal lands. The petitioners argue their reform proposals would not harm, slow, or stop energy production on public lands. "Analyses of these decades-old [current] policies has shown that they are harming the taxpayers that the BLM is obligated to ensure receive the benefits of leasing and the public lands that BLM is obligated to ensure are managed for multiple use and sustained yield," they write.

HIDDEN DANGER IN OKLAHOMA? Massive oil storage tanks in Cushing, Okla. could be growing more vulnerable by the day as man-made earthquakes stemming from fracking tests their limits, Kathryn Miles reports in POLITICO Magazine. Five of the largest energy companies each said have procedures and

protocols for natural disasters, but that they would not comment on the specific designs of their tanks, nor how those tanks would fare in a major earthquake. Read the full thing [here](#).

NRDC SEEKING REHEARING ON REFRIGERANTS CASE: The Natural Resources Defense Council plans to ask the D.C. Circuit for an en banc rehearing of [last months' decision](#) striking down an EPA rule limiting use of hydrofluorocarbons, a global warming exacerbating coolant. NRDC believes the majority in the 2-1 decision erred in its determination that the law was clear and did not require agency interpretation, known as Chevron Step 1. "[D.C. Circuit Judge Brett] Kavanaugh interprets the law in a way that eviscerates the program," said David Doniger, head of climate programs for NRDC. "Everybody understood to this point that the substitutes for ozone depleting chemicals were replacements ... and when new ones are developed safer than the old ones, the old ones are supposed to give way." HFCs fall out of the atmosphere faster than CO₂, but have a far higher global warming potential.

Honeywell, too? "We believe the EPA's regulation is well-supported by the law and was in the best interests of the public, industry and the environment," a spokeswoman for Honeywell International Inc. said in an email to ME. Honeywell makes next generation coolants. "We are closely reviewing the decision and are likely to pursue an appeal, and are already taking steps to ensure that the accelerated transition to HFC alternatives continues."

FOR YOUR REFERENCE: Advanced Energy Economy today released seven specific [issue briefs](#) as policymakers consider ways to modernize the U.S. electric grid. They cover: advanced metering; access to data; optimizing capital expenditures; distributed energy resource ownership; using energy efficiency as a resources; performance-based regulation and designing rates in a distributed energy resource future.

BETTER LUCK NEXT YEAR? Two ambitious bills in California — laying the groundwork for a regional electricity grid and eventually phasing out use of fossil fuels — won't advance this year, a key committee chairman [told the Los Angeles Times](#) Wednesday. "There's not a lot of time for the engagement we need to make it work," Assemblyman Chris Holden said, adding they should be considered as part of a "comprehensive conversation" in 2018. The legislative session ends Friday and the deadline for amending legislation was Tuesday night.

REPORT: CLOSING COAL PLANTS MEANS BIG BUCKS: Phasing out inefficient coal plants would save U.S. customers up to \$10 billion annually by 2021, a [new report](#) from Carbon Tracker finds. Constructing combined cycle gas turbines will be more cost-effective by the mid-2020s than continuing to operate 78 percent of the nation's current coal fleet, the study concludes. "The US power sector remains entirely unprepared for a coal phase-out consistent with a below [2 degree] C outcome," it finds, referring to the goal of the Paris climate agreement to limit global temperature increases.

NEW EDF AD USES HARVEY FOOTAGE: The Environmental Defense Fund is launching a [new ad](#) in the Washington area for three weeks using footage from the Arkema plant incident in Texas. The ad warns Congress that cutting the

agency's budget could harm disaster response moving forward.

MOVER, SHAKER: Nick Conger starts a new gig as former Vice President Al Gore's communications director in Nashville on Oct. 2. The Obama administration EPA veteran leaves his current post as a press secretary at NRDC on Sept. 22. "I couldn't be more thrilled to join [Gore's] team and help shape his public activities," he writes of his role.

QUICK HITS

— New York's buildings emit most of its greenhouse gases. The mayor has a plan to change that. [Washington Post](#).

— Former Vice President Al Gore: Investors can lead climate change battle. [CNBC](#).

— US judge cites tribal sovereignty in dismissing coal lawsuit. [AP](#).

— Colorado outlines how new pipeline rules will be considered after fatal Firestone explosion. [Denver Post](#).

— Saudis Prepare for Possible Aramco IPO Delay to 2019. [Bloomberg](#).

— Oil Rises on Signs of Tightening Supply. [Wall Street Journal](#).

HAPPENING TODAY

8:30 a.m. — "[State of the Art: Innovations in CO2 Capture and Use](#)," Center for Climate and Energy Solutions, Hart 902

8:30 a.m. — The Alliance to Save Energy hosts Great Energy Efficiency Day (GEED), Columbus Club, Union Station, 50 Massachusetts Ave NE,

8:30 a.m. — POLITICO Pro policy summit, Omni Shoreham Hotel, 2500 Calvert Street, NW

9:30 a.m. — Business [meeting](#) to consider various nominations, Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, 366 Dirksen

10:00 a.m. — "[EIA's International Energy Outlook 2017](#)," Center for Strategic and International Studies, 1616 Rhode Island Avenue, NW

10:00 a.m. — "[U.S. Policy Options to Support Democracy in Venezuela](#)," Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Dirksen 419

10:00 a.m. — "[Part One: Powering America: Defining Reliability in a Transforming Electricity Industry](#)," House Energy and Commerce Energy Subcommittee, 2123 Rayburn

11:00 a.m. — Sen. Markey and Rep. Cartwright hold [press conference](#) to announce climate change and public health legislation, S-115, U.S. Capitol

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To view online:

<https://www.politicopro.com/tipsheets/morning-energy/2017/09/replacing-clean-power-plan-could-disappoint-conservatives-024587>

Stories from POLITICO Pro

Repeal and replace approach to EPA climate rule may disappoint Trump base [Back](#)

By Emily Holden | 09/14/2017 05:01 AM EDT

The Trump administration is leaving the door open to replace former President Barack Obama's landmark climate regulation for power plants — a move that would fall short of conservatives' calls to erase it all together

A mend-it-don't-end-it approach from the Environmental Protection Agency on Obama's 2015 rule could appease power companies that say they need some kind of EPA regulations — albeit much weaker ones — to save them from years of legal uncertainty. But it might not satisfy the demands from some conservative activists, who have pressured EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt to reject the entire idea that climate change is a problem requiring federal action.

The agency is aiming by early October to issue a proposal to undo the Clean Power Plan, along with a separate advance notice of its intent to consider a replacement, a source close to the process told POLITICO.

That approach still leaves a wide array of options on the table — including ultimately deciding against a new rule — and it could allow Pruitt to stretch out the process for several more years without ultimately resolving how the agency should address the greenhouse gas emissions from power plants, one of the largest contributors to human-caused climate change.

The Clean Power Plan encouraged the power sector to shift away from coal and toward natural gas and renewable power, an approach that Obama's critics said exceeded EPA's authority under the Clean Air Act. At a minimum, Trump's EPA would likely seek to limit any replacement to require only the negligible carbon emissions reductions that could be achieved at coal plants themselves, without prodding states and utilities to replace those facilities with cleaner generation.

The details about how to begin unraveling Obama's climate regulations could have political implications for Pruitt, who is widely seen as a potential candidate for the U.S. Senate in his native Oklahoma. Repealing the power plant rule was an explicit campaign promise for President Donald Trump, who has dismissed man-made climate change as a "hoax."

For now, conservatives appear willing to give Pruitt the benefit of the doubt because he is walking a legal tightrope and could still decide to take aim at EPA's underlying obligation to regulate carbon emissions. The D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals has agreed to keep litigation over the Clean Power Plan on hold through

Oct. 7, but judges warned Pruitt last month that EPA is dodging its legal obligation to regulate carbon by failing to outline its next steps on the rule.

Myron Ebell, the climate skeptic who led EPA's transition team, has pushed for Pruitt to fight the agency's "endangerment finding" that it must address climate change. But he said a replacement rule might be an "adequate stopgap."

He said if the courts ultimately find that a coal-plant focused rule isn't enough to fulfill EPA's legal obligation, then "in order to keep the president's promise that we're going to get rid of these economically destructive rules, the only alternative they will have is to reopen the endangerment finding."

Challenging that finding, which determined that heat-trapping gases like carbon dioxide were a public health threat, would mean fighting climate change science, and most lawyers say it is a losing battle. The Obama administration issued the endangerment finding in 2009, two years after the Supreme Court told EPA to determine its role in fighting climate change.

Tom Pyle, a conservative lobbyist with the American Energy Alliance who led Trump's Energy Department transition team, said he would prefer a straight withdrawal of the Clean Power Plan but wouldn't oppose a replacement rule.

"Ultimately, the responsibility to fix this mess lies with the Congress, so until they act, the only thing the Administration can do is minimize the damage," Pyle said via email.

But EPA would be on much shakier legal ground if it just refused to regulate carbon dioxide from power plants, the nation's largest source of greenhouse gas pollution.

EPA wants to move to collect comments about whether to write a new regulation, and is likely to write a new rule, multiple sources said.

Any replacement would be based on a narrow interpretation of EPA's authority and is unlikely to make a meaningful dent in carbon levels — unlike Obama's version, which pledged to cut the power industry's carbon pollution as much as 32 percent below 2005 levels by 2030.

Opponents of the Clean Power Plan have also argued that the rule is illegal because EPA had [already regulated coal plants](#) under a different section of law. EPA could still make that argument while proposing to withdraw the plan and invite comments on the idea in its notice of a potential replacement.

Environmental groups are expected to sue no matter which path Pruitt and Trump take.

"There would be very intense protests to rescinding the Clean Power Plan and replacing it with nothing indefinitely, which is what this would be," said Sean Donahue, a lawyer at Donahue & Goldberg who represents environmental groups defending the Clean Power Plan in court.

EPA is planning to issue an Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (ANPR),

the first step toward issuing a replacement for the Clean Power Plan, according to the source familiar with the process. But that route leaves many options open.

Kevin Poloncarz, a lawyer with the firm Paul Hastings who represents energy companies supporting the Clean Power Plan, said the notice could be "fairly nondescript" and could suggest a replacement rule or ask for feedback on whether EPA can legally regulate power plants under the section of the Clean Air Act that the Obama administration used.

If EPA simply rescinded the Clean Power Plan without announcing plans to consider a replacement, Poloncarz said power companies could face nuisance lawsuits.

Issuing the notice could be a compromise position. While it's in place, "the industry should feel some degree of comfort that they're insulated from those lawsuits," Poloncarz said.

States like New York could still take court action against EPA if the agency is taking too long or questions its own authority on greenhouse gases, he added.

It's not unusual for an agency to take years to follow up on an ANPR. EPA took about six years to issue its draft Clean Power Plan in 2014.

"The entire point of ANPR is to help agencies decide which course they want to pursue where there are multiple options," said Tom Lorenzen, a partner at Crowell & Moring who represents electric cooperatives challenging the Clean Power Plan.

"I think one purpose of an ANPR would be to send a message to the court that EPA is thinking about what comes next," he added.

Lorenzen said an ANPR could suggest a replacement rule or argue that any regulation is illegal because the agency has already regulated power plants under Section 112 of the Clean Air Act.

Several attorneys noted that Bill Wehrum, the lawyer nominated to run EPA's air office, has represented power industry clients who likely would back a replacement rule because they consider regulation to be inevitable.

Most utilities assume a future regulation or law will require them to curb carbon emissions, even if Trump's EPA rescinds the Clean Power Plan.

Even coal-heavy power companies have said they support EPA issuing a replacement rule.

AEP, a Midwestern power company that gets slightly less than half of its electricity from coal, would back a new proposal "consistent with the EPA's authority under the Clean Air Act," spokeswoman Tammy Ridout said.

In 2005, 70 percent of AEP's power came from coal, but the company has been intentionally shifting toward renewable power and lower-carbon natural gas.

"We think that future regulation of carbon emissions from power production is likely, and could provide additional planning certainty," Ridout said.

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Interior nominee Domenech says human role in climate change small [Back](#)

By Esther Whieldon | 07/20/2017 01:12 PM EDT

Interior assistant secretary nominee Douglas Domenech told his senators at his confirmation hearing today that he still believes that the human contribution to climate change is very small.

At the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee hearing, Sen. [Al Franken](#) (D-Minn.) asked Domenech, President Donald Trump's nominee for assistant secretary for insular areas, if he still stood by his December [op-ed](#) that said that humankind was impacting the climate in "very small ways."

Domenech, an Interior veteran who was on the Trump transition team's landing team at the agency this year, said "yes."

The senator asked whether Domenech, given his views on climate change, is the "right person" to help vulnerable island communities that are being impacted by sea level rise.

Domenech said that as Virginia's secretary of natural resources, he helped the fishing community in Tangier Island in Chesapeake Bay deal with erosion and sea level rise.

"We worked with them quite a bit in terms of reinforcing their shoreline and those kinds of activities with the Corps of Engineers, and so I take it very seriously, I don't at all minimize that the climate is changing," Domenech said.

WHAT'S NEXT: Senators will by the end of today send Domenech a list of questions they want answered for the record and the committee will likely wait to schedule a vote on his nomination until they receive his responses.

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Senate energy committee delays vote on FERC, DOE and DOI nominees

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By Darius Dixon | 09/13/2017 06:28 PM EDT

The Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee announced this evening it postponed a Thursday morning series of votes on President Donald Trump's nominees for FERC and the departments of Energy and Interior.

The panel was slated to consider Kevin McIntyre for chairman of FERC, Richard Glick for FERC commissioner, David Jonas for DOE general counsel, and Ryan Nelson and Joseph Balash for solicitor and assistant secretary for land and minerals management at DOI. The vote will now happen Sept. 19.

A committee spokesperson said the vote was delayed because of "member availability."

WHAT'S NEXT: The Senate energy committee will vote on the nominees on Tuesday at 9:30 a.m.

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POLITICO Pro Florida: EPA backs Florida on stormwater permit 'flexibility' following Irma [Back](#)

By Bruce Ritchie | 09/13/2017 07:10 PM EDT

EPA is telling state officials they recognize the need to use "flexibility" provided in federal stormwater discharge permits for facilities affected by Hurricane Irma.

Florida regulations allow for temporary bypass of stormwater systems or unintentional noncompliance in emergency situations, Florida Department of Environmental Protection spokeswoman Dee Ann Miller said.

The state had relayed concerns to the EPA about those provisions relating to Hurricane Irma, said Miller, who added that those bypass provisions will allow ports and other facilities get back into operation as quickly as possible.

In a [letter](#) released today, EPA regional administrator Trey Glenn said the agency recognized the need under federal law for "potential flexibility" because of circumstances caused by Hurricane Irma that are "beyond the reasonable control" of permit holders.

"The EPA also recognizes there may be other unforeseen issues that arise as a result of this disaster and we stand ready to work together with our state partners to address these potential issues as they arise," Glenn wrote.

This story first appeared on [POLITICO Pro Florida](#) on Sept. 13, 2017.

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Florida Sen. Bill Nelson: Republicans 'denying reality' on climate change

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By Michael Grunwald | 09/12/2017 09:06 PM EDT

Democratic Senator Bill Nelson of Florida, after surveying the damage that Hurricane Irma inflicted across his state, blasted Republican politicians who reject the science and minimize the importance of climate change—including his likely opponent in 2018, Governor Rick Scott.

In an interview Tuesday evening with POLITICO, Nelson said it's clear that manmade global warming made Irma worse by increasing the temperature and the height of the seas that fueled the storm. He said he didn't want to play partisan politics in the aftermath of a hurricane, but then went on to criticize Republicans in general and Scott in particular—though not by name—for opposing climate action. He noted that both the Trump administration in Washington and the Scott administration in Tallahassee have reportedly discouraged government employees from even talking about climate change.

"It's denying reality," Nelson said. "You can call it politics or whatever, but the Earth is getting hotter. This storm is another reminder of what we're going to have to deal with in the future."

Nelson, a former astronaut, launched into a detailed explanation of the science of climate change and the greenhouse effect, and how it has helped make the waters around Florida higher and warmer in recent decades. He said it would be a crucial issue in his reelection campaign, even as he avoided the words "Rick Scott."

"It's certainly going to be an important issue, and if certain people such as the one you mentioned is my opponent, there's a significant contrast in what we believe," Nelson said.

Florida is a swing state in presidential elections, but its state government and statewide offices tilt heavily Republican; Nelson has been an exception to the red wave, but a well-known, well-funded opponent like Scott would be by far his most difficult challenge to date. He clearly sees climate as a potential wedge issue in a state with a heavily coastal population and increasing vulnerability to Irma-type disasters. Scott did not discuss the issue in his frequent Irma briefings; a spokesperson for the governor, when asked about Nelson's comments, said, "Now is not the time for politics. This storm is not a partisan issue. Now is the time to focus on helping Florida rebuild."

But in the past, he has questioned climate science—or declined to affirm the scientific consensus that it's being caused by humans, often noting, "I am not a scientist"—and fossil-fuel interests have supported his campaigns. In 2015, the Miami Herald [reported](#) that Scott's administration had even banned the use of the

terms "climate change," "global warming" and "sustainability" in official documents.

Nelson is not known in Washington as a leader on climate issues, but he said he's focused on them since he was Florida's insurance commissioner in the 1990s. He's fought against President Trump's proposed cuts to climate science at agencies like NOAA, NASA and EPA, and said he helped persuade the Obama administration to launch a satellite, first dreamed up by Al Gore, that takes continuous pictures of the Earth from deep space.

But Nelson didn't really argue that he deserved kudos for accepting the conclusions of the scientific community; he argued that Republicans on the other side of the issue need to explain why they think "99.5 percent of climate scientists" are wrong. Several prominent Republicans in South Florida—including Miami-Dade County mayor Carlos Gimenez and Reps. Carlos Curbelo and Ileana Ros-Lehtinen—have made it clear they believe Washington needs to take climate seriously. Nelson pointed out that politicians don't question government scientists when they say a hurricane is coming—but when the same agencies use the same scientific instruments to measure long-term climate trends, opinions suddenly differ.

"It's ironic, isn't it?" Nelson said. "They accept the hurricane information, but deny the climate information ... Look, some people still think the Earth is flat."

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EPA delays parts of power plant toxic discharge rule [Back](#)

By Alex Guillén | 09/13/2017 03:35 PM EDT

EPA has finalized a [rule](#) delaying by two years the key compliance dates for a 2015 regulation limiting toxic discharges in power plants' wastewater streams while it reconsiders those standards.

The delay provides "relief from the existing regulatory deadlines while the agency revisits some of the rule's requirements," EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt said in a statement.

Following industry requests, EPA specifically is delaying deadlines related to limits on discharges of flue gas desulfurization wastewater and bottom ash transport water, two waste streams associated with burning coal for electricity. EPA estimates the two-year delay of those requirements will provide annualized utility cost savings between \$27.5 million and \$36.8 million.

The agency said it will not revisit new standards for other types of waste streams — including fly ash transport water, flue gas mercury control wastewater and gasification wastewater — and will leave deadlines associated with those streams

in place.

The delay will take effect two weeks after it is published in the Federal Register, and is open to court challenges.

The Obama administration said the overall rule, known as effluent limitations guidelines or ELGs, ultimately would curb 1.4 billion pounds of aluminum, lead, mercury, arsenic and other toxic metals from entering waterways via discharge streams each year.

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How Man-made Earthquakes Could Cripple the U.S. Economy [Back](#)

By Kathryn Miles | 09/14/2017 05:03 AM EDT

When Hurricane Harvey made landfall in Texas, U.S. oil refining plummeted to record lows. Now, two weeks later, six key refineries remain shut down and an additional 11 are either struggling to come back on line or operating at a significantly reduced rate. That slowdown, coupled with predictions of decreased demand in the wake of Irma and the devastating earthquake that struck Mexico last week, has shifted oil pressures in other places, too. And none may be quite as vulnerable as the tank farms in Cushing, Oklahoma.

Dubbed the "Pipeline Crossroads of the World," Cushing is the nexus of 14 major pipelines, including Keystone, which alone has the potential to transport as much as 600,000 barrels of oil a day. The small Oklahoma town is also home to the world's largest store of oil which sits in hundreds of enormous tanks there. Prior to this recent spate of natural disasters, Cushing oil levels were already high. They've increased nearly a million barrels to nearly 60 million barrels in the two weeks since.

This concentration of oil, about 15 percent of U.S. demand, is one reason the Department of Homeland Security has designated Cushing "critical infrastructure," which it defines as assets that, "whether physical or virtual, are considered so vital to the United States that their incapacitation or destruction would have a debilitating effect on security, national economic security, national public health or safety, or any combination thereof."

The biggest potential cause of that incapacitation? According to Homeland Security, it's not terrorism or mechanical malfunction. It's natural disaster. And here's the problem: When most of the Cushing tanks there were constructed, the most logical cause of any such disaster seemed like a catastrophic tornado. No one anticipated swarms of earthquakes. But that's what began occurring about five years ago, when wastewater injection and other fracking-related activities changed the seismic face of Oklahoma in dramatic fashion. Two hours before that deadly quake in Mexico, for instance, a magnitude 4.3 temblor shook Central

Oklahoma, knocking out power for thousands. The earthquake, which had an epicenter just 100 miles northwest of Cushing, was the 186th quake in Oklahoma to register a magnitude 3.0 or higher.

This man-made seismicity has changed the landscape of Oklahoma significantly, from a state with one of the lowest seismic rates in the country to the most seismically active in the lower 48, says Ken Erdmann is Senior Vice President at Matrix Engineering, the firm that designs, fabricates, and builds many of the tanks in places like Cushing. "It's not natural. It's not Mother-nature based."

That's a problem, he says because the statistical analysis used to establish safe environmental loads is based on historical intervals—both the average and maximums of events like snowfall or wind or seismic activity.

"When those levels become man-made induced numbers," says Erdmann, "statistics are no longer really relevant."

But while the number of earthquakes and their intensity has increased in recent years, the strength of the regulatory apparatus in place to ensure their safety hasn't kept pace. Oversight of the tanks has been left to a tiny agency buried inside the Department of Transportation that was never intended to serve this role. And the safety standards, which one earthquake expert calls the weakest permissible, were created by an industry trade group rather than the government agency. For those inclined to contemplate worst-case scenarios the prospect of an earthquake rupturing the Cushing tanks would be an environmental catastrophe far greater than the Exxon Valdez.

When most of these tanks were constructed, seismic activity in Oklahoma was negligible. In 2011, the state experienced a 5.6 quake. Last year, they had a 5.8—the same magnitude as the quake that rocked Washington and much of the eastern seaboard six years ago. That Oklahoma event toppled the exteriors of historic buildings and prompted the Pawnee nation to declare a state of emergency. Seismologists at the United States Geological Survey say the area around Cushing is capable of an even stronger quake—maybe even a 7.0. Earthquake magnitude is measured exponentially, which means that a 7.0 quake would be 15 times larger than the biggest one to hit Oklahoma so far. And it would release over 60 times as much energy.

What would it do to the Cushing tanks? I posed that question to each of the five largest oil companies there.

Michael Barnes, senior manager of U.S. Operations and Project Communications at Enbridge, which is holds nearly half the oil at Cushing, says it's the company's policy not to comment on speculative questions such as mine "because by their very nature they are hypothetical." What he would say is that the company regularly participates in safety drills, workshops and other activities. That includes protocols preparing for seismic activity.

"In the event of an earthquake, procedures are in place to respond quickly and

confirm Enbridge tanks and other facilities were not impacted and can continue to operate safely," says Barnes. "This includes dispatching technicians and other experts to perform visual inspections and check instrumentation on tanks, pipes, motors and pumps."

I received a similar response from the other energy companies with major Cushing holdings: that they have procedures and protocols for natural disasters, but that they would not comment on the specific designs of their tanks, nor how those tanks would fare in a major earthquake.

Getting an answer out of the government can be just as frustrating. A big part of the problem is the Byzantine system of governmental agencies regulating these tank farms. This oversight varies from state to state. In Oklahoma, most energy concerns are controlled by the Oklahoma Corporation Commission (OCC). But, says their spokesperson Matt Skinner, the OCC only regulates intrastate pipelines and tanks.

"If any part of that oil leaves the state or comes from elsewhere," says Skinner, "it becomes totally outside of our jurisdiction."

Determining that jurisdiction is no easy matter. The EPA regulates "non-transportation-related oil storage tanks," but that excludes farms like Cushing, which are tied to pipelines. The person I talked to there couldn't tell me who regulates Cushing, nor could the spokesperson for the Department of Energy, which oversees our country's petroleum reserve sites. The Department of Transportation regulates oil and gas pipelines, unless they cross federal lands, in which case they are the purview of the Bureau of Land Management, or if they are operated by the military. Gas and oil produced on the outer continental shelf falls under the Department of the Interior, which works in concert with the Department of Transportation to regulate its movement.

I called those offices as well, asking if they knew what agency regulated tanks like the ones at Cushing. No one I spoke to knew—including at the public affairs office of the Department of Transportation. As it turns out, a tiny office in the DOT known as the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) regulates the tanks. Established by President George W. Bush in 2004, PHMSA was intended to increase security around the transportation of hazardous fluids like gas and oil. As such, it was never really meant to govern stationary storage. I asked their spokesperson what seismic regulations were in place for tank farms like Cushing. He referred me to Appendix C of the Pipeline Safety Regulations. And it is true that there are seismic considerations there: provisions regarding safety reporting, any "unintended" or "abnormal" movement of a pipeline, or reduced capacity of a pipeline because of seismic activity. But none of these considerations mentions storage tanks per se. I asked that same spokesperson to direct me towards the language relating to tanks. He has yet to respond.

None of this surprises the OCC's Matt Skinner. "I've gone through the standards a bunch of times," he says. "I haven't found any relating to tanks and seismic activity."

If the government isn't explicitly regulating the ability of the tanks to withstand an earthquake, then who is? Turns out that what standards do exist are created by the American Petroleum Institute, a national trade organization representing the oil and gas industry. And the standards are not overly rigorous, say seismologists.

Tom Heaton, professor of Geophysics and Director of the Earthquake Engineering Research Laboratory at Caltech says most, if not all, of the tanks in Cushing are built to the weakest industry design standards. He thinks even a moderate quake could be enough to violently push the oil from one side of the tank to another. In geological terms, the phenomenon is known as a seiche: an internal wave or oscillation of a body of water. The more oil is in a tank, the more dangerous that seiche becomes.

That makes tank farms like Cushing particularly vulnerable in the face of other natural disasters like Harvey and Irma as oil and pipeline companies engage in a kind of shell game for oil storage—full tanks do better in high wind conditions like hurricanes and tornadoes; they fare far worse in earthquakes.

And certainly there is precedent for the kind of damage Heaton predicts. In the years after the 1994 Northridge earthquake in California, the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), found evidence of seismically-induced oil tank damage going back as far as the 1930s and as recently as the 1994 quake, some of which was catastrophic.

But Ken Erdman is circumspect about just how much damage a major quake might wreak on the Cushing tank farms. In addition to his role at Matrix, Erdmann also heads up the API committee that creates standards for the tanks. He says it's true that ones in Cushing weren't built for moderate or severe quakes, and that the shaking caused by one would almost certainly be "beyond allowable limits" for the API standards utilized at the Oklahoma farms. Probably, he says, you'd see buckling and deformation of the tanks rather than full failure.

The real problem, he says, would be the pipelines themselves, says Ron Ripple, Mervin Bovaird Professor of Energy Business and Finance at the University of Tulsa. Ripple estimates that an earthquake or other disaster would have to knock out half those tanks to have a real impact on the market. Of bigger concern to him are the pipelines, which control a larger volume of oil. He points to the October 2016 explosion of the Colonial Pipeline in rural Alabama as a corollary. The resulting fire kept crews from repairing the pipeline proper for six days. During that time, oil commodity prices jumped 60 percent—the highest spike in nearly a decade. Exporters clamored to find work-arounds, including tankers capable of moving the oil by sea. As a consequence, freight cargo rates increased by nearly 40 percent. Meanwhile, motorists in southern states rushed the pumps, elevating prices there, too—forcing the governor of Georgia to issue an executive order warning about price gouging.

It wouldn't be unreasonable, says Ripple, to see a similar scenario were the Cushing pipelines to go down. The Colonial Pipeline moves about 100 million gallons of oil and gasoline a day—about the equivalent of the Seaway Pipeline,

just one of the more than dozen that converge on this town. That pipeline was also shut down in late 2016, after authorities in Cushing noticed a spill. The effect of that shutdown had the opposite effect, pushing the price of US oil below \$50 a barrel, as international traders worried they wouldn't get their deliveries.

"Prices move through the markets fairly quickly," says Ripple. "We tend to see opportunistic changes in prices right after an event. Some of those look like a pretty close cause-and-effect relationship between supply and demand. Other times, you'll see impacts that leave us all scratching our heads. In the end, you just don't know how the market and consumers will react."

Johnson Bridgwater, director of the Oklahoma Chapter of the Sierra Club, says he's mindful of the economic effects of such a spill, but it's the impact on the landscape and the people who occupy it that most concerns him. Imagine, says Bridgwater, if Ripple's scenario of losing half the tanks came to fruition.

"That's fifty million barrels," he says. "We'd be looking at our own on-land *Exxon Valdez*."

Worse, actually. The *Valdez* was carrying just over a million barrels of oil. A quarter of that spilled. And light crude, the kind of oil stored in Cushing, poses particular challenges to an environment, often killing animals or plants on contact and emitting dangerous fumes that can kill both human and animal residents.

"This would not be a simple cleanup," says Bridgwater. "You'd have an uninhabitable community for a long time."

That shouldn't be acceptable to anyone, says U.S. Representative Bobby Rush, the Chicago area Democrat who serves as the ranking member on the Committee on Commerce and Energy's Subcommittee on Energy.

"Over the past five years or so Oklahoma has become more active as an earthquake zone. PHMSA must account for these changing circumstances and implement appropriate regulations that apply to tank farms located in these more sensitive areas to make them more sturdy and secure. The fact of the matter is that we must ensure that these tanks, which hold vast amounts of oil, are designed to withstand seismic activity in order to protect both the public safety and the local, state, and national economies that rely heavily on this resource."

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Court ruling leaves HFC future in hands of EPA, Congress [Back](#)

By Eric Wolff | 08/09/2017 05:09 PM EDT

The effort to get the U.S. to comply with a treaty eliminating a heat-trapping chemical now faces a grueling path after a major courtroom setback this week —

and it may depend on EPA using its power to regulate chemicals.

The D.C. Circuit Court's [ruling](#) Tuesday forced EPA to abandon its plan to use the Clean Air Act to limit use of hydrofluorocarbons, a refrigerant that would be phased down under recent changes to the Montreal Protocol. Proponents of the effort, including environmentalists and the air conditioning industry, will now need the Senate to approve the treaty and Congress to pass a new law authorizing EPA to implement it, or they will have to persuade EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt to act — no small feat considering the EPA chief's disdain for both climate change initiatives and regulations.

The changes to the Montreal Protocol agreed to in Kigali, Rwanda, last year would curtail global use of HFCs, a move that scientists say could prevent up to 0.5 degrees Celsius — 0.9 degrees Fahrenheit — of warming by the end of the century. U.S. industry groups have supported the Kigali agreement and had backed EPA's plan to implement it under the Clean Air Act's Section 612. That section, put in place nearly 30 years ago as authorizing language to implement the initial Montreal Protocol, established a market mechanism that was designed to reduce ozone-damaging chemicals.

But the court's rejection of using Section 612 may require new legal authority to empower EPA to act if the U.S. eventually ratifies the Kigali amendment.

"You'll have a treaty and have Congress look at it and pass implementing legislation," said Stephen Yurek, CEO of the Air Conditioning, Heating, and Refrigeration Institute, whose members are the world's biggest makers of HFCs — and will produce most of the next generation chemicals.

In its ruling, the D.C. court suggested a slew of laws EPA could use to regulate HFCs: The Toxic Substances Control Act, the National Ambient Air Quality Standards, regulating as a hazardous air pollutant, and regulating HFCs in cars and trucks. But several lawyers said TSCA was the only credible alternative.

"There's a lot of authority under TSCA to regulate chemicals and chemical uses," said Jane Montgomery, a partner with Schiff Hardin who works with power companies. "It's not as straightforward as what they intended to under 612, but there's an environmental harm portion of TSCA. ... For managing the sale and manufacturing and use, TSCA is the most appropriate statute we have."

Yurek said AHRI was still reviewing TSCA as an option, but he feared that it would be a blunt instrument, requiring EPA to issue a rule that immediately limited or banned HFCs, in contrast to the phase-down approach created under Section 612 of the Clean Air Act.

"I'm concerned that it's much more of a command-and-control-type regime, you have different categories, and potentially banning," he said.

Under the TSCA update Congress passed last year, EPA must assess HFCs before regulating them, and then issue a rule, a process that could take about five years, legal experts said. The agency would ultimately have the authority to limit or even prohibit them, Montgomery said. And in its ruling, the D.C. Circuit upheld

several of EPA's tools used to assess the global warming impact of HFCs, bolstering the case for a potential TSCA rule.

AHRI and environmental attorneys largely dismissed the court's other suggestions for EPA to comply with the Kigali goals. The NAAQS program focuses on just six pollutants, none of which are HFCs, they said. Congress similarly created a fixed list of pollutants under the hazardous air pollutants rules, limiting that program's broader application, attorneys said. And refrigerants used in car and truck air conditioners make up only a small part of the refrigerants market.

"These authorities are even less congruent with the authority the EPA invoked in this rulemaking to regulate ozone-depleting chemicals and their substitutes down the road," said Brendan Collins, a partner with law firm Ballard Spahr who represents power companies and oil and gas companies.

EPA says it is still reviewing the court decision, but it's not clear whether Pruitt would advance another rule to govern HFCs, even though it is backed by business interests. Proponents of the Kigali treaty could draw a skeptical reception from the Trump administration, which has been dismissive of both multi-party treaties and climate science — though the administration did defend the rule in court in February. The White House would need to submit the treaty amendment to the Senate for ratification.

Kigali advocates have long [aimed](#) to keep a low profile and quietly persuade staffers to support the effort as the administration got up to speed. AHRI is now trying to determine whether the court decision will require a change in its strategy, or if it can apply the same pro-U.S. business approach to the more conservative House.

"We have to decide [if] we do a more public push or keep the schedule," Yurek said. "Right now, the plan is that we continue to wait until the end of this year, and continue to educate both House and Senate."

Green groups who back the ban on HFCs may try a more direct route by appealing to the D.C. Circuit for en banc review. There are seven D.C. Circuit judges appointed by Democrats, versus four appointed by Republicans, potentially giving the appeal an edge — though that advantage flips at the Supreme Court, should the case go that far.

"We are exploring the options," said David Doniger, director of climate programs for the Natural Resources Defense Council. "Including rehearing based on the dissent."

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**This email was sent to lori_mashburn@ios.doi.gov by: POLITICO, LLC
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From: Mashburn, Lori
To: [Chambers, Micah](#); [Kaster, Amanda](#); [Hinson, Alex](#); [Laura Rigas](#); [Heather Swift](#)
Subject: Fwd: My Quote
Date: Wednesday, July 19, 2017 11:48:08 AM

Hello all,

Below is the quote from Balash, a copy of his 150 word bio for the WH, and a long form bio.

Lori K. Mashburn
White House Liaison
Department of the Interior
202.208.1694

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Joe Balash (b) (6) - Joe Balash
Date: Wed, Jul 19, 2017 at 11:35 AM
Subject: My Quote
To: "Mashburn, Lori" <lori_mashburn@ios.doi.gov>

"I am deeply honored to be able to serve at the Department of the Interior. As a nation, we are blessed with tremendous public lands and resources that give our people unparalleled opportunities for recreation and job creation for generations to come. I look forward to working with Secretary Zinke and his incredible team to seize on those opportunities and deliver on President Trump's America First Energy Plan."

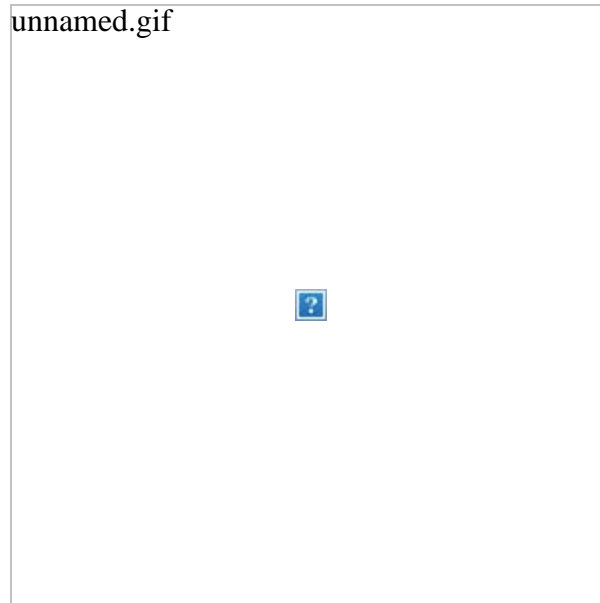
I had hoped to have Sen. Sullivan's quote approved by now, but he has been elusive this morning.

From: Davis, Natalie
To: [Lori Mashburn](mailto:Lori.Mashburn)
Subject: Fwd: POLITICO Playbook, presented by Morgan Stanley: RAND PAUL stokes even more confusion on his backyard brawl -- TAX UPDATE: House Republicans have revenue shortfall as Senate gears up to release its own bill -- TRUMP TO CHINA: You guys can solve N
Date: Thursday, November 09, 2017 1:52:58 PM

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From: Anna Palmer Jake Sherman Daniel Lippman <politicoplaybook@politico.com>
Date: Thu, Nov 9, 2017 at 6:24 AM
Subject: POLITICO Playbook, presented by Morgan Stanley: RAND PAUL stokes even more confusion on his backyard brawl -- TAX UPDATE: House Republicans have revenue shortfall as Senate gears up to release its own bill -- TRUMP TO CHINA: You guys can solve NKorea
To: natalie_davis@ios.doi.gov

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Today's POLITICO Playbook presented by Morgan Stanley

By ANNA PALMER (anna@politico.com; [@apalmerdc](https://twitter.com/apalmerdc)), JAKE SHERMAN (sherman@politico.com; [@JakeSherman](https://twitter.com/JakeSherman)) and DANIEL LIPPMAN (daniel@politico.com; [@dlippman](https://twitter.com/dlippman))

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DRIVING THE DAY

FOR YOUR AWARENESS -- SEN. RAND PAUL (R-KY.) tweeted stories from the Washington Examiner and Breitbart, which both called into question his neighbor's story that their altercation was based on a disagreement on landscaping. **INQUIRING MINDS WANT TO KNOW --** So, what really happened? *Breitbart* <http://bit.ly/2zoDuL1>... *Washington Examiner* <http://washex.am/2ykHjgo>

Good Thursday morning. FROM 30K FEET -- There is trouble brewing on Republicans' push for tax reform. Not only will the Senate Republicans package being released today differ significantly from the House bill -- Trump said Democrats will like it better! -- but House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Kevin Brady is dealing with his own issues over concerns the bill provides massive tax cuts for corporations while individual industries are lobbying to keep their own tax breaks. To further complicate things, Republicans have a massive revenue shortfall they need to plug up. **STILL IN THE MIX:** Including a repeal of the individual mandate to buy health insurance, which raises shy of \$400 billion in revenue, but would complicate the political calculus in the Capitol.

OF COURSE: Tax reform will have a million twists and turns, as does any massive legislation, before getting passed. But any delay on the House's schedule could complicate the White House's timeline to pass an overhaul of the tax code before the end of the year. Much of this is choreographed -- House and Senate are in close touch -- but lawmakers' reaction to two different bills cannot be predicted.

-- TWO THINGS WORKING IN THEIR FAVOR: The Republican drubbing Tuesday night at the polls has GOP lawmakers very nervous about their own reelection prospects and facing voters without a single legislative accomplishment. *Read Kyle Cheney and Seung Min Kim.* <http://politi.co/2ztzEzN>

... AND -- POLITICO/MORNING CONSULT POLL: "Poll: Support for GOP tax plan ticks down but remains positive," by Steven Shepard: "Among registered voters who said they have seen, read or heard about the tax proposal, 45 percent support the proposal, down from 48 percent last week. The percentage of voters who have heard about the proposal who oppose it held steady at 36 percent, the poll shows. ... The most popular element of the tax bill is increasing the child tax credit from as much as \$1,000 per child, to \$1,600 per child: Three-in-five voters (60 percent) say it should be in the bill." <http://politi.co/2zqgMIH>

ABOUT THE HOUSE WHIP COUNT -- RACHAEL BADE: "GOP leadership will whip the tax bill early next week to determine how many votes they still need.

They're also discussing whether to hold the chamber in session until the tax bill passes -- perhaps even through the weekend. Leaders have their work cut out for them. While they won [Rep. Tom] MacArthur, they just lost Rep. Darrell Issa (R-Calif.), whose defection on Tuesday shocked senior Republicans.

"Issa and several New York Republicans are pushing to restore the state and local tax deduction frequently claimed by their constituents. Rep. Dan Donovan, another such holdout, said he and fellow Empire State Reps. Peter King and Lee Zeldin have submitted requested changes on the matter to Ways and Means."

<http://politi.co/2iGwaQw>

-- MORE DETAILS: BRIAN FALER, SEUNG MIN KIM and JOSH DAWSEY:

"Senate Republicans, meanwhile, plan to unveil a tax plan on Thursday that sharply diverges from the House GOP's plan, including by not fully repealing the estate tax, eliminating the state and local tax deduction and possibly changing a tax cut for unincorporated 'pass-through' companies so it is more palatable to the small business lobby than the House legislation. GOP leaders will brief the conference on the details on at 11:30 a.m. Thursday in the Strom Thurmond Room at the Capitol, according to two sources." <http://politi.co/2zq291E>

-- ON THE STATE AND LOCAL TAX DEDUCTION: In the House, Republicans have loads of lawmakers from high-tax states like New Jersey, New York and California, so they have to find a solution for the deductibility of state and local taxes. In the Senate, New York, New Jersey and California are all represented by Democrats, so the GOP doesn't have the same incentive to fix that problem.

CATCHING YOU UP ON TRUMP ABROAD ...

-- HIGHLIGHTS FROM JOINT PRESSER WITH CHINESE PRESIDENT XI

JINPING: Trump called the U.S.-China trade relationship "very unfair and one-sided," per Andrew Restuccia. "But I don't blame China, after all, who can blame a country for taking advantage of another country for the benefit of its citizens." Instead, Trump blamed past U.S. administrations for the trade problems. Further, he said the U.S.-China trade relationship "just doesn't work" and "is just not sustainable."

-- ON NORTH KOREA: Trump said, "China can fix this problem easily and quickly," and called on the Chinese president to "work very hard on it."

JUST POSTED -- JOSH ROGIN in WaPo, "Inside the drive to 'make a deal' with

North Korea: "Secretary of State Rex Tillerson and his top North Korea official, Joseph Yun, have a concrete idea of how to get from here to there. Yun told an audience at the Council on Foreign Relations on Oct. 30 that if North Korea halted nuclear and missile testing for about 60 days, that would be the signal the United States needs to resume direct dialogue with Pyongyang. Yun's remarks, which were off the record, were described by two attendees. Yun declined to comment."

<http://wapo.st/2iH7jMr>

THE FALLOUT FROM TUESDAY NIGHT'S ELECTION ...

-- **"GOP faces wrenching call: Running with or away from Trump,"** by Alex Isenstadt: "Sweeping losses in Tuesday's elections have exacerbated a growing rift inside the GOP over whether the party's candidates should embrace President Donald Trump in next year's midterms - or make a clean break. With Trump's approval ratings cratering in swing states across the country, some senior party strategists are imploring lawmakers to abandon the president. Others argue that shunning Trump and his populist base is simply out of the question and that anything other than a full embrace of the president will spell electoral disaster.

"In the Virginia gubernatorial race, Republican Ed Gillespie tried to have it both ways - with disastrous consequences. Gillespie, who privately agonized about the degree to which Trump should be involved in the contest, refused to campaign with the president. But at the same time, he trumpeted Trump's culture war issues in ads. White House advisers spent Wednesday combing through the election results and fuming about Gillespie's have-it-both ways approach. By keeping Trump at arm's length, they said, Gillespie squandered an opportunity to motivate conservatives whose support he needed." <http://politi.co/2zqY2Co>

-- **"Canary in the coal mine': Republicans fear Democratic wins mean more losses to come,"** by WaPo's Bob Costa and Phil Rucker: "A wave of Democratic victories ignited a ferocious debate across the Republican Party on Wednesday over whether President Trump's unorthodox behavior and polarizing agenda are jeopardizing the GOP's firm grip on power in Congress, governors' mansions and state legislatures.

"The recriminations sparked by Tuesday's results -- a decisive rebuke of Trump and his policies in Virginia and elsewhere -- threatened the fragile GOP push to pass sweeping tax cuts by the end of the year and raised deeper questions about Republican identity and fealty to a historically unpopular president. A year

ahead of the 2018 midterm elections, Republicans are increasingly uncertain about keeping their majorities on Capitol Hill and are worried about how damaging Trump's jagged brand of politics may become to the party."

<http://wapo.st/2znW06l>

***** **A message from Morgan Stanley:** How can technology help drive success? In the Morgan Stanley Innovation Lab, our in-house technology startup accelerator program, startup Landit seeks to use their technology platform to enable companies to further the success of women in the workplace. [Read more from Morgan Stanley.](#) *****

ELENA SCHNEIDER: "Data points out of Virginia confirm Republicans' fears that bubbled under the surface all year, which special election victories in safely red seats 'glazed over,' said a senior GOP aide. But 'now there's [electoral] evidence that there's reason to really worry.' Swing voters in suburban counties outside Washington and Richmond soured on Republicans up and down the Virginia ballot, an ominous sign for dozens of suburban Republicans in Congress, while the progressive base poured out to vote in high numbers. College-educated voters backed Democratic Gov.-elect Ralph Northam with 60 percent of their votes, according to exit polls. ...

"Tuesday's result are also serving as a reality check for members who may be considering retirement during a cycle that's become increasingly difficult for Republicans to raise money. Nearly three dozen GOP incumbents were outraised by Democratic challengers in the third quarter of this year, as the liberal base continues to pour money into first-time candidates." <http://politi.co/2hW7p32>

--"What the Hell Just Happened in Virginia?" -- POLITICO Magazine: "Did Democrats win? Or did Republicans lose? And what role did Trump play? 17 political watchers dissect the election results." <http://politi.co/2iGZExF>

POTENTIAL 2018 TRENDLINE -- "Democratic women sweep into office in state elections," by Maggie Severns: "Female candidates swept into office in Virginia and other elections around the country Tuesday, giving Democrats the first taste of a force reshaping their party in the first year of President Donald Trump's administration. Women running for office for the first time may have wrested control of the Virginia House of Delegates from Republicans, who held the chamber since the 20th century. Another female Democrat flipped the Washington state Senate to her party's control, alongside Democratic women who picked up

state legislative seats in Georgia and Michigan, while Manchester, N.H. elected its first Democratic mayor in decades in Joyce Craig - who is also the city's first-ever female mayor.

"The Virginia races especially, some of which are currently in the recount process, outperformed Democrats' wildest expectations before the 2017 elections. And as the party looks ahead to 2018, that success has prompted progressives, pro-abortion groups and Democratic candidate recruiters to double down on encouraging female candidates and running on issues like women's health and equal pay in the midterm elections and beyond." <http://politi.co/2hnr1z7>

GOOD SCOOP -- "This Megadonor Has Spent Millions On Republicans. Now He's Thinking About Running Against One," by BuzzFeed's Tarini Parti:

"Republican megadonor Foster Friess was busy writing checks to GOP candidates, contemplating the future of health care, and getting coffee with liberals for his campaign to 'restore civility' in politics last month, when he got an unexpected call from President Trump adviser and provocateur Steve Bannon. 'I get this call, 'Foster would you consider running against [Wyoming Sen. John] Barrasso?' And I said, 'What's your name?' 'Steve Bannon?' Because we're pretty much strangers, it kind of struck me as how did he even get my name or my number?' Friess, a multimillionaire investor, is now launching a 'listening tour' to help him decide whether he should challenge Barrasso -- his 'personal friend' and 'hero' -- in a GOP primary." <http://bzfd.it/2yKtr3i>

SEUNG MIN KIM: "McCain opposes Trump nominee over torture memos":

"Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.), who has already warned President Donald Trump against bringing back torture, is vowing to reject any administration nominee who has backed so-called enhanced interrogation techniques. McCain was the sole GOP senator to vote against confirming Steven Engel to lead the Justice Department's Office of Legal Counsel earlier this week, citing his role in the controversial torture memos under the George W. Bush administration." <http://politi.co/2zq0SYx>

-- "U.S. Subpoenas Icahn Over Biofuel Action While Trump Adviser," by Bloomberg's Miles Weiss, Jennifer Dlouhy, and Mario Parker: "Federal investigators have issued subpoenas for information on Carl Icahn's efforts to change biofuel policy while he served as an adviser to President Donald Trump, according to regulatory filings. The U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York is 'seeking production of information' pertaining to Icahn's activities regarding the Renewable Fuel Standard ... The investigators also want information

on Icahn's role as an adviser to the president." <https://bloom.bg/2AnSPbE>

PALACE INTRIGUE -- "The New Washington Drama: Treasury Secretary Versus Treasury Secretary," by NYT's Alan Rappaport: "Raising eyebrows in economic circles, Lawrence H. Summers, the mercurial Treasury secretary for President Bill Clinton, has leveled a barrage of increasingly personal criticism at the current Treasury secretary, Steven Mnuchin. In podcasts, blog posts, op-eds and on Twitter, Mr. Summers ... has accused Mr. Mnuchin of damaging the credibility of Treasury by making 'irresponsible' economic assessments of the administration's tax plan and acting as a 'sycophant' to President Trump. The attacks have alternately amused and angered those who run in economic circles, with some saying it is Mr. Summers who is damaging the credibility of the office by leveling public attacks on a sitting Treasury secretary." <http://nyti.ms/2hmrGllh>

TRUMP'S CABINET -- "Inside Betsy DeVos's efforts to shrink the Education Department," by WaPo's Moriah Balingit and Danielle Douglas-Gabriel: "The seventh floor of the Education Department's headquarters near the Mall used to bustle. Now, nearly a dozen offices sit empty and quiet. The department's workforce has shrunk under Education Secretary Betsy DeVos, who has said she wants to decrease the federal government's role in education, including investigations and enforcement of civil rights in schools. In all, the department has shed about 350 workers since December - nearly 8 percent of its staff - including political appointees. With buyouts offered to 255 employees in recent days, DeVos hopes to show even more staff the door." <http://wapo.st/2jfoPeR>

CLICKER - "Look Inside the DeVos Family Office: Financial disclosures provide a rare peek inside an investment structure used by ultrawealthy families," by WSJ's Anupreeta Das and Jean Eaglesham: <http://on.wsj.com/2jbcrML>

MEDIAWATCH -- "Lawmakers alarmed at push to sell CNN," by Steven Overly: "Even critics of AT&T's proposed mega-merger with Time Warner expressed alarm Wednesday at allegations that President Donald Trump's Justice Department is intervening in the deal for political reasons - namely his oft-expressed complaints about CNN ... Sources familiar with the proposed merger told POLITICO that the DOJ issued an ultimatum to the companies Monday -- that they either sell Time Warner's Turner Broadcasting, which includes CNN as well as networks like TBS and TNT, or shed satellite television provider DirecTV.

"The sources said it's clear the real sticking point for the government is CNN,

whose coverage of the administration has become a frequent target of Trump's anger. Unnamed DOJ officials later offered reporters a much different account, saying the companies themselves had offered to sell CNN - an option the officials said they rejected. AT&T CEO Randall Stephenson called that untrue, saying in a statement that he 'never offered to sell CNN and have no intention of doing so.'"

<http://politi.co/2Ap0TIS>

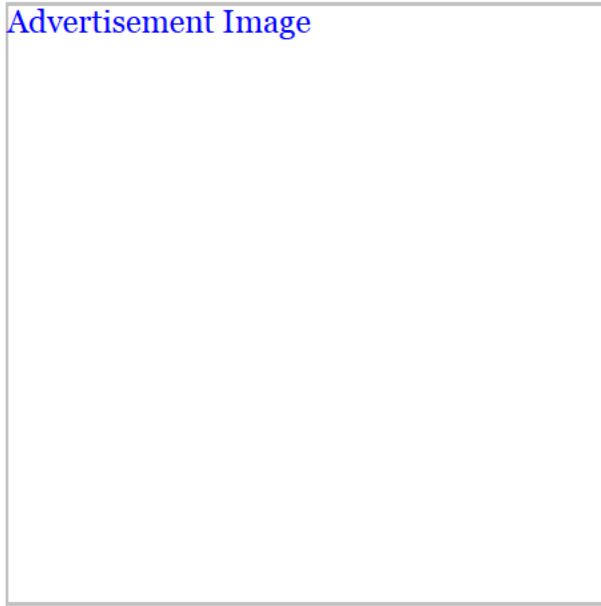
--**JAMES V. GRIMALDI** and **MICHELLE HACKMAN** have won the 2017 Everett McKinley Dirksen award for Distinguished Reporting of Congress from the National Press Foundation. Per the judges: "Their investigation revealed that Rep. Tom Price, then the nominee to be HHS secretary, had traded in health stocks while pushing legislation that could affect those stocks. Reverberations from their story dominated Price's confirmation hearings and effectively put him in the crosshairs during his brief tenure at HHS." *The winning piece*

<http://on.wsj.com/2AmLFnV> (h/t Morning Media)

ALTERNATE REALITY -- "What if Hillary had won? A jolly trip down memory lane, alternate-timeline edition," by WaPo's Ben Terris, Dan Zak, Monica Hesse and Amy Argetsinger: <http://wapo.st/2Avuv8n>

POLITICO is accepting applications for its fifth session of the POLITICO Journalism Institute, an educational initiative focused on newsroom diversity. The intensive program, which is designed for college students, will be held May 29 to June 9. It features hands-on training for up to 12 recent grads and university students interested in covering government and politics. Students also will have an opportunity to have their work published by POLITICO. All expenses are paid for the program. Admissions are made on a rolling basis, so apply today but no later than Jan. 15. <http://politi.co/2zHCOMz>

Advertisement Image



PLAYBOOK READS



PHOTO DU JOUR: Vice President Mike Pence and his wife Karen, visit with family and victims of the shooting at the Sutherland Spring Baptist Church as Sen. Ted Cruz, foreground right, prays with a woman on Nov. 8 in Floresville, Texas. | Eric Gay/AP Photo

SEB'S GOT A NEW JOB -- @yashar: "A Fox News spokesperson confirms that the network has hired Sebastian Gorka as a National Security Analyst."

VIDEO DU JOUR -- Steve Herman (@W7VOA): "On an iPad @POTUS played this video for President Xi showing his granddaughter singing in Chinese and reciting Analects of Confucius. This is being broadcast across #China."

<http://bit.ly/2yk6UG9>

LATE-NIGHT BEST -- BILL CLINTON on Conan -- "On Dictators, Democracy, & Why We Need Immigrants More Than Ever" -- **7-min. video** <http://bit.ly/2iGgvAR>

PLAYBOOK INBOX -- ROGER STONE's appeal for donations to his legal defense fund <http://politi.co/2ym1CKF> ... *The fund* <http://bit.ly/2iGqJB3>

TRUMP INC. -- "Trump Tower Condo Prices Lag Behind Those of Similar Midtown Properties," by WSJ's Josh Barbanel: "Condominium prices are faltering at Trump Tower, President Donald Trump's property on Fifth Avenue in Manhattan, more than at similar buildings across the city. The median sale price and average price per square foot both are down sharply since 2015, when Mr. Trump launched his campaign for president, and now are plumbing depths last visited during the financial crisis." <http://on.wsj.com/2hlfFP>

COURT WATCH -- "Congressional Hunger Center says employee stole \$1.1 million, disappeared," by Josh Gerstein: "A hunger-focused non-profit group founded by House members lost more than \$1.1 million due to embezzlement carried out by the organization's former finance director, according to a lawsuit filed in Washington on Wednesday. The Congressional Hunger Center filed suit in U.S. District Court against Mohamed Gurey, claiming the certified public accountant looted the funds as far back as 2010 by forging signatures on the group's checks and by tapping the center's bank account to make large cash withdrawals at a Maryland casino." <http://politi.co/2yjx1xg>

***** **A message from Morgan Stanley:** Startup Landit seeks to launch a technology platform that would enable companies to further the success of women in the workplace. Through the Morgan Stanley Innovation Lab, the firm's in-house technology startup accelerator program, Landit was able to access our networks and resources to connect with investors. [Read more.](#) *****

WILD -- "A Harvey Weinstein Operative Played Another Role," by WSJ's Mark Maremont: "'Diana Filip,' Israeli undercover operative, meet 'Diana Ilic.' A private investigator reported to be working undercover on behalf of film mogul Harvey Weinstein was identified by two people as the same woman that The Wall Street Journal reported over the summer had used a different alias to wring information out of a critic of a large U.S. insurer. The woman in the Journal article had given her name as 'Diana Ilic.' ... The Journal, in its August article, published surveillance photos of the mystery woman, captured during a July dinner near Philadelphia with an analyst for a research firm critical of the New York-based insurer, AmTrust Financial Services Inc." <http://on.wsj.com/2hfWTTL>

TOP-ED -- ROBERT GATES in the NYT, "Ending DACA Will Hurt Immigrant

Troops: "As we observe Veterans Day, we remember with reverence the extraordinary debt we owe to those who have served in uniform and sacrificed, even unto death, for their fellow Americans. This includes the more than 109,000 immigrants who, since Sept. 11, 2001, have become citizens while wearing the uniform of the United States military. They have been part of a rarefied group: the 1 percent of Americans - native-born, naturalized and undocumented immigrants alike - who constitute our military. All of those undocumented immigrants, through their willingness to shed blood to protect the rest of us, have earned the right to call themselves 'American citizen.'" <http://nyti.ms/2AnNPUR>

PLAYBOOKERS

OUT AND ABOUT -- SPOTTED last night at the LBJ Liberty & Justice for All Award event honoring David Rubenstein at the National Archives (*pix* <http://smu.gs/2hUPzO4>): dinner co-chairs Amb. Lloyd Hand and Cappy McGarr, award presenters Lynda Johnson Robb and Luci Baines Johnson, Larry Temple, Amy Barbee, Ben Barnes, House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.), House Minority Whip Steny Hoyer (D-Md.) Sens. Patrick Leahy (D-Vt.) and Ed Markey (D-Mass.), Dr. Susan Blumenthal, Reps. Joaquin Castro (D-Texas), Ron Kind (D-Wis.), Jim Costa (D-Calif.), Frank Pallone (D-N.J.), Lamar Smith (R-Texas), Doris Matsui (D-Calif.), Don Beyer (D-Va.), David Cicilline (D-R.I.), Debbie Dingell (D-Mich.), Marc Veasey (D-Texas), Hakeem Jeffries (D-N.Y.), Gene Green (D-Texas), Paul Tonko (D-N.Y.) and Sheila Jackson Lee (D-Texas) ...

... **Julian Castro**, former Sen. Tom Daschle (D-S.D.), Commissioner Mignon Clyburn, Dr. Elena and Robert Allbritton, Barbie Allbritton, Martin Frost, Lyndon Boozer, Fred Humphries, Adrienne Arsht, Jacqueline Mars, Laurie Knight, Pam Brown and Adam Wright, emcee Cokie Roberts, Tom Johnson, Leon Harris and Ben Chang.

-- **Rep. Jason Smith (R-Mo.) and the Gateway IPA** won last night's first annual "Brew Across America," competition organized by Anheuser-Busch. Nine lawmakers participated, including Sen. Michael Bennet (D-Colo.) and Reps. Peter Aguilar (D-Calif.), Joyce Beatty (D-Ohio), Al Lawson (D-Fla.), Barry Loudermilk (R-Ga.), John Rutherford (R-Neb.), Scott Taylor (R-Va.) and Greg Walden (R-Ore.) Paul Kane, Carl Hulse, Sue Davis, Sam Stein, Bob Cusack, Josh Dawsey and Warren Rojas served as media judges. They were teamed up with judges representing the beer industry, led by Anheuser-Busch's Jane Killebrew, Jim

McGreevey, Craig Purser, and Bill Canton.

SPOTTED: Sens. Cory Gardner (R-Colo.) and James Inhofe (R-Okla.), Reps. John Garamendi (D-Calif.), John Katko (R-N.Y.), Ron Estes (R-Kansas), Dennis Ross (R-Fla.), Ted Yoho (R-Fla.), and Ruben Gallego (D-Ariz.), as well as Joe Donoghue, Roland Foster, Andy Dockham, Justin Sok, Doug Bailey, Stef Webb, Chris Ternet.

DUELING TRUMP/CLINTON HAPPY HOURS -- SPOTTED last night celebrating the one-year anniversary of Trump's election at the Exchange by the EEOB on 17th and G streets NW: Rick Dearborn, Ory Rinat, Emily Murphy, Sean Miles, Andrew Olmem, Nick Owens, Jacob Wood, Loretta Greene, Chris Gray, Turner Bridgforth, Brennan Hart, Geoff Smith, Lenwood Brooks, Anthony Paranzino, Chris Caudill and Jim Frogue.

--**SPOTTED** for the Hillary alum happy hour last night at American Ice Company: Karuna Seshasai, Alex Phillips, Adrienne Watson, Christina Reynolds, Corey Ciorciari, Glen Caplin, Josh Schwerin, Lori Lodes, Lily Adams, Rob Flaherty, Tyrone Gayle, Constance Boozer, Adrienne Elrod, Carlos Sanchez, Cristobal Alex, Xochitl Hinojosa, John McCarthy, Dominic Lowell, Megan Nashban, Lauren Crawford, Alex Hornbrook, Riley Kilburg, Miryam Lipper, Sabrina Singh, Troy Perry and Bishop Garrison.

BIRTHDAY OF THE DAY: Kevin Sullivan, founder of Kevin Sullivan Communications, Inc. and senior adviser at the Bush Presidential Center in Dallas. **A fun fact about Kevin:** "In the 1980s in Dallas I once won a Rodney Dangerfield act-alike contest sponsored by a local radio station. First prize was getting to meet him backstage before his show. He shook my hand and said, 'Go ahead. Act like me!' I politely declined." **Read his Playbook Plus Q&A:**

<http://politi.co/2AmlwWo>

BIRTHDAYS: John Harris (hat tip: Danielle Jones) ... DOJ's Sarah Isgur Flores ... Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-Ohio) is 65 ... Bob Graham, former U.S. senator and Florida governor, is 81 ... USA Today's Alan Gomez ... Shannon Currie, special assistant to Joel Benenson ... Rep. John Katko (R-NY) is 55 ... Rep. Scott Tipton (R-Colo.) is 61 ... Jake Oeth ... Peter Roff ... Jessica Stuart ... Trish Choate ... Politico's Trevor Eischen and Hugh Ferguson ... RNC alum Orlando Watson ... Claire Tonneson of Sunshine Sachs is 29 (h/t Daniel Strauss) ... HuffPo's Arthur Delaney ... No Labels founder Nancy Jacobson ... Joel Seidman, senior producer at NBC Nightly News (h/ts Jewish Insider) ... David Wolfson ... Aliza Klein ... Hal Dash ...

Samara Hutman ... Matthew Ellison, LD for Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz (D-Fla.), is 29 (h/t Natalie Knight) ... László Baksay ... Tara Patel ... HFA alum Kendra Kostek ...

... **Matthew Dolan** ... David Mastio, deputy editorial page editor of USA Today, is 46 (h/t Bill Sternberg) ... Matthias Reynolds of Zignal Labs ... Karen Scott, Obama WH alum ... Peter Lichtenbaum, an assistant secretary of commerce under Bush 43, now a partner at Covington & Burling ... Edelman's Aleena Hasnain ... Samantha Sher ... Andy McCarty ... Catherine (Simmy) Martin ... Kevin Bailey ... Kathleen Clegg ... Sean Redmond ... Lisa De Pasquale ... Megan Carpentier ... Dee Dee Sorvino ... Labinot Maliqi ... Jen Overbye ... Alex Curd ... Bethany Aronhalt ... Marc Kimball ... Carolyn Casey ... John Cacciatore ... Catherine Chen ... Shokhan Washburn ... Kym Traczyk ... Sarah Godlewski, the pride of Eau Claire, Wis. (h/ts Teresa Vilmain)

***** **A message from Morgan Stanley:** How can technology help drive success? In the Morgan Stanley Innovation Lab, our in-house technology startup accelerator program, startup Landit seeks to use their tech platform to enable companies to further the success of women in the workplace. One of five startups participating in the program, Landit believes the partnership has the potential to accelerate their curve and expand their opportunities. "Only a small fraction of all venture capital money is given to multicultural and women entrepreneurs," explains Carla Harris, a Vice Chairwoman of Morgan Stanley and Head of its Multicultural Client Strategy Group. "Meanwhile, Morgan Stanley is a leader at the intersection of what these companies need: capital, connections, and investment banking content. We have the resources, access to relationships, and the expertise that can help refine these businesses and hopefully attract capital to scale up in size." [Read more.](#) *****

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Subject: Fwd: President Donald J. Trump Announces Intent to Nominate Personnel to Key Administration Posts
Date: Wednesday, July 19, 2017 7:36:01 PM

Holla!

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: White House Press Office <whitehouse-noreply@messages.whitehouse.gov>
Date: July 19, 2017 at 7:25:06 PM EDT
To: <interior_press@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: **President Donald J. Trump Announces Intent to Nominate Personnel to Key Administration Posts**
Reply-To: <whitehouse-noreply@messages.whitehouse.gov>

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 19, 2017

President Donald J. Trump Announces Intent to Nominate Personnel to Key Administration Posts

President Donald J. Trump today announced his intent to nominate the following individuals to key positions in his Administration:

Joseph Balash of Alaska to be an Assistant Secretary of the Interior, Land and Mineral Management. Mr. Balash currently serves as the Chief of Staff to Senator Dan Sullivan. He is the former Commissioner of the Alaska Department of Natural Resources, which has management responsibility for one of the largest single portfolios of land and water resources in the world. Previously he served as the Deputy Commissioner of the Alaska Department of Natural Resources from 2010 to 2013. From 2006 to 2010, he advised two governors on natural resource policy, permitting, and energy. Prior to that, from 1998 to 2006, he served in a variety of legislative staff positions, including Chief of Staff to the President of the Alaskan Senate. He graduated from Ben Eielson Jr.-Sr. High School in 1993. He is married with two children.

Samuel H. Clovis Jr. of Iowa to be Under Secretary of Agriculture for Research, Education, and Economics. Mr. Clovis is the Senior White House Advisor to the United States Department of Agriculture. Most recently, he served as the chief policy advisor and national co-chair of the Trump-Pence campaign. He came to the campaign from Morningside College where he was a professor of economics. Mr. Clovis holds a B.S. in political science from the U.S. Air Force Academy, an M.B.A. from Golden Gate University and a Doctorate in public administration from the University of Alabama. He is also a graduate of both the Army and Air Force War Colleges. After graduating from the Academy, Mr. Clovis spent 25 years serving in the Air Force. He retired as the Inspector General of the North American Aerospace Defense Command and the United States Space Command and was a command pilot. Mr. Clovis is married to the former Charlotte Chase of Piketon, OH. He is originally from rural central Kansas.

Daniel Alan Craig of Maryland to be Deputy Administrator, of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security. Mr. Craig was most recently a senior Vice President at the disaster preparedness and recovery consulting firm, Adjusters International, Inc. In this capacity, he oversaw firm sales, business development, marketing, and relationships with clients. Before this position, Mr. Craig was the CEO and President of Tidal Basin Holdings, a company he founded in the emergency management industry. Mr. Craig previously served as the Director of Recovery for FEMA. He managed the Agency's recovery services and funds given to individual victims and the public sector

for damages from more than 120 Presidentially-declared disasters, emergencies, and fires, including September 11th, the Space Shuttle Columbia explosion, the Cerro Grande Fire in Los Alamos, and the Florida Hurricanes of 2004. He holds a B.A. in Political Science from Purdue University as well as an M.B.A. from both Purdue University and Central European University.

J. Steven Dowd of Florida to be United States Director of the African Development Bank for a term of five years. Mr. Dowd has decades of executive experience in trade, logistics, and finance, with a significant focus on Africa. Mr. Dowd co-founded Ag Source, LLC, a global agriculture logistics, transportation, and finance company. His prior experience includes overseeing food aid operations and leading port infrastructure projects in Africa. Mr. Dowd also served as CEO of Marcona Ocean Industries, an international shipping and mining company. Mr. Dowd holds a B.S. in History from Manhattan College, and earned a M.A. in Foreign Service from Georgetown University, where he was designated as a Georgetown Fellow in Foreign Service.

Mark T. Esper of Virginia to be Secretary of the Army. Mr. Esper is an Army, Pentagon, and Capitol Hill veteran who previously served as a Vice President for government relations at the Raytheon Company. Mr. Esper began his career as an Infantry Officer in the 101st Airborne Division, serving with distinction in the first Gulf War. He later served on active duty in Europe and on the Army Staff in Washington, DC, before transitioning to the National Guard and retiring after 21 years of service. He was an airborne ranger and recipient of the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star, and Meritorious Service Medals, among other awards and qualifications. Mr. Esper worked national security issues on Capitol Hill for Senators Chuck Hagel, Fred Thompson, and Majority Leader Bill Frist. He was also a professional staff member on the Senate Foreign Relations and House Armed Services Committees, and later a Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense. Mr. Esper's private sector experience includes service as an Executive Vice President at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, National Policy Director for Fred Thompson for President during the 2008 campaign, and EVP of the Aerospace Industries Association of America. Mr. Esper is a graduate of the United States Military Academy, Harvard University John F. Kennedy School of Government, and George Washington University.

Kathleen M. Fitzpatrick of the District of Columbia to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste. Ms. Fitzpatrick, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Minister-Counselor, has served as an American diplomat since 1983. She is currently the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary in the Bureau of Intelligence and Research at the Department of State. Ms. Fitzpatrick earned a M.S. from the U.S. National War College, a M.A. from Georgetown University and a B.A. from the University of Dayton. Her languages include Spanish, French, Russian, Dutch and some Arabic.

Daniel J. Kaniewski of Minnesota to be Deputy Administrator for National Preparedness, of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security. Dr. Kaniewski was most recently Vice President for Global Resilience at AIR Worldwide, a catastrophe risk modeling and consulting services firm, and a Senior Fellow at George Washington University's Center for Cyber and Homeland Security. Previously, Dr. Kaniewski served as the Mission Area Director for Resilience and Emergency Preparedness/Response at the Homeland Security Studies and Analysis Institute. He was also an adjunct assistant professor at the Georgetown University School of Foreign Service, where he taught graduate courses in the Security Studies Program. Before these positions, Dr. Kaniewski served on the White House staff, first as Director of Response and Recovery Policy and later as Special Assistant to the President for Homeland Security and Senior Director for Response Policy. Dr. Kaniewski began his career in homeland security as a firefighter and paramedic. He holds a B.S. in Emergency Medical Services from George Washington University, a Master of Arts degree in National Security Studies from the Georgetown University, and a Ph.D. in Public Policy and Administration from George Washington University.

Anthony Kurta of Montana to be a Principal Deputy Under Secretary of Defense, Personnel and Readiness. Mr. Kurta was most recently fulfilling the duties of Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness, where he was responsible for health affairs, readiness, civilian and military personnel policy for Active Duty, Reserve, National Guard, and civilian members of the Department of Defense. Mr. Kurta previously served as the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Military Personnel Policy and the Director of Navy Flag Officer Management and Development. In addition, Mr. Kurta served 32 years on Active Duty as a Navy Surface Warfare Officer, during which time he commanded the USS Sentry (MCM 3), USS Guardian (MCM 5), USS Warrior (MCM 10), USS Carney (DDG 64), Destroyer

Squadron Two Four and Combined Joint Task Force, Horn of Africa (CJTF-HOA). He is a recipient of Defense Superior Service Medals, Legions of Merit, Meritorious Service Medals, the Distinguished Service Medal, and the Secretary of Defense Meritorious Civilian Service Award. Mr. Kurta is a graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy, Georgetown University, Air Command and Staff College, and was a National Security Fellow at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. He retired from the Navy as a Rear Admiral.

Ted McKinney of Indiana to be Under Secretary of Agriculture for Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs. Mr. McKinney is director of the Indiana State Department of Agriculture, serving from 2014 to present under then Governor Mike Pence, and now Governor Eric Holcomb. Mr. McKinney grew up on a family grain and livestock farm in Tipton, Indiana. He also worked for 19 years with Dow AgroSciences, and 14 years with Elanco, a subsidiary of Eli Lilly and Company, where he was Director of Global Corporate Affairs. His industry and civic involvements include the National FFA Conventions Local Organizing Committee, Indiana State Fair Commission, International Food Information Council (IFIC), the U.S. Meat Export Federation, International Federation of Animal Health (IFAH), and the Purdue Dean of Agriculture Advisory Committee. Mr. McKinney was a 10-year 4-H member, an Indiana State FFA Officer, and a graduate of Purdue University where he received a B.S. in Agricultural Economics in 1981. While at Purdue, he received the G.A. Ross Award as the outstanding senior male graduate. In 2002, he was named a Purdue Agriculture Distinguished Alumnus, and in 2004, received an honorary American FFA Degree. Mr. McKinney and his wife Julie have three children and four grandchildren.

A. Wess Mitchell of Virginia to be an Assistant Secretary of State, European and Eurasian Affairs. Mr. Mitchell is an expert on NATO and transatlantic relations. In 2005 he co-founded the Center for European Policy Analysis and has served as its President and CEO since 2009. He serves on numerous policy boards in the United States and Europe. Mr. Mitchell earned a B.A. from Texas Tech University, a M.A. from Georgetown University School of Foreign Service and recently completed his Ph.D. at Freie Universität, in Berlin, Germany. He speaks German and has studied Dutch and Czech.

Robert L. Wilkie of North Carolina to be Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness. Mr. Wilkie currently serves as Senior Advisor to Senator Thom Tillis of North Carolina. He most recently served in the Presidential Transition Office, where he was a member of both the Defense Policy Team and Cabinet Affairs Teams. Previously, Mr. Wilkie served as Vice President for Strategic Initiatives for CH2M HILL, one of the world's largest engineering and program management firms. He also served as Assistant Secretary of Defense for Legislative Affairs as well as Special Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs on the National Security Council during the George W. Bush Administration. On Capitol Hill, Mr. Wilkie served as Counsel and Advisor on International Security Affairs for the Majority Leader of the United States Senate, the Honorable Trent Lott. Mr. Wilkie currently serves in the United States Air Force Reserve, and previously in the United States Navy Reserve. He is a graduate of Wake Forest University, Loyola University College of Law (New Orleans), Georgetown University Law Center, and the United States Army War College. He is also a graduate of the College of Naval Command and Staff, the Joint Forces Staff College and the Air Command and Staff College.

###

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From: Mashburn, Lori
To: [Heather Swift](#)
Subject: Fwd: Profile
Date: Thursday, July 20, 2017 11:09:15 AM

Heather,

Do we handle these types of requests for folks since it is about their nomination? Any guidance is appreciated for these types of things going forward.

Lori K. Mashburn
White House Liaison
Department of the Interior
202.208.1694

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Balash, Joe (Sullivan)** <Joe_Balash@sullivan.senate.gov>
Date: Thu, Jul 20, 2017 at 11:05 AM
Subject: Fwd: Profile
To: Lori Mashburn <lori_mashburn@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: Micah Chambers <micah_chambers@ios.doi.gov>

Should I refer requests like this to the Department?

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Moran, Catherine" <cmoran@bna.com>
Date: July 20, 2017 at 11:04:01 AM EDT
To: "joe_balash@sullivan.senate.gov" <joe_balash@sullivan.senate.gov>
Subject: Profile

Hello Joseph,

My name is Catherine, and I am a reporter for Bloomberg BNA. I am reaching out to you to see if you are available to chat today for a profile about yourself. I am writing an article about Trump's intention to nominate you for an Interior Department position. Please let me know if you are free and feel free to pass along names of people who have worked with you that could chat with me today as well about you.

Best,

Catherine



Catherine Douglas Moran

Bloomberg BNA

Direct 703.341.5692

Cell 831-402-6244

cmoran@bna.com

From: Bullock, Wesley
To: [Lori Mashburn](mailto:Lori.Mashburn)
Subject: Fwd: Secretary Zinke and AFN Convention
Date: Monday, October 16, 2017 1:23:56 PM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Getto, Leila** <leila_getto@ios.doi.gov>
Date: Mon, Oct 16, 2017 at 10:44 AM
Subject: Re: Secretary Zinke and AFN Convention
To: "Wackowski, Stephen" <stephen_wackowski@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: Wesley Luke Bullock <wesley_bullock@ios.doi.gov>

Hi steve! my colleague, Luke (cc'd on this email) will reach out to you with our technical contact for the video conference. thanks.

Leila Sepehri Getto
U.S. Department of the Interior
Immediate Office of the Secretary
Deputy Director, Scheduling and Advance
Direct: (202) 208-5359
Cell: (202) 706-9435

On Thu, Oct 12, 2017 at 1:43 AM, Wackowski, Stephen <stephen_wackowski@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

Leila-

Per our discussion some details on the AFN convention below for scheduling the boss's VTC remarks. Also, some preferred time slots below:

19 October

1:15pm EDT –speech would immediately follow welcome remarks
2:20pm EDT –speech would precede Gov Walker's in person remarks
3:20pm EDT -speech would precede lunch break

20 October

1:00pm EDT -speech would be morning opening remarks and would precede Sen Sullivan's speech

Details on the Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) Convention:

The AFN Convention is the largest representative annual gathering in the United States of any Native peoples.

Each year, the AFN Convention draws between 4,000–5,000 attendees. The proceedings are broadcast live statewide via television and radio and webcast to 70 countries worldwide. In addition to the memorable keynote speeches, the expert panels and special reports, the Convention features several evenings of cultural performances known as Quyana Alaska. Native dance and music groups from across the state perform for large and appreciative

audiences at the event and watching on TV and the Internet.

Call me if you have any questions.

Best,

Steve

Steve Wackowski
Senior Adviser for Alaskan Affairs
Department of the Interior
[1689 C Street, Suite 100](#)
[Anchorage, AK 99501](#)
[907-271-5485](#)

On Wed, Oct 11, 2017 at 4:27 PM, Wackowski, Stephen <stephen_wackowski@ios.doi.gov>
> wrote:

>
> Leila- Can we discuss this request in the next hour or two? (b) (6). Thanks. Steve

>

>

>

> Steve Wackowski
> Senior Adviser for Alaskan Affairs
> Department of the Interior
> [1689 C Street, Suite 100](#)
> [Anchorage, AK 99501](#)
> [907-271-5485](#)

>

> ----- Forwarded message -----

> From: Wackowski, Stephen <stephen_wackowski@ios.doi.gov>
> Date: Tue, Oct 10, 2017 at 1:27 PM
> Subject: Fwd: Secretary Zinke and AFN Convention
> To: Caroline Boulton <caroline_boulton@ios.doi.gov>, Elinor Renner
> <elinor_renner@ios.doi.gov>

>

>

> Can I get a tentative time scheduled for the boss to do a VTC into the Alaska federation of
native's conference on Thursday, 19 OCT? He committed to do this during his meeting with
them a month ago.

>

> I will be prepping a memo on this ASAP and will coordinate with Comms team on TPs.
All we need is 5-10 mins for the address, we wont be doing any Q&A.

>

> Thanks,

>

> Wacko

>

> Steve Wackowski
> Senior Adviser for Alaskan Affairs

> Department of the Interior
> [1689 C Street, Suite 100](#)
> [Anchorage, AK 99501](#)
> [907-271-5485](#)

>
> ----- Forwarded message -----
> From: Jeffry Silverman <jsilverman@nativefederation.org>
> Date: Fri, Sep 15, 2017 at 2:55 PM
> Subject: Secretary Zinke and AFN Convention
> To: Steve Wackowski <steve_wackowski@ios.doi.gov>
> Cc: Julie Kitka <jkitka@nativefederation.org>

>
>
> Hi Steve,

> Just wanted to touch bases with you regarding the Secretary's address to the delegates of the 2017 AFN Convention. My understanding is the Secretary wishes to use a live video feed. AFN has a video teleconference bridge arranged through our broadcast partner, GCI. We'll simply need to get GCI's technician talking with your office as soon as we have a date and time for the address, and location for the Secretary.

>
> The Convention runs three days, October 19-21, with the plenary sessions conducted during normal business hours.

>
> — Jeff

>
>
> Jeffry Silverman
> Director of Communications
> Alaska Federation of Natives
> (907) 263-1304
> jsilverman@nativefederation.org

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> "Sail on, sail on, sail on."
> — Leonard Cohen

>
>
>

--

Office of the Secretary

(202) 208-4894 Office

(202) 897-7225 Mobile

From: Mashburn, Lori
To: [Paranzino, Anthony M. EOP/WHO](#)
Subject: Fwd: Secretary Zinke Recommends Keeping Federal Lands in Federal Ownership, Adding Three New Monuments
Date: Tuesday, December 05, 2017 4:36:45 PM

Anthony,

Sorry for the delay in sending. Please see below the press release and link to the final report.

Thanks,
Lori K. Mashburn
White House Liaison
Department of the Interior
202.208.1694

----- Forwarded message -----

From: U.S. Department of the Interior <interior_news@updates.interior.gov>
Date: Tue, Dec 5, 2017 at 2:50 PM
Subject: Secretary Zinke Recommends Keeping Federal Lands in Federal Ownership, Adding Three New Monuments
To: lori_mashburn@ios.doi.gov

news release



Date: December 5, 2017
Contact: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

Secretary Zinke Recommends Keeping Federal Lands in Federal Ownership, Adding Three New Monuments

WASHINGTON – Today, in accordance with President Donald J. Trump’s April 26, 2017, Executive Order (EO), U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke released [the final report](#) outlining recommendations he made to the President on some national monument designations under the Antiquities Act.

Recommendations Secretary Zinke made in the final report included the following:

- **Keep federal lands federal** - the report does not recommend that a single acre of federal land be removed from the federal estate. If land no longer falls within a monument boundary it will continue to be federal land and will be managed by

whichever agency managed the land before designation

- **Add three new national monuments** - Secretary Zinke recommended beginning a process to consider three new national monuments: The Badger II Medicine Area (Montana), Camp Nelson (Kentucky), and the Medgar Evers Home (Mississippi).
- **Modify the boundaries and management of four monuments** - Bears Ears, Grand Staircase, Cascade-Siskiyou, and Gold Butte National Monuments
- **Expand access for hunting and fishing** - Maintain an ongoing review to ensure public access to encourage more hunting and fishing in monuments

“America has spoken and public land belongs to the people,” **said Secretary Zinke**. “As I visited the Monuments across this country, I met with Americans on all sides of the issue -- from ranchers to conservationists to tribal leaders -- and found that we agree on wanting to protect our heritage while still allowing public access to public land. My recommendations to the President reflect that, in some circumstances, proclamations should be amended, boundaries revised, and management plans updated.”

FACT VS FICTION: Antiquities Act and Monument Review

Myth: No president has shrunk a monument.

False: Monuments have been reduced at least eighteen times under presidents on both sides of the aisle. Some examples include President John F. Kennedy excluding Bandelier National Monument, Presidents Taft, Wilson, and Coolidge reducing Mount Olympus National Monument, and President Eisenhower reducing the Great Sand Dunes National Monument in Colorado.

Myth: The monument review will sell/transfer public lands to states.

False: This is not true. The Secretary adamantly opposes the wholesale sale or transfer of public lands. The Antiquities Act only allows federal land to be reserved as a national monument. Therefore, if any monument is reduced, the land would remain federally owned and would be managed by the appropriate federal land management agency, such as the BLM, U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, or the National Park Service (NPS).

Myth: Removing the monument designation from land will leave Native American artifacts and paleontological objects subject to looting or desecration.

False: This is not true. Whether these resources are found on land designated as a monument, national forest, BLM- managed public land, or other federal land, it is generally illegal to remove or disrupt these resources without a permit issued by the federal government.

Myth: The monument review will close/sell/transfer national parks.

False: No national parks are under review.

Myth: The review was done without meeting advocates for national monuments.

False: The Secretary visited eight monuments in six states and personally hosted more than 60 meetings attended by hundreds of local stakeholders. Attendees included individuals and organizations representing all sides of the debate ranging from environmental organizations like the Wilderness Society and the Nature Conservancy to county commissioners and, residents, and ranchers who prefer multiple use of the land.

Myth: Tribal Nations were not consulted.

False: This is patently false. Before traveling to Utah, the Secretary met with Tribal representatives in his office. On his first day in Utah in May, the Secretary met with the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition in Salt Lake City, for just under two hours. Throughout the four-day survey of the Utah monuments, the Secretary also met with local Tribal representatives who represent different sides of the debate. The Secretary also met with Tribal representatives for their input on several other monuments from Maine to New Mexico to Oregon and everywhere in between. Additionally, the Department hosted several Tribal listening sessions at the Department and across the country, including a four hour session with the Acting Deputy Secretary on May 30th.

###



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This email was sent to lori_mashburn@ios.doi.gov by: U.S. Department of the Interior · 1849 C Street, N.W. · Washington DC 20240 · 202-208-3100



From: Hardaway, Peyton
To: [Lori Mashburn](mailto:Lori.Mashburn)
Subject: Fwd: Security Clearance Update
Date: Tuesday, September 12, 2017 11:26:40 AM

More TS/SCI request.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Gallagher, James** <james_gallagher@ios.doi.gov>
Date: Tue, Sep 12, 2017 at 11:18 AM
Subject: Security Clearance Update
To: "Wackowski, Stephen" <stephen_wackowski@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: Kelly Willms <kelly.willms@bsee.gov>, "Young, Kristin" <kristin.young@bsee.gov>, Peyton Hardaway <peyton.hardaway@bsee.gov>, Harry Humbert <harry_humbert@ios.doi.gov>, Darren Cruzan <darren_cruzan@ios.doi.gov>, Niel Hernandez <niel_hernandez@ios.doi.gov>

Mr. Wackowski,

It was a pleasure meeting you today. As promised, I am following up on the process to provide a TS/SCI clearance. The current clearance for your position as Senior Adviser for Alaska Affairs is Public Trust.

To be eligible for TS/SCI, which is critical for your position, your POC in the Office of the Secretary needs to contact BSEE HR requesting the position be upgraded to TS/SCI. If you are a political appointee, the POC for BSEE is Mr. Peyton Hardaway (202- 208-6607 peyton.hardaway@bsee.gov).

Once BSEE HR includes the TS/SCI clearance as a requirement for your position, they will contact the Branch Chief Kelly Willms, BSEE Personnel Security Branch (703-787-1431 kelly.willms@bsee.gov) to start the process for your TS clearance.

Upon receipt of a DOI TS clearance, then BSEE will contact Niel Hernandez, National Security Programs, who will submit your request to the Intelligence Community.

Since you have a TS/SCI clearance in your current military reserve position, this process should be expedited. I have been advised that your DOI clearance will not jeopardize your current USAF clearance.

I can not resolve your frustration, but I will assist you in this process in any way I can.

Jim

Office of Law Enforcement and Security

U.S. Department of the Interior

1849 C street

Washington D.C. 20240

202/208-1664 (office)

703/989-5358 (cell)

877-330-7999 (pager)

james_gallagher@ios.doi.gov

--

Gary 'Peyton' Hardaway
Executive Resources Program Manager
U.S. Department of the Interior|Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE)|Human Resources
Division (HRD)|HR Operations and Executive Resources Branch-D.C. 1849 C St. NW, Washington D.C.,
20240 |Main Interior Building - Room
(5446) Tel: 202.208.6607|Cell: 571.524.3961|Fax: 202.219.8104|Email: Peyton.Hardaway@bsee.gov

From: Mashburn, Lori
To: [Hinson, Alex](#); [Swift, Heather](#); [Laura Rigas](#); [Newell, Russell](#); [Eli Nachmany](#)
Subject: Fwd: Senate Questionnaire
Date: Wednesday, November 08, 2017 12:50:17 PM

Hey yall,

Below is Dr. Petty's 150 word bio and a list of folks that would be willing to provide support quotes for our press release. Please let me know if I can help with any of this.

Thanks,
Lori K. Mashburn
White House Liaison
Department of the Interior
202.208.1694

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Tim Petty** <(b) (6) - Tim Petty >
Date: Wed, Nov 8, 2017 at 12:03 PM
Subject: Re: Senate Questionnaire
To: "Chambers, Micah" <micah_chambers@ios.doi.gov>, "Mashburn, Lori" <lori_mashburn@ios.doi.gov>

Micah and Lori.

First step for your "to do list"

Here Is my "draft" of 150 word Bio. You are welcome to edit as needed.

Timothy R. Petty, Ph.D., of Washington, D.C., to be Assistant Secretary for Water & Science at the Department of the Interior (DOI). Dr. Petty serves as Deputy Legislative Director and Legislative Assistant on issues of water, natural resources, environment, science, technology and telecommunications and space for U.S. Senator James E. Risch of Idaho, a member of the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. Previously, Dr. Petty served as Acting Assistant Secretary and Deputy Assistant Secretary for Water & Science at DOI under President George W. Bush. He earned a Ph.D. from the University of Alaska Fairbanks; an M.S. from University of Maryland University College; and a B.S. from Purdue University (Indiana). Prior to his current Senate service, Dr. Petty worked for U.S. Senators Connie Mack of Florida and Rick Santorum of Pennsylvania. In addition, Dr. Petty worked in California and Indiana as a geologist and hydrogeologist.

###

“working” Quotes List:

1. Senator James Risch, Idaho
2. Senator Crapo, Idaho
3. Congressman Simpson, Idaho
4. Gov. Otter, Idaho
5. Dr. Mark Myers, Former Director, USGS, DOI

6. Mr. Mark Limbaugh, former A/S Water and Science, DOI
7. Mr. Bob Johnson, former Commissioner, BOR, DOI
8. Gov. Dirk Kempthorne, former Sec. of Interior, DOI
9. Mr. Ian Lyle, Vice President, National Water Resources Association
10. Dr. William Schnabel, Univ of Alaska Fairbanks, Institute of Northern Engineering
11. Dr. Anupma Prakash, Univ of Alaska Fairbanks, Geophysics Dept.
12. Mr. Paul Arrington, President, Idaho Water Users Association
13. Dr. Richard Allen, Univ of Idaho, Professor of Water Resources Engineering

From: Todd Willens
To: lori_mashburn@ios.doi.gov
Subject: Fwd: State Department Notes from Canadian Embassy event: The Future of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge
Date: Tuesday, November 07, 2017 8:22:04 PM


Let talk tmrw. But I think we out Greg Sheehan on this commission.

Todd Willens
Assistant Deputy Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW - MIB Room 6116
Washington, DC 20240

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Cameron, Scott" <scott_cameron@ios.doi.gov>
Date: November 7, 2017 at 6:06:18 PM EST
To: "Senhadji, Karen" <karen_senhadji@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: Amy Holley <Amy_Holley@ios.doi.gov>, Steve Glomb <steve_glomb@ios.doi.gov>, Maureen Foster <maureen_foster@ios.doi.gov>, Todd Willens <todd_willens@ios.doi.gov>, Gregory Sheehan <gregory_sheehan@fws.gov>, James Cason <james_cason@ios.doi.gov>, Jason Larrabee <jason_larrabee@ios.doi.gov>, Laura Rigas <laura_rigas@ios.doi.gov>, "Domenech, Douglas" <douglas_domenech@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Re: State Department Notes from Canadian Embassy event: The Future of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge

Last night I spoke with Melissa Simpson, a former colleague of a number of us. She is at State now, and attended this event at the Canadian embassy. ^{(b) (5)}

 She gave me a handout from the embassy event, which I gave to Gareth this morning.

Thanks,
Scott
Scott J. Cameron
Acting Assistant Secretary for Policy, Management and Budget
Office of the Secretary of the Interior
Desk 202 208 4242
Cell 202 706 9031

On Tue, Nov 7, 2017 at 4:48 PM, Senhadji, Karen <karen_senhadji@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

Please see attached for the notes taken by a State Department staffer who attended the Canadian Embassy event yesterday.

Thanks, Karen

On Thu, Nov 2, 2017 at 6:01 PM, Cameron, Scott

<scott_cameron@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

Having spoken with Todd and Jason, we all agree that DOI will not be participating in or attending this event at the Canadian embassy. We can get debriefed by State's notetaker afterwards, through Karen's staff. Any press or other inquiries from the outside should be referred to Laura's operation for handling.

Thanks,

Scott

Scott J. Cameron

Acting Assistant Secretary for Policy, Management and Budget

Office of the Secretary of the Interior

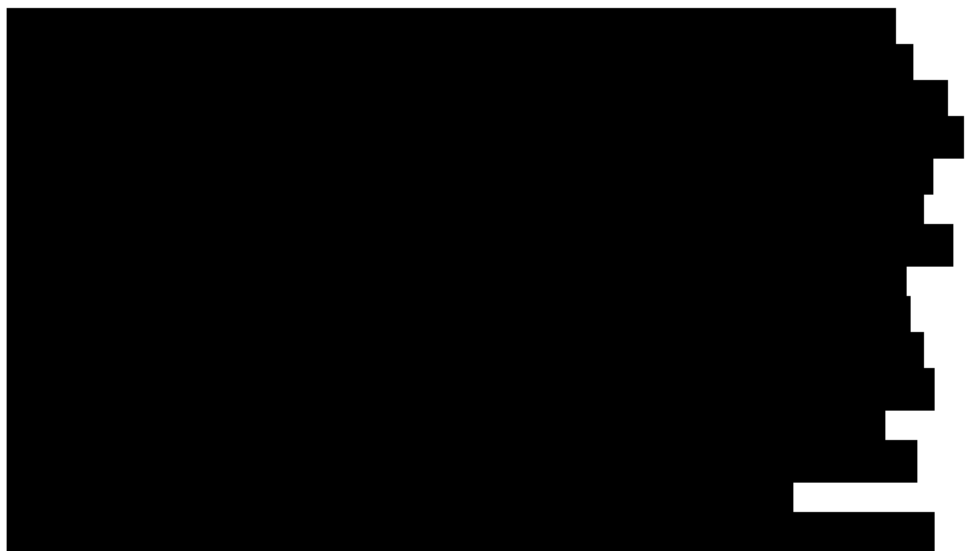
Desk 202 208 4242

Cell 202 706 9031

On Thu, Nov 2, 2017 at 10:50 AM, Senhadji, Karen

<karen_senhadji@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

(b) (5)



(b) (5)

Please advise if that is how you would like to proceed or if you would prefer a different approach, and let me know if you would like additional information or would like to discuss further offline.

Thanks, Karen

Karen Senhadji
Director, Office of International Affairs
Office of the Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
karen_senhadji@ios.doi.gov
Office 202-208-5479 , Cell 202-510-0651

On Wed, Nov 1, 2017 at 9:44 PM, Senhadji, Karen

<karen_senhadji@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

Just a quick status update: (b) (5)

Thanks, Karen

On Tue, Oct 31, 2017 at 7:33 PM, Scott Cameron

<scott_cameron@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

Karen,

Please notify State of DOI's displeasure about this seminar. (b) (5)

Thanks,

Scott

Scott J. Cameron

Acting Assistant Secretary for Policy, Management and Budget
Department of the Interior

Desk: 202.208.4242

Cell: 202.706.9041

Sent from my iPhone

On Oct 31, 2017, at 7:18 PM, Todd Willens
<todd_willens@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

(b) (5)

Todd Willens
Assistant Deputy Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW - MIB Room 6116
Washington, DC 20240

On Oct 31, 2017, at 6:01 PM, Cameron, Scott
<scott_cameron@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

(b) (5)

Thanks,
Scott
Scott J. Cameron
Acting Assistant Secretary for Policy,
Management and Budget
Office of the Secretary of the Interior
Desk 202 208 4242
Cell 202 706 9031

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Glomb, Steve**
<steve_glomb@ios.doi.gov>
Date: Tue, Oct 31, 2017 at 5:57 PM
Subject: Fwd: You are invited: The Future of
the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge
To: "Cameron, Scott"
<scott_cameron@ios.doi.gov>, Amy Holley
<amy_holley@ios.doi.gov>, "Senhadji,
Karen" <karen_senhadji@ios.doi.gov>

Scott and Amy

I don't know if you have also been invited to this event,
but in any case, Karen suggested I give you a heads-up that
this event is occurring. I have a (b) (6) on
Monday afternoon so I will not attend. (b) (5)

(b) (5)

Steve

202-208-4863
steve_glomb@ios.doi.gov

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **The Embassy of Canada**

<environment@canadianembassy.org>

Date: Mon, Oct 30, 2017 at 4:01 PM

Subject: You are invited: The Future of the
Arctic National Wildlife Refuge

To: steve_glomb@ios.doi.gov



RSVP

The Future of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge

The Embassy of Canada

invites you to a panel discussion
on continued conservation of the
Arctic Refuge. Guests will have the
opportunity to hear from Gwich'in
leaders, Canadian scientists, and
legislators.

Monday, November 6, 2017

Embassy of Canada

[501 Pennsylvania Ave, NW |
Washington, D.C.](#)

Registration: 3:00-3:30 PM

Armchair discussion and remarks:
3:30-5:00 PM

Cocktail reception: 5:00 PM

Welcoming Remarks

David MacNaughton, Ambassador of
Canada to the United States

Panelists

Bobbie Jo Greenland-Morgan, Grand
Chief, Gwich'in Tribal Council

Bruce Charlie, Chief, Vuntut Gwitchin First
Nation

The Honourable Larry Bagnell, Member
of Parliament, Yukon

The Honourable Pauline Frost, Minister
of the Environment, Government of Yukon
(invited)

Basil van Havre, Director General,
Domestic and International Biodiversity
Policy, Canadian Wildlife Service.

*Please respond via the RVSP
button by Friday, November 3.*

*Government-issued photo ID
required for entry.*

From: Cason, James
To: [Mashburn, Lori](mailto:Mashburn.Lori)
Subject: Fwd: The Plot to Loot America's Wilderness | The Nation
Date: Friday, November 17, 2017 4:52:33 PM

FYI

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Swift, Heather** <heather_swift@ios.doi.gov>
Date: Fri, Nov 17, 2017 at 1:58 PM
Subject: Fwd: The Plot to Loot America's Wilderness | The Nation
To: James Cason <james_cason@ios.doi.gov>

-

Heather Swift
Department of the Interior
@DOIPressSec
Heather_Swift@ios.doi.gov | Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Heather swift** <**(b) (6) - Heather Swift**>
Date: Fri, Nov 17, 2017 at 1:57 PM
Subject: The Plot to Loot America's Wilderness | The Nation
To: Heather Swift <heather_swift@ios.doi.gov>

<https://www.thenation.com/article/the-plot-to-sell-americas-wilderness/>

The Plot to Loot America's Wilderness

A little-known bureaucrat named James Cason is reshaping the Department of the Interior.

By [Adam Federman](#) Yesterday 6:00 am



Illustration by Nurul Hana Anwar.

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One day in Mid-March, James Cason, the associate deputy secretary at the Department of the Interior, convened an impromptu meeting of the senior staff of the Bureau of Land Management. Cason, whose office is on the sixth floor, rarely wandered the halls, and some career civil servants still had never met him. A soft-spoken and unassuming man, Cason has cycled in and out of Republican administrations since the early 1980s and has largely avoided public attention. But people who have worked with him know him as a highly effective administrator and a disciple of some of the department's most notorious anti-environment leaders in previous years—a “hatchet man,” in the words of one former DOI employee who worked with him during the George W. Bush administration.

This article was reported in partnership with the Investigative Fund at the Nation Institute.

About 30 employees were ushered into a conference room, where Cason announced that Kristin Bail, acting director of the BLM, would be replaced by Mike Nedd. The move itself wasn't all that surprising: Bail, who came from a conservation background, had been appointed in the final days of the Obama administration to serve in a temporary capacity; Nedd, who had been assistant director for energy, minerals, and realty management since 2007, was viewed as better positioned to implement the new administration's pro-industry agenda.

But the way Cason handled the meeting sent a stark message. According to two people who were present, he delivered what appeared to be hastily prepared remarks thanking Bail for her service but telling her that she was no longer needed in the position. One employee, who has since left the DOI, said it was unclear whether Bail had been told beforehand of her demotion. “It was one of the most awkward, disrespectful things I've ever seen,” the former employee said. The spectacle amounted to a kind of public dismissal—and a warning shot. The meeting ended as abruptly as it had begun, with employees left

staring at their seats. By the end of the day, Bail was carrying her things out of her office in a box and looking for another place to sit.

Bail's transfer was the opening salvo in an unprecedented restructuring of the DOI. Three months later, in what some department staffers now call the "Thursday-night massacre," Cason sent memos to more than two dozen of the DOI's highest-ranking civil servants informing them of reassignments; they had 15 days to accept the new positions or retire. The Office of the Inspector General is currently investigating how the transfers were determined; some employees believe they were designed to push out long-serving staff as part of a department-wide purge, and that climate scientists in particular were targeted.

Cason, who once described himself as the [department's "regulatory czar,"](#) has also overseen the dismantling of rules governing energy development on public lands. The DOI is poised to open up millions of acres to drilling and mining—from Utah's red-rock country to the frigid, perilous waters off Alaska's coast—while stripping away basic environmental protections and reducing transparency. Across the Trump administration, the new mantra is "energy dominance"—a vision of the world in which the United States will amplify its influence with a dramatic expansion of oil, gas, and coal production, whatever the environmental costs.

The DOI is poised to open up millions of acres to drilling and mining, from Utah's red-rock country to Alaska's frigid coastal waters.

The axing of regulations and personnel is occurring with remarkable speed. In contrast to other federal departments mired by inept leadership in the Trump era, a small group of seasoned insiders has kept things humming along at the Department of the Interior, Cason chief among them. In the early months of the administration, according to one former DOI employee, there seemed to be few decisions, no matter how small, that didn't cross his desk.

"From what I can tell, Jim Cason is running the show," the former employee said. "I think he's overseeing everything." In addition to orchestrating the

personnel reassignments and chairing the regulatory-reform task force that has rewritten or eliminated many Obama-era policies, Cason has been tasked with reviewing every grant or cooperative agreement of \$100,000 or more, as well as any pending decisions with “nationwide, regional, or statewide impact.” He wrote the *Federal Register* notice announcing the department’s controversial review of 27 national monuments, and he has been granted virtual carte blanche to set policy as it relates to the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

Cason’s return to the DOI doesn’t surprise Jim Cubie, who was chief counsel to Senator Patrick Leahy (D-VT) in 1989, when Leahy oversaw [an Agriculture Committee hearing](#) on Cason’s nomination to a top environmental post in the George H.W. Bush administration. Cason’s track record so alarmed the committee that he was eventually forced to withdraw his name from consideration. Now he’s back in a position that doesn’t require Senate approval. “He’ll do a lot of damage,” Cubie predicted.

Cason is one of only a handful of political appointees with deep knowledge of the Department of the Interior. (The DOI declined to make Cason available for an interview.) He faithfully carried out the agendas of two of the most controversial interior secretaries in recent memory—James Watt and Gale Norton. From 1985 to 1989, during the Reagan administration, Cason was deputy assistant secretary for land and minerals management; in that capacity, he worked closely with Steven Griles, a former coal lobbyist and the chief architect of some of the most environmentally destructive policies of the Reagan years. Griles helped to engineer the regulatory changes that facilitated mountaintop-removal mining, and he interfered with a Fish and Wildlife Service report on the potential environmental damage caused by coastal drilling. As head of the DOI’s Office of Surface Mining in the early 1980s, Griles also failed to collect tens of millions of dollars in civil penalties owed by companies that had broken environmental laws.

Throughout this period, Cason served as Griles’s right-hand man, according to a former congressional staffer familiar with his record. “He learned well at

Griles's knee about how to get stuff done," the staffer said. The two became close friends; Griles was best man at Cason's wedding in 1990. And in 2001, when Griles returned to the department under George W. Bush after more than a decade of lobbying for coal companies and other special interests, Cason joined him as his associate deputy. According to a former DOI employee who worked with Cason during the Bush administration, "Griles would have whatever idea, and Jim would figure out how to get it implemented. He's quite effective at doing that. He was known as Griles's hatchet man."

But unlike Griles, who was sentenced to 10 months in prison after lying to Congress about his ties to the disgraced lobbyist Jack Abramoff, Cason has largely avoided the public eye. His personal style is exceedingly restrained, particularly in contrast with more flamboyant and controversial colleagues like Griles, who was known for being a brash talker with a volatile temper. Cason has a monotone way of speaking; he often dresses in a subdued blue suit and tie and seems to go out of his way to be agreeable. In an [appearance on C-SPAN](#) in 2005, as the Abramoff investigations were gaining momentum, a caller described Cason as a "Republican toady" and attacked the DOI for its policies toward Native Americans. Cason replied evenly, "OK, well, that's certainly a good point of view too."

Even when not behind the scenes at the DOI, Cason maintained a low profile. He's never worked as a registered lobbyist. During the Clinton administration, he lived in Western New York and was vice president of risk management at a company that manufactures ceramic-fiber products for industrial applications. More recently, he's done consulting work for Booz Allen Hamilton and Kelly Anderson & Associates (now KAA Federal Solutions), a business-management firm that works with federal and industrial clients. On his financial-disclosure form, submitted in July, Cason provided so few details about the contracting work he'd done with the Quapaw tribe in Oklahoma that, after queries by ProPublica, the DOI was forced to submit a revised version. In it, [Cason revealed](#) that over a five-month period in 2016, he'd earned \$50,000 doing "research" for the tribe. (The department's ethics lawyer called the omission an

“oversight.”)

KAA chief executive officer Tim Vigotsky, who hired Cason in 2012, describes him as a policy wonk who knows the DOI better than anyone. “There’s not a lot of flash,” Vigotsky said. “He works long hours—whatever it takes.” Because Cason wasn’t registered as a lobbyist at Booz Allen or Kelly Anderson, it’s unclear who his clients in the energy sector might have been. Vigotsky called Kelly Anderson’s list a “who’s who” of the industry but wouldn’t reveal the names of private clients. Much of the firm’s work involves providing assistance to companies seeking federal contracts. On his résumé, Cason stated that, in addition to providing consulting support for Native American, commercial, and federal clients, he helped to “network access to government officials.”

A window into what has otherwise been a veiled career opened in 1989, when Cason was nominated to serve as assistant secretary for natural resources and environment at the Department of Agriculture under George H.W. Bush. Few people had ever heard of Cason, who was only 35 when his confirmation hearings took place. The position is typically filled by noncontroversial policy experts, and the hearings are rarely the stuff of high-stakes political theater. But Cason’s nomination was unusually contentious, in large part because of his former boss—James Watt, one of the most polarizing and unpopular interior secretaries ever to hold the position.

As the DOI’s head under Ronald Reagan, Watt was known for his staunch support of property rights and for his attempts to sell millions of acres of public lands to drilling and mining interests; he resigned in 1983, after stating that a coal advisory commission he’d established was balanced because it included “a black...a woman, two Jews, and a cripple.” In his opening remarks at Cason’s hearing, Senator Leahy wasted little time in drawing a parallel between Cason and Watt. “Frankly, we do not need a James Watt clone in this position,” Leahy said. Jim Cubie, Leahy’s counsel, said they’d heard from a number of sources that “this guy’s going to be a disaster.... Anybody who was a Watt acolyte was

trouble.”

In written testimony, Cason said he'd barely gotten to know Watt and “could not fairly or knowledgeably compare or contrast our philosophies.” Yet Cason revealed that his philosophy was in fact closely aligned with Watt's when he faced a series of questions about his decision to approve the transfer of tens of thousands of acres of public land at below-market rates in 1986. The episode involved the sale of oil-shale claims to energy companies at \$2.50 an acre; weeks later, some of the same land was sold to private developers at 800 times the original price, reaping a windfall of \$37 million for the energy companies. Asked by Senator Kent Conrad (D-ND) whether the sale was “in the public interest,” Cason replied: “I think it is in the public interest to assure that we properly address private-property rights.” In that single sentence, Cason summed up Watt's worldview.

“The whole department, and yourself as part of that department, were overly solicitous of business and industry points of view.”

But the hearing wasn't only a referendum on Watt—it demonstrated that Cason put his own stamp on a number of decisions that heavily favored industry. Cason's involvement in the alleged suppression of a BLM report on the dangers to the spotted owl dominated press accounts of the hearings. At the time, there was great concern among conservationists that the logging of old-growth forests in Oregon would lead to the owl's demise. Indeed, several studies carried out in the 1980s demonstrated that the forests were key to the species's survival. The BLM report commissioned by Cason found that the spotted owl would be imperiled if logging continued. Cason later claimed that the report didn't live up to the department's scientific standards—but several individuals involved in the review testified that Cason simply disagreed with their conclusions and had asked the DOI to bury the report. After news of the report leaked to the press, Cason had the DOI release what many felt was a watered-down version of the original. (“Jim Cason is a seasoned Department of the Interior official who brings decades of government, private sector, and personal

experience to the position,” a DOI spokesperson wrote in response to questions about his record, including the owl report. “We are lucky to have him.”)

Cason had also pushed through a series of industry-friendly measures in the final weeks of the Reagan administration. He lowered the royalties paid for coal mined on public lands; authorized a rule that made it possible for companies to mine in national parks or on Forest Service land (a rule considered so over the top that it was quickly withdrawn); traveled to Colorado to encourage—yet again—the transfer of thousands of acres of oil-shale claims at rock-bottom prices; and brokered an agreement with several major oil and gas companies that essentially undermined the federal government’s authority to audit royalty payments. Not only did Cason reach the latter deal without consulting state or tribal officials, whose constituents stood to lose out on millions in annual payments, but he also signed the agreement on letterhead from the industry’s attorneys. R. Max Peterson, then the executive vice president of the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, described Cason’s actions as “an inexcusable betrayal of the public trust.”

Even Republican members of the traditionally conservative Senate Agriculture Committee had their doubts. Summing up Cason’s years at the DOI, Indiana Senator Richard Lugar said: “The whole department, and yourself as part of that department, were overly solicitous of business and industry points of view.” Several weeks later, realizing that he didn’t have enough votes to secure the nomination, Cason withdrew his name.

All of that must have seemed like a distant memory this past summer, when Cason addressed a roomful of industry executives at the Colorado Oil and Gas Association’s annual energy summit in Denver. He spoke alongside Gale Norton, who had been the interior secretary for much of George W. Bush’s administration. Cason’s current post is the same one he held under Norton—but this time around, according to interviews with more than a half-dozen current and former DOI employees, he wields significantly more power. (Norton, who took a position with Royal Dutch Shell after leaving office in 2006, now runs

her own consulting firm—Norton Regulatory Strategies—and works closely with the oil and gas industry.)

With a list of the summit's major sponsors—BP, Anadarko, Noble Energy—projected on the wall behind him, Cason explained that Donald Trump's win in November marked a profound shift in direction. Though few would describe the Department of the Interior, even under President Obama, as unfriendly to oil and gas producers, Cason declared that the Trump administration had inherited “an anti-energy bias” and a “preservationist thought process” that needed rooting out.

“There's not a lot of flash. He works long hours—whatever it takes.”

While the DOI has often struggled to balance its dual mandate of conservation and resource development, the scales have now tipped decisively in favor of the oil and gas industry. As a candidate, Trump promised to “unleash America's \$50 trillion in untapped shale, oil, and natural-gas reserves, plus hundreds of years in clean-coal reserves”—a grandiose statement that has nonetheless become a kind of blueprint for his Department of the Interior. The long-held goal of “energy independence”—a stock phrase used by every administration at least since the Carter years—has been replaced by one of “energy dominance.” Trump officials believe that achieving it requires an aggressive push for increased access to public lands, including national monuments and offshore oil and gas reserves.

The DOI, as the largest landowner in the United States—managing roughly 500 million acres, one-fifth of the country's landmass—is at the heart of this effort. The department also administers millions of acres in offshore oil and gas reserves. Trump has already reversed an Obama-era ban on drilling along part of the Atlantic coast and in the environmentally sensitive waters around Alaska. Now, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke and Republicans in Congress are seeking to fulfill one of the industry's long-sought goals: opening up the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, the largest unexplored and undeveloped onshore basin in the United States. In December, the BLM will offer approximately

10.3 million acres of land in Alaska's National Petroleum Reserve for oil and gas leasing. And next spring, the department will hold the largest oil- and gas-lease sale in the country's history when it auctions off some 77 million acres of offshore reserves in the Gulf of Mexico.

Recently, the DOI announced that it would be running its operations more like a business, with the primary objective of generating revenue through energy production. According to a July report in *Bloomberg News*, Zinke is pushing to "retool the agency into a federal profit center." The DOI's climate-change webpage has undergone a makeover, too. Sometime between February and April, the department replaced a lengthy informational page with two short paragraphs describing the DOI's preservation duties; the phrase "climate change" appears just once. And in April, the BLM—which is tasked with overseeing oil and gas leasing on federal land—changed the image on its home page from one of a couple of backpackers looking out onto a scenic landscape to a shot of a massive coal seam in Wyoming (an image that has since been removed).

In Denver, Cason reiterated that the DOI was more interested in facilitating energy development than regulating it; he told the roomful of oil and gas executives that they represented "a very important industry for the Department of Interior and the administration." About a month after the conference, the DOI submitted a draft of its strategic vision for the next five years to the Office of Management and Budget. According to a copy of the plan obtained by *The Nation*, the department's priorities include accelerating the exploitation of "vast amounts" of untapped energy reserves on public lands. The outline makes no mention of climate change—a phrase that appeared dozens of times in the previous strategic plan.

In October, the DOI released a report detailing the burdens on energy development and recommending sweeping changes that would undermine its own basic regulatory authority. The high-profile targets included a 2015 rule requiring rudimentary safeguards for fracking on public lands, as well as a

conservation plan for the imperiled sage grouse. The report also raised the possibility of eliminating the federally required land-management plans that might limit drilling in certain areas; the conditions placed on development that affects endangered species or critical habitat; and even the collection of basic data related to energy production, which critics see as an attempt to muddy an already opaque process. Jeremy Nichols of the advocacy group Wild Earth Guardians called the proposed elimination of these common-sense measures “shocking even for this administration.”

The Department of the Interior is made up of nine bureaus, including the BLM and the Fish and Wildlife Service, with 70,000 employees and state and regional offices across the country. Secretary Zinke, a former Navy SEAL and one-term US congressman, has no experience managing such a large, decentralized bureaucracy, and he has relied heavily on his political appointees to run the department’s day-to-day operations. With Cason at the helm, a small circle of insiders orchestrated the aggressive deregulatory agenda and the unprecedented reshuffling of career staff.

“Cason is really an administrator,” a DOI employee who has known him since the George W. Bush administration told me. “He understands how to run an organization.” The position Cason now holds—associate deputy secretary—was created especially for him when he joined the Bush administration, most likely because of fears that he would not make it through another round of confirmation hearings. “They didn’t even try for a nomination, because they knew it would be dead on arrival,” said another former DOI employee who worked closely with Cason at the time.

In his remarks in Denver, Cason said it was evident from day one that career employees needed “an attitude adjustment.” New leadership, he continued, would force them to “adopt a different way of looking at things.” (In a recent speech before the National Petroleum Council, Interior Secretary Zinke described “30 percent” of DOI employees as “not loyal to the flag.”) As a member of the Executive Resources Board, which is responsible for senior-

executive-level reassignments, Cason has overseen a series of personnel changes that appear designed to enhance the administration's pro-oil-and-gas orientation. Under Zinke, the ERB is made up entirely of political appointees, despite strong recommendations from the Office of Personnel Management that the board include a mix of political and career employees "to provide...a balanced perspective." According to Elizabeth Klein, who occupied Cason's role in the Obama administration and served on the ERB for part of that time, there was a rough split between civil servants and political appointees.

The "Thursday-night massacre" occurred on June 15, when more than two dozen of the department's Senior Executive Service (SES) employees, from nearly every agency, received memos informing them of the reassignments. None of the employees that *The Nation* spoke with were consulted in advance, which is considered both a common courtesy and responsible management. In most cases, even agency directors were kept in the dark until just before the memos went out. When one high-level supervisor asked if they were on the list, Cason reportedly replied, "Not this round." The reassignments sent shock waves throughout the DOI. Dan Ashe, former director of the Fish and Wildlife Service, said the transfers were clearly designed to disrupt the normal order of things and to undermine the authority of senior civil servants. Cason, who had served as chief human-capital officer under Bush, was intimately familiar with the SES and personally knew many of the employees who were transferred.

"What they are doing to hand the keys over to the energy industry is pretty astounding."

Among those reassigned was Joel Clement, a senior policy adviser and widely respected climate scientist, who was moved to an accounting office overseeing royalty collection from the fossil-fuel industry. Clement later [filed a whistleblower complaint](#) alleging that his reassignment was politically motivated; he has since resigned. In his departing letter, Clement blasted senior-level appointees for being "shackled to special interests such as oil, gas, and mining." Virginia Burkett, who oversaw climate-science research at the US

Geological Survey, was transferred to an undefined advisory role in the office of the assistant secretary for water and science; she ended up leaving the SES and returning to a lower-grade position. Cindy Dohner, the Fish and Wildlife Service's highly respected Southeast regional director, who oversaw restoration efforts in the Gulf of Mexico after the BP disaster, was reassigned to serve as the agency's director for international affairs. She resigned instead.

“It made people very afraid to make decisions about things or to advocate for what we would call ‘good government,’” said Debra Sonderman, who was moved after almost 20 years in her role as director of acquisition and property management. Sonderman, too, has resigned.

According to numerous reports, the DOI is planning another series of reassignments. Rumors have been circulating since June that they could be announced at any time. One former DOI employee said that the list has already been compiled, but the department is waiting for the inspector general's investigation to conclude before pulling the trigger. “Everybody is looking over their shoulder,” said Ashe, the former Fish and Wildlife Service director.

Unlike other departments that have displayed a shocking level of dysfunction—a kind of embodiment of the Trump presidency itself—the DOI is operating with ruthless efficiency. This is largely due to the presence of experienced appointees like Cason and David Bernhardt, Zinke's deputy secretary, who was confirmed in late July. A former corporate lobbyist whose clients included major oil and gas producers, Bernhardt was once described by Center for Western Priorities spokesman Aaron Weiss as a “walking conflict of interest.” (Cason served as acting deputy secretary until Bernhardt's nomination.)

A handful of other DOI officials from the George W. Bush era have resurfaced after spending the past eight years working for far-right think tanks or as industry lobbyists. Doug Domenech, most recently director of the Fueling Freedom Project, which promotes “the forgotten moral case for fossil fuels,” is now assistant secretary for insular affairs, coordinating policy for American territories in the South Pacific. Daniel Jorjani, a longtime adviser for several of

the Koch brothers' groups, is helping to craft the department's legal policy. Scott Cameron, who spent the past several years advising a lobbying firm whose clients include Shell Oil and the Marcellus Shale Coalition, is now overseeing the DOI's budget.

The oil and gas industry is now taking full advantage of the access offered by its allies at the department. Cason has described the DOI as having an "open-door policy," and in the first month and a half of the administration—before Zinke was even confirmed—met with top industry lawyers, corporate lobbyists, and industry trade groups, including the American Petroleum Institute and Peabody Energy. Zinke himself has had dozens of meetings with energy executives and lobbyists, including those from ExxonMobil and BP. He's used taxpayer dollars to fly [on a private jet](#) owned by an oil-and-gas-exploration firm in Wyoming, and as a member of Congress he received hundreds of thousands of dollars in campaign contributions from the industry. So far, eight of the 12 secretarial orders he's issued have called for greater access to drilling on public lands and in offshore waters.

In June, the Independent Petroleum Association of America (IPAA) sent a midyear legislative agenda to its board of directors, announcing that the playing field for oil and gas producers has been "dramatically altered." A copy obtained by *The Nation* shows that in just the first few months of the Trump administration, the lobbying group achieved an astonishing number of the regulatory rollbacks on its wish list, including an elimination of the fracking rule and another that would have closed a loophole allowing coal companies to calculate their own royalties on coal sold at below-market rates.

There is still a great deal that energy interests hope to accomplish during the Trump administration. Ending a rule to limit methane venting and flaring from wells is at the top of that list. Undermining protections for endangered species on federal land is another key item. A third is ensuring that future administrations are unable to finalize what the IPAA calls "harmful" air-quality regulations that it says would limit offshore development.

Kate Kelly, former senior adviser to then–Interior Secretary Sally Jewell and current director of the public-lands team at the Center for American Progress, warns that it’s difficult to appreciate just how radically the DOI’s policies have changed and what this means for the environment. “In totality, what they are doing to open up public lands to oil and gas development—to basically hand the keys over to the energy industry—is pretty astounding,” she said.

Cason shares the industry’s sense of having a rare opportunity to reshape the policy landscape. In Denver, he mused that the midterm elections weren’t too far off—and that the dynamic in the Senate, and possibly even the House, could change, making it more difficult to advance a deregulatory agenda. “You think about having four years to do things,” he said, “but for those of us who have been on the federal-government side of the fence, you don’t really have four years. And if you want to effect change, you have to have a sense of urgency from day one.”

Sent from my iPhone

From: Mashburn, Lori
To: [Natalie Davis](mailto:Natalie.Davis)
Subject: Fwd: The Plot to Loot America's Wilderness | The Nation
Date: Friday, November 17, 2017 5:14:59 PM

Lori K. Mashburn
White House Liaison
Department of the Interior
202.208.1694

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Cason, James** <james_cason@ios.doi.gov>
Date: Fri, Nov 17, 2017 at 4:51 PM
Subject: Fwd: The Plot to Loot America's Wilderness | The Nation
To: "Mashburn, Lori" <lori_mashburn@ios.doi.gov>

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Heather Swift
Department of the Interior
@DOIPressSec
Heather_Swift@ios.doi.gov | Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

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By [Adam Federman](#) Yesterday 6:00 am



Illustration by Nurul Hana Anwar.

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One day in Mid-March, James Cason, the associate deputy secretary at the Department of the Interior, convened an impromptu meeting of the senior staff of the Bureau of Land Management. Cason, whose office is on the sixth floor, rarely wandered the halls, and some career civil servants still had never met him. A soft-spoken and unassuming man, Cason has cycled in and out of Republican administrations since the early 1980s and has largely avoided public attention. But people who have worked with him know him as a highly effective administrator and a disciple of some of the department's most notorious anti-environment leaders in previous years—a “hatchet man,” in the words of one former DOI employee who worked with him during the George W. Bush administration.

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About 30 employees were ushered into a conference room, where Cason announced that Kristin Bail, acting director of the BLM, would be replaced by Mike Nedd. The move itself wasn't all that surprising: Bail, who came from a conservation background, had been appointed in the final days of the Obama administration to serve in a temporary capacity; Nedd, who had been assistant director for energy, minerals, and realty management since 2007, was viewed

as better positioned to implement the new administration's pro-industry agenda.

But the way Cason handled the meeting sent a stark message. According to two people who were present, he delivered what appeared to be hastily prepared remarks thanking Bail for her service but telling her that she was no longer needed in the position. One employee, who has since left the DOI, said it was unclear whether Bail had been told beforehand of her demotion. "It was one of the most awkward, disrespectful things I've ever seen," the former employee said. The spectacle amounted to a kind of public dismissal—and a warning shot. The meeting ended as abruptly as it had begun, with employees left staring at their seats. By the end of the day, Bail was carrying her things out of her office in a box and looking for another place to sit.

Bail's transfer was the opening salvo in an unprecedented restructuring of the DOI. Three months later, in what some department staffers now call the "Thursday-night massacre," Cason sent memos to more than two dozen of the DOI's highest-ranking civil servants informing them of reassignments; they had 15 days to accept the new positions or retire. The Office of the Inspector General is currently investigating how the transfers were determined; some employees believe they were designed to push out long-serving staff as part of a department-wide purge, and that climate scientists in particular were targeted.

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The axing of regulations and personnel is occurring with remarkable speed. In contrast to other federal departments mired by inept leadership in the Trump era, a small group of seasoned insiders has kept things humming along at the Department of the Interior, Cason chief among them. In the early months of the administration, according to one former DOI employee, there seemed to be few decisions, no matter how small, that didn't cross his desk.

“From what I can tell, Jim Cason is running the show,” the former employee said. “I think he's overseeing everything.” In addition to orchestrating the personnel reassignments and chairing the regulatory-reform task force that has rewritten or eliminated many Obama-era policies, Cason has been tasked with reviewing every grant or cooperative agreement of \$100,000 or more, as well as any pending decisions with “nationwide, regional, or statewide impact.” He wrote the *Federal Register* notice announcing the department's controversial review of 27 national monuments, and he has been granted virtual carte blanche to set policy as it relates to the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

Cason's return to the DOI doesn't surprise Jim Cubie, who was chief counsel to Senator Patrick Leahy (D-VT) in 1989, when Leahy oversaw [an Agriculture Committee hearing](#) on Cason's nomination to a top environmental post in the George H.W. Bush administration. Cason's track record so alarmed the committee that he was eventually forced to withdraw his name from consideration. Now he's back in a position that doesn't require Senate approval. “He'll do a lot of damage,” Cubie predicted.

Cason is one of only a handful of political appointees with deep knowledge of the Department of the Interior. (The DOI declined to make Cason available for an interview.) He faithfully carried out the agendas of two of the most controversial interior secretaries in recent memory—James Watt and Gale Norton. From 1985 to 1989, during the Reagan administration, Cason was deputy assistant secretary for land and minerals management; in that capacity, he worked closely with Steven Griles, a former coal lobbyist and the chief

architect of some of the most environmentally destructive policies of the Reagan years. Griles helped to engineer the regulatory changes that facilitated mountaintop-removal mining, and he interfered with a Fish and Wildlife Service report on the potential environmental damage caused by coastal drilling. As head of the DOI's Office of Surface Mining in the early 1980s, Griles also failed to collect tens of millions of dollars in civil penalties owed by companies that had broken environmental laws.

Throughout this period, Cason served as Griles's right-hand man, according to a former congressional staffer familiar with his record. "He learned well at Griles's knee about how to get stuff done," the staffer said. The two became close friends; Griles was best man at Cason's wedding in 1990. And in 2001, when Griles returned to the department under George W. Bush after more than a decade of lobbying for coal companies and other special interests, Cason joined him as his associate deputy. According to a former DOI employee who worked with Cason during the Bush administration, "Griles would have whatever idea, and Jim would figure out how to get it implemented. He's quite effective at doing that. He was known as Griles's hatchet man."

But unlike Griles, who was sentenced to 10 months in prison after lying to Congress about his ties to the disgraced lobbyist Jack Abramoff, Cason has largely avoided the public eye. His personal style is exceedingly restrained, particularly in contrast with more flamboyant and controversial colleagues like Griles, who was known for being a brash talker with a volatile temper. Cason has a monotone way of speaking; he often dresses in a subdued blue suit and tie and seems to go out of his way to be agreeable. In an [appearance on C-SPAN](#) in 2005, as the Abramoff investigations were gaining momentum, a caller described Cason as a "Republican toady" and attacked the DOI for its policies toward Native Americans. Cason replied evenly, "OK, well, that's certainly a good point of view too."

Even when not behind the scenes at the DOI, Cason maintained a low profile. He's never worked as a registered lobbyist. During the Clinton administration,

he lived in Western New York and was vice president of risk management at a company that manufactures ceramic-fiber products for industrial applications. More recently, he's done consulting work for Booz Allen Hamilton and Kelly Anderson & Associates (now KAA Federal Solutions), a business-management firm that works with federal and industrial clients. On his financial-disclosure form, submitted in July, Cason provided so few details about the contracting work he'd done with the Quapaw tribe in Oklahoma that, after queries by ProPublica, the DOI was forced to submit a revised version. In it, [Cason revealed](#) that over a five-month period in 2016, he'd earned \$50,000 doing "research" for the tribe. (The department's ethics lawyer called the omission an "oversight.")

KAA chief executive officer Tim Vigotsky, who hired Cason in 2012, describes him as a policy wonk who knows the DOI better than anyone. "There's not a lot of flash," Vigotsky said. "He works long hours—whatever it takes." Because Cason wasn't registered as a lobbyist at Booz Allen or Kelly Anderson, it's unclear who his clients in the energy sector might have been. Vigotsky called Kelly Anderson's list a "who's who" of the industry but wouldn't reveal the names of private clients. Much of the firm's work involves providing assistance to companies seeking federal contracts. On his résumé, Cason stated that, in addition to providing consulting support for Native American, commercial, and federal clients, he helped to "network access to government officials."

A window into what has otherwise been a veiled career opened in 1989, when Cason was nominated to serve as assistant secretary for natural resources and environment at the Department of Agriculture under George H.W. Bush. Few people had ever heard of Cason, who was only 35 when his confirmation hearings took place. The position is typically filled by noncontroversial policy experts, and the hearings are rarely the stuff of high-stakes political theater. But Cason's nomination was unusually contentious, in large part because of his former boss—James Watt, one of the most polarizing and unpopular interior secretaries ever to hold the position.

As the DOI's head under Ronald Reagan, Watt was known for his staunch support of property rights and for his attempts to sell millions of acres of public lands to drilling and mining interests; he resigned in 1983, after stating that a coal advisory commission he'd established was balanced because it included "a black...a woman, two Jews, and a cripple." In his opening remarks at Cason's hearing, Senator Leahy wasted little time in drawing a parallel between Cason and Watt. "Frankly, we do not need a James Watt clone in this position," Leahy said. Jim Cubie, Leahy's counsel, said they'd heard from a number of sources that "this guy's going to be a disaster.... Anybody who was a Watt acolyte was trouble."

In written testimony, Cason said he'd barely gotten to know Watt and "could not fairly or knowledgeably compare or contrast our philosophies." Yet Cason revealed that his philosophy was in fact closely aligned with Watt's when he faced a series of questions about his decision to approve the transfer of tens of thousands of acres of public land at below-market rates in 1986. The episode involved the sale of oil-shale claims to energy companies at \$2.50 an acre; weeks later, some of the same land was sold to private developers at 800 times the original price, reaping a windfall of \$37 million for the energy companies. Asked by Senator Kent Conrad (D-ND) whether the sale was "in the public interest," Cason replied: "I think it is in the public interest to assure that we properly address private-property rights." In that single sentence, Cason summed up Watt's worldview.

"The whole department, and yourself as part of that department, were overly solicitous of business and industry points of view."

But the hearing wasn't only a referendum on Watt—it demonstrated that Cason put his own stamp on a number of decisions that heavily favored industry. Cason's involvement in the alleged suppression of a BLM report on the dangers to the spotted owl dominated press accounts of the hearings. At the time, there was great concern among conservationists that the logging of old-growth forests in Oregon would lead to the owl's demise. Indeed, several studies

carried out in the 1980s demonstrated that the forests were key to the species's survival. The BLM report commissioned by Cason found that the spotted owl would be imperiled if logging continued. Cason later claimed that the report didn't live up to the department's scientific standards—but several individuals involved in the review testified that Cason simply disagreed with their conclusions and had asked the DOI to bury the report. After news of the report leaked to the press, Cason had the DOI release what many felt was a watered-down version of the original. (“Jim Cason is a seasoned Department of the Interior official who brings decades of government, private sector, and personal experience to the position,” a DOI spokesperson wrote in response to questions about his record, including the owl report. “We are lucky to have him.”)

Cason had also pushed through a series of industry-friendly measures in the final weeks of the Reagan administration. He lowered the royalties paid for coal mined on public lands; authorized a rule that made it possible for companies to mine in national parks or on Forest Service land (a rule considered so over the top that it was quickly withdrawn); traveled to Colorado to encourage—yet again—the transfer of thousands of acres of oil-shale claims at rock-bottom prices; and brokered an agreement with several major oil and gas companies that essentially undermined the federal government's authority to audit royalty payments. Not only did Cason reach the latter deal without consulting state or tribal officials, whose constituents stood to lose out on millions in annual payments, but he also signed the agreement on letterhead from the industry's attorneys. R. Max Peterson, then the executive vice president of the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, described Cason's actions as “an inexcusable betrayal of the public trust.”

Even Republican members of the traditionally conservative Senate Agriculture Committee had their doubts. Summing up Cason's years at the DOI, Indiana Senator Richard Lugar said: “The whole department, and yourself as part of that department, were overly solicitous of business and industry points of view.” Several weeks later, realizing that he didn't have enough votes to secure the nomination, Cason withdrew his name.

All of that must have seemed like a distant memory this past summer, when Cason addressed a roomful of industry executives at the Colorado Oil and Gas Association's annual energy summit in Denver. He spoke alongside Gale Norton, who had been the interior secretary for much of George W. Bush's administration. Cason's current post is the same one he held under Norton—but this time around, according to interviews with more than a half-dozen current and former DOI employees, he wields significantly more power. (Norton, who took a position with Royal Dutch Shell after leaving office in 2006, now runs her own consulting firm—Norton Regulatory Strategies—and works closely with the oil and gas industry.)

With a list of the summit's major sponsors—BP, Anadarko, Noble Energy—projected on the wall behind him, Cason explained that Donald Trump's win in November marked a profound shift in direction. Though few would describe the Department of the Interior, even under President Obama, as unfriendly to oil and gas producers, Cason declared that the Trump administration had inherited “an anti-energy bias” and a “preservationist thought process” that needed rooting out.

“There's not a lot of flash. He works long hours—whatever it takes.”

While the DOI has often struggled to balance its dual mandate of conservation and resource development, the scales have now tipped decisively in favor of the oil and gas industry. As a candidate, Trump promised to “unleash America's \$50 trillion in untapped shale, oil, and natural-gas reserves, plus hundreds of years in clean-coal reserves”—a grandiose statement that has nonetheless become a kind of blueprint for his Department of the Interior. The long-held goal of “energy independence”—a stock phrase used by every administration at least since the Carter years—has been replaced by one of “energy dominance.” Trump officials believe that achieving it requires an aggressive push for increased access to public lands, including national monuments and offshore oil and gas reserves.

The DOI, as the largest landowner in the United States—managing roughly 500 million acres, one-fifth of the country’s landmass—is at the heart of this effort. The department also administers millions of acres in offshore oil and gas reserves. Trump has already reversed an Obama-era ban on drilling along part of the Atlantic coast and in the environmentally sensitive waters around Alaska. Now, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke and Republicans in Congress are seeking to fulfill one of the industry’s long-sought goals: opening up the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, the largest unexplored and undeveloped onshore basin in the United States. In December, the BLM will offer approximately 10.3 million acres of land in Alaska’s National Petroleum Reserve for oil and gas leasing. And next spring, the department will hold the largest oil- and gas-lease sale in the country’s history when it auctions off some 77 million acres of offshore reserves in the Gulf of Mexico.

Recently, the DOI announced that it would be running its operations more like a business, with the primary objective of generating revenue through energy production. According to a July report in *Bloomberg News*, Zinke is pushing to “retool the agency into a federal profit center.” The DOI’s climate-change webpage has undergone a makeover, too. Sometime between February and April, the department replaced a lengthy informational page with two short paragraphs describing the DOI’s preservation duties; the phrase “climate change” appears just once. And in April, the BLM—which is tasked with overseeing oil and gas leasing on federal land—changed the image on its home page from one of a couple of backpackers looking out onto a scenic landscape to a shot of a massive coal seam in Wyoming (an image that has since been removed).

In Denver, Cason reiterated that the DOI was more interested in facilitating energy development than regulating it; he told the roomful of oil and gas executives that they represented “a very important industry for the Department of Interior and the administration.” About a month after the conference, the DOI submitted a draft of its strategic vision for the next five years to the Office of Management and Budget. According to a copy of the plan obtained by *The*

Nation, the department's priorities include accelerating the exploitation of "vast amounts" of untapped energy reserves on public lands. The outline makes no mention of climate change—a phrase that appeared dozens of times in the previous strategic plan.

In October, the DOI released a report detailing the burdens on energy development and recommending sweeping changes that would undermine its own basic regulatory authority. The high-profile targets included a 2015 rule requiring rudimentary safeguards for fracking on public lands, as well as a conservation plan for the imperiled sage grouse. The report also raised the possibility of eliminating the federally required land-management plans that might limit drilling in certain areas; the conditions placed on development that affects endangered species or critical habitat; and even the collection of basic data related to energy production, which critics see as an attempt to muddy an already opaque process. Jeremy Nichols of the advocacy group Wild Earth Guardians called the proposed elimination of these common-sense measures "shocking even for this administration."

The Department of the Interior is made up of nine bureaus, including the BLM and the Fish and Wildlife Service, with 70,000 employees and state and regional offices across the country. Secretary Zinke, a former Navy SEAL and one-term US congressman, has no experience managing such a large, decentralized bureaucracy, and he has relied heavily on his political appointees to run the department's day-to-day operations. With Cason at the helm, a small circle of insiders orchestrated the aggressive deregulatory agenda and the unprecedented reshuffling of career staff.

"Cason is really an administrator," a DOI employee who has known him since the George W. Bush administration told me. "He understands how to run an organization." The position Cason now holds—associate deputy secretary—was created especially for him when he joined the Bush administration, most likely because of fears that he would not make it through another round of confirmation hearings. "They didn't even try for a nomination, because they

knew it would be dead on arrival,” said another former DOI employee who worked closely with Cason at the time.

In his remarks in Denver, Cason said it was evident from day one that career employees needed “an attitude adjustment.” New leadership, he continued, would force them to “adopt a different way of looking at things.” (In a recent speech before the National Petroleum Council, Interior Secretary Zinke described “30 percent” of DOI employees as “not loyal to the flag.”) As a member of the Executive Resources Board, which is responsible for senior-executive-level reassignments, Cason has overseen a series of personnel changes that appear designed to enhance the administration’s pro-oil-and-gas orientation. Under Zinke, the ERB is made up entirely of political appointees, despite strong recommendations from the Office of Personnel Management that the board include a mix of political and career employees “to provide...a balanced perspective.” According to Elizabeth Klein, who occupied Cason’s role in the Obama administration and served on the ERB for part of that time, there was a rough split between civil servants and political appointees.

The “Thursday-night massacre” occurred on June 15, when more than two dozen of the department’s Senior Executive Service (SES) employees, from nearly every agency, received memos informing them of the reassignments. None of the employees that *The Nation* spoke with were consulted in advance, which is considered both a common courtesy and responsible management. In most cases, even agency directors were kept in the dark until just before the memos went out. When one high-level supervisor asked if they were on the list, Cason reportedly replied, “Not this round.” The reassignments sent shock waves throughout the DOI. Dan Ashe, former director of the Fish and Wildlife Service, said the transfers were clearly designed to disrupt the normal order of things and to undermine the authority of senior civil servants. Cason, who had served as chief human-capital officer under Bush, was intimately familiar with the SES and personally knew many of the employees who were transferred.

“What they are doing to hand the keys over to the energy industry is

pretty astounding.”

Among those reassigned was Joel Clement, a senior policy adviser and widely respected climate scientist, who was moved to an accounting office overseeing royalty collection from the fossil-fuel industry. Clement later [filed a whistleblower complaint](#) alleging that his reassignment was politically motivated; he has since resigned. In his departing letter, Clement blasted senior-level appointees for being “shackled to special interests such as oil, gas, and mining.” Virginia Burkett, who oversaw climate-science research at the US Geological Survey, was transferred to an undefined advisory role in the office of the assistant secretary for water and science; she ended up leaving the SES and returning to a lower-grade position. Cindy Dohner, the Fish and Wildlife Service’s highly respected Southeast regional director, who oversaw restoration efforts in the Gulf of Mexico after the BP disaster, was reassigned to serve as the agency’s director for international affairs. She resigned instead.

“It made people very afraid to make decisions about things or to advocate for what we would call ‘good government,’” said Debra Sonderman, who was moved after almost 20 years in her role as director of acquisition and property management. Sonderman, too, has resigned.

According to numerous reports, the DOI is planning another series of reassignments. Rumors have been circulating since June that they could be announced at any time. One former DOI employee said that the list has already been compiled, but the department is waiting for the inspector general’s investigation to conclude before pulling the trigger. “Everybody is looking over their shoulder,” said Ashe, the former Fish and Wildlife Service director.

Unlike other departments that have displayed a shocking level of dysfunction—a kind of embodiment of the Trump presidency itself—the DOI is operating with ruthless efficiency. This is largely due to the presence of experienced appointees like Cason and David Bernhardt, Zinke’s deputy secretary, who was confirmed in late July. A former corporate lobbyist whose clients included major oil and gas producers, Bernhardt was once described by Center for

Western Priorities spokesman Aaron Weiss as a “walking conflict of interest.” (Cason served as acting deputy secretary until Bernhardt’s nomination.)

A handful of other DOI officials from the George W. Bush era have resurfaced after spending the past eight years working for far-right think tanks or as industry lobbyists. Doug Domenech, most recently director of the Fueling Freedom Project, which promotes “the forgotten moral case for fossil fuels,” is now assistant secretary for insular affairs, coordinating policy for American territories in the South Pacific. Daniel Jorjani, a longtime adviser for several of the Koch brothers’ groups, is helping to craft the department’s legal policy. Scott Cameron, who spent the past several years advising a lobbying firm whose clients include Shell Oil and the Marcellus Shale Coalition, is now overseeing the DOI’s budget.

The oil and gas industry is now taking full advantage of the access offered by its allies at the department. Cason has described the DOI as having an “open-door policy,” and in the first month and a half of the administration—before Zinke was even confirmed—met with top industry lawyers, corporate lobbyists, and industry trade groups, including the American Petroleum Institute and Peabody Energy. Zinke himself has had dozens of meetings with energy executives and lobbyists, including those from ExxonMobil and BP. He’s used taxpayer dollars to fly [on a private jet](#) owned by an oil-and-gas-exploration firm in Wyoming, and as a member of Congress he received hundreds of thousands of dollars in campaign contributions from the industry. So far, eight of the 12 secretarial orders he’s issued have called for greater access to drilling on public lands and in offshore waters.

In June, the Independent Petroleum Association of America (IPAA) sent a midyear legislative agenda to its board of directors, announcing that the playing field for oil and gas producers has been “dramatically altered.” A copy obtained by *The Nation* shows that in just the first few months of the Trump administration, the lobbying group achieved an astonishing number of the regulatory rollbacks on its wish list, including an elimination of the fracking

rule and another that would have closed a loophole allowing coal companies to calculate their own royalties on coal sold at below-market rates.

There is still a great deal that energy interests hope to accomplish during the Trump administration. Ending a rule to limit methane venting and flaring from wells is at the top of that list. Undermining protections for endangered species on federal land is another key item. A third is ensuring that future administrations are unable to finalize what the IPAA calls “harmful” air-quality regulations that it says would limit offshore development.

Kate Kelly, former senior adviser to then–Interior Secretary Sally Jewell and current director of the public-lands team at the Center for American Progress, warns that it’s difficult to appreciate just how radically the DOI’s policies have changed and what this means for the environment. “In totality, what they are doing to open up public lands to oil and gas development—to basically hand the keys over to the energy industry—is pretty astounding,” she said.

Cason shares the industry’s sense of having a rare opportunity to reshape the policy landscape. In Denver, he mused that the midterm elections weren’t too far off—and that the dynamic in the Senate, and possibly even the House, could change, making it more difficult to advance a deregulatory agenda. “You think about having four years to do things,” he said, “but for those of us who have been on the federal-government side of the fence, you don’t really have four years. And if you want to effect change, you have to have a sense of urgency from day one.”

Sent from my iPhone

From: Davis, Natalie
To: [Lori Mashburn](mailto:Lori.Mashburn)
Subject: Fwd: Themes
Date: Tuesday, December 05, 2017 5:39:23 PM

Here you go.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Newell, Russell <russell_newell@ios.doi.gov>
Date: Tue, Dec 5, 2017 at 5:22 PM
Subject: Fwd: Themes
To: Natalie Davis <natalie_davis@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: "Matulka, Rebecca" <rebecca_matulka@ios.doi.gov>, Nathan Adams <nathan_adams@ios.doi.gov>

Natalie - here are some themes we covered this year (first list, with blogs we wrote on each) and some we're thinking about for 2018 through May. Forgive the schizophrenic formatting. I have (b) (6) and can't fix the formatting right now. but I hope this helps. Please let me know if you have questions - (b) (6). These themes are fluid and we're still working through what works best for each month.

November: Native American Heritage Month - [Interior Programs](#) + [Code Talkers](#)
October - [Bat Week](#)
October - [Alaska Day](#)
Hunting & Fishing Month - [Fishing](#) - [Hunting](#) - [Employee Stories](#)
September - [Sea Otter Awareness Week](#)
September 22 - National Hunting and Fishing Day
September 15-October 15 - Hispanic Heritage Month - [Historic Sites](#)
September 29 - National Public Lands Day - [Volunteering](#)
September - National Preparedness Month
July - [Made in America Month](#)
June - [Energy Month](#)
June - [Infrastructure Week](#)
June 2-10 - National Fishing and Boating Week
June - Great Outdoors Month
May 13-19 - National Police Week
May - Asian Pacific American Heritage Month
April 21-29 - National Park Week
March - Women's History Month - [Historic Sites](#) - [Interior Women](#)
February - Black History Month - [Historic Sites](#)

Monthly Themes for DOI:

October: Hunting and Fishing

November: Tribal Sovereignty (primary) | Honoring Veterans (secondary)

December: Public Access to Public Lands

January: Looking toward the next 100 years

February: The Path to Energy Dominance

March: Celebrating our past while focusing on our future

April: Modernizing our Infrastructure

(b) (5)

August: TBD

(b) (5)

Snapshot:

October (Hunting & Fishing):

24-31 - Bat Week

27 - Teddy Roosevelt's birthday

28 - Anniversary of Statue of Liberty dedication

November (Tribal Sovereignty | Honoring Veterans):

Native American Heritage Month

Critical Minerals Report

Zimbabwe Trophy Elephant Import Ruling

DOI-Wide Harassment Survey Results

4 - National Bison Day

11 - Veterans Day

14 "Stream Protection Rule" will hit the Federal Register

17 - Draft Criteria for Recovering Northwestern Montana Grizzly Bears Released for Public Review and Comment

(b) (5)

21 US Marine Corps Unveiling of the Iraq and Afghanistan engraving at Iwo Jima

29 Memorial Bridge Project & Rebuild the Parks Initiative

30 - National Christmas Tree Lighting

December (Public Access to Public Lands):

DOI Reorg MIB Town Hall

NPS Uniform Design

Christmas All-Employee video

1-2 - WGA Meeting

6 - AK

7 - Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day

12 OCS 5 year program release

January (Looking Toward the Next 100 Years)

Made in America recreation FACA announcement

International Conservation FACA announcement

5- National Bird Day

9-10 - Regional Leader Summit on Reorg.

26 Rocky Mountain NP established

February (The Path to Energy Dominance)

DOI Energy Summit

Black History Month

2 - Groundhog Day

14 - Valentine's Day

26 - Denali and Grand Canyon Established

March (Celebrating our Past while Focusing on our Future)

Women's History Month

1 - Yellowstone National Park established

2 - Mount Rainier National Park established

3 - DOI birthday

3 - World Wildlife Day

3 - Iditarod starts

14 - National Wildlife Refuge established

23 - National Puppy Day

(b) (5) [Redacted text block]

[Redacted text block]

Natalie Davis
Special Assistant to the Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
202.208.4928

From: Lori Mashburn
To: [Laura Rigas](#); [Heather Swift](#)
Subject: Fwd: Top Stories - Director of the Bureau of Indian Affairs: Who Is Tara Sweeney? - AllGov - News
Date: Thursday, November 09, 2017 9:22:18 PM

Hey ladies,

Not really sure how this works for nominees. Do y'all know who would be able to correct this?

Lori

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Sweeney, Tara" <tsweeney@asrc.com>
Date: November 9, 2017 at 8:57:56 PM EST
To: "lori_mashburn@ios.doi.gov" <lori_mashburn@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: FW: Top Stories - Director of the Bureau of Indian Affairs: Who Is Tara Sweeney? - AllGov - News

Hi Lori,

Not sure who to direct this to, but I am not an oil lobbyist- as described in the piece. There also seems to be a need for general education on Alaska Native Corporations. Happy to send directly to your COMMS shop if you want, I just need to know where to send the note.

<http://www.allgov.com/news/top-stories/director-of-the-bureau-of-indian-affairs-who-is-tara-sweeney-171109?news=860359>

I will be in D.C. next week until after Thanksgiving. Shoot me a text if you want to meet. I believe I am scheduled to meet with Micah and maybe Amanda Kaster.

Thanks,

Tara

Katuk
Tara Mac Lean Sweeney
Executive Vice President
External Affairs
Arctic Slope Regional Corporation
(907) 339-6031 Phone
(907) 339-6028 Fax
tsweeney@asrc.com
www.asrc.com

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From: Mashburn, Lori
To: [Natalie Davis](#)
Subject: Fwd: U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Monday, October 23, 2017
Date: Monday, October 23, 2017 11:01:54 AM

Lori K. Mashburn
White House Liaison
Department of the Interior
202.208.1694

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Bulletin Intelligence** <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>
Date: Mon, Oct 23, 2017 at 7:00 AM
Subject: U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Monday, October 23, 2017
To: Interior@bulletinintelligence.com

Mobile version and searchable archives available [here](#). Please [click here](#) to subscribe.



DATE: MONDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2017 7:00 AM EDT

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- E&E Publishing: Lolita Zinke Makes Her Mark Outside The Cabinet.
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- Cronkite News: Plan Keeps Most Of Sonoran Desert National Monument Open To Shooters.
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- KQED-FM San Francisco: Federal Agency Promoted Ranger Five Months After His Gun Was Stolen And Used In Steinle Killing.
- U.S. News & World Report: Nevada Prison-Raised Sagebrush Seedling Ready To Be Planted.
- Havasu (AZ) News-Herald: Our View: La Paz Federal Land Purchase Should Be Model For Country.

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- Resort Town Gets High-Priced Help To Take Aim At Turbines.
- Don't Open Eastern Gulf Of Mexico To Offshore Drilling: Guestview.

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- U.S. News & World Report: Survey: 949 Key Deer Survived Irma Landfall In Florida Keys.
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- Washington Post: A Huge Salmon Die-Off Is Happening – And Our Cars Might Be Responsible.
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- Los Angeles Times: Rep. Adam Schiff Reintroduces Legislation Aimed At Protecting Open Space.
- St. Louis Post-Dispatch: Ice Rink Boosters 'Disappointed' By Federal Response To Latest Push For Project.

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- WKRN-TV Nashville (TN): New Documents Detail How Firefighters Discovered Chimney Tops II Wildfire In Smokies.
- U.S. News & World Report: New Quarter Honoring Indiana Revolutionary War Figure.
- WBUP-TV Marquette (MI): Design Isle Royale National Park's Next Passenger Vessel.
- Willoughby (OH) News-Herald: James A. Garfield National Historic Site Among Field Trip Grant Winners.
- U.S. News & World Report: Federal Government To Keep \$20K After Yellowstone Drug Bust.
- Yellowstone Insider: Yellowstone To Replace Arsenic Leaching Pipes Near Mammoth Hot Springs.
- U.S. News & World Report: Park Hikers May Have Died In 'Sympathetic Murder-Suicide'.
- U.S. News & World Report: Rangers Investigating Death At Harpers Ferry National Park.
- Huffington Post: Additional Coverage: Feds Surrender In Tooth-And-Nail Fight To Leash Dogs In Bay Area's Open Space.
- Bozeman (MT) Daily Chronicle: Additional Coverage: Yellowstone Plans To Build New Youth Campus.

Office Of Insular Affairs

- St. Thomas Source: December Congressional Appropriation 'Our Biggest Opportunity,' Plaskett Says.
- Pacific (GUM) Daily News: NKorea Months From Perfecting Nuclear Capabilities.
- Pacific (GUM) Daily News: Solar Panels To Be Installed At GMH.

Office Of Surface Mining

- No Word From Interior On Review Of Halted Mountaintop Removal Study.
- Advocates, Lawmakers Prepare For Battle Over Reclamation Fee.

US Geological Survey

- Odessa (TX) American: GOOD NEWS: Sul Ross Student Studies Pallid Sturgeon Via USGS Internship.
- Additional Reading.

Top National News

- CBS: Trump Makes Case For Budget And Tax Reform, Urges House To Move Quickly.
- CNN: White House Reiterates Support For Kelly's Defense Of Trump As Video Released.
- Reuters: Trump Promises Tax Cut After Senate GOP Passes Budget.
- Bloomberg News: US Posts Largest Budget Deficit Since 2013.
- Reuters: Judge Extends Halt To Trump's Travel Ban.
- Wall Street Journal: Mattis To Discuss North Korean Threat With Asian Defense

Ministers.

- Wall Street Journal: Administration Plan For Coal, Nuclear Power Draws Criticism From Environmental, Oil Groups.
- New York Times: EPA Cancels Climate Change Speeches By Agency Scientists.

Editorial Wrap-Up

- New York Times.
 - "America's Forever Wars."
- Washington Post.
 - "Sessions's Plan For Immigration Courts Would Undermine Their Integrity."
 - "Watch What Duterte Does, Not What He Says."
 - "Why is Va. Treating Its Students – Especially Its Black Students – Like Criminals?"
- Wall Street Journal.
 - "Trump Caves On Ethanol."
 - "Shinzo Abe's Big Win."
 - "Richard Cordray's Bad Numbers."

Big Picture

- Headlines From Today's Front Pages.

Washington Schedule

- Today's Events In Washington.

Last Laughs

- Late Night Political Humor.

DOI In The News

Arctic Refuge Drilling Closer As Senate Moves To Open Site.

The [AP](#) (10/20, Daly) reported in continuing coverage that the Republican-controlled Senate is one step closer to drilling in Alaska's Arctic National Wildlife Reserve after passing a budget measure authorizing Congress to pursue legislation allowing exploration by a majority vote. Sen. Dan Sullivan said, "More energy production means more American jobs, more American economic growth, more American national security...and a more sustainable global environment, because no one in the world produces energy more responsibly than Americans, especially Alaskans." Sen. Maria Cantwell said, "The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge is one of the most pristine areas of the United States, and we have been protecting it for decades for a reason." [NBC News](#) (10/20, Seitz-Wald) reported Senate Republicans blocked a Democratic measure that would have blocked ANWR drilling from being included in the GOP budget. Environmental activists are now looking to block drilling later in the process, which could take some time because it is tied with the GOP tax reform effort. [The Hill](#) (10/22, Henry) reports more than 300 businesses and groups have already signed a letter delivered to senators opposing drilling ANWR.

[PJ Media](#) (10/22, Ballasy) reported that Sen. Ed Markey (D-Mass.) is led the opposition in Congress to any attempts to allow oil drilling in the Arctic

National Wildlife Refuge. Also opposed, Sen. Michael Bennet (D-Colo.) said the U.S. should not permit drilling because oil prices are low. "We are importing much less oil and natural gas than we did when there was a consensus that we needed to protect the refuge," noted Sen. Bennet.

Could Congress' Budget Put Refuge, Animals In Harm's Way? The [Arizona Republic](#) (10/20, Bowling) reports that the congressional debate over whether or not to open Alaska's Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil exploration and drilling has drawn the attention of state lawmakers and conservation groups nationwide. In Arizona, critics of the plan have focused on the impact Arctic drilling can affect migration patterns for an array of birds that travel south every year. An American Petroleum Institute spokeswoman did not comment on the issue, but provided a link to a column by Upstream Director Erik Milito saying Arctic energy exploration would occur "under parameters that ensure minimal effect to the surrounding environment and wildlife" and would bring "jobs and badly needed revenue for the state."

Cash-Poor Alaska Eyes Foreign Capital To Jump-Start Energy Projects. [Reuters](#) (10/20, Nickel) reports that the state of Alaska is attempting to attract foreign investors for its oil and gas industry. Last month, China Investment Corp. and Sinopec met with state officials. Reuters adds that "this year, a state budget shortfall led the state to withhold hundreds of millions of dollars owed to small oil explorers." Alaska Governor Bill Walker's Chief Energy Advisor John Hendrix said "it's a challenging sell." Hendrix also said, "when you talk about (exporting) to the Far East, we're closer than California."

Trump Administration Scrambles To Save Largest Coal Plant In The West.

The [Washington Examiner](#) (10/23, Siciliano) reports that "resuscitating" the Navajo Generating Station "could be the first test of President Trump's resolve to restore demand for coal in the electricity sector, especially since the government is a majority stakeholder in the plant it is seeking to save." The Trump Administration has "until December to save the largest coal-fired power plant in the West, but the prospects for the plant burning coal after 2019 are questionable." The deliberations to secure new owners for the plan will "continue into next year even after Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke signs off on a key environmental determination for the plant and approves a lease extension by Dec. 1."

Izembek Road Opponents Struggle To Shine Light On Interior Department Plans.

The [Alaska Dispatch News](#) (10/22, Martinson) reports that "opponents of a longtime effort to build a road from King Cove to Cold Bay – through the Izembek National Wildlife Refuge – say they are struggling to illuminate the Interior Department's current legal path toward allowing the road." Opponents of the road claim "that documents recently obtained through a Freedom of Information Act Request show that the agency is not looking to make the specifics of its plans public any time soon." The Interior Department "declined to answer specific questions about the legal steps required to approve the road, or a timeline for doing so." Alex Hinson, deputy press secretary for the Interior Department, said, "The Alaska Congressional Delegation, Governor, Mayor of King Cove, King Cove Native Corporation, and affiliated Alaska native tribal entities have asked us to consider a small land exchange to build a life

saving road for aeromedical evacuations from King Cove to the all weather airport at Cold Bay. We do not comment on pre-decisional negotiations.”

Louisiana To Congress: How Much Gulf Oil Money Will We Get?.

The [New Orleans Times-Picayune](#) (10/20, Schleifstein) reported Gov. John Bel Edwards’ coastal adviser Johnny Bradberry sent a letter to Louisiana’s congressional delegation to help find out how much money the state will receive in offshore drilling royalties under the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act. Initial estimates from the Interior Department found the state would receive between \$62-75 million, about half the estimated annual maximum for Louisiana. Bradberry wrote Rep. Steve Scalise saying if the funding will be less than \$100 million in the future, “we would respectfully ask for your help to revisit and pursue other federal opportunities that could also provide assistance for coastal protection and restoration going forward.” Scalise said, “The money Louisiana gets from offshore revenue sharing is critical to restoring our coast and protecting our communities from future storms in the Gulf, and I’ve worked successfully for years to fight back efforts by people in Washington who tried to take that revenue sharing away from us.”

Hunters, Others React To Proposed Recreational-Shooting Expansion At Ironwood.

The [Arizona Daily Star](#) (10/22, Hyde) reports that “the federal proposal to expand target shooting, hunting and fishing on public lands is drawing attention in Arizona.” In September, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke “directed land managers to come up with a plan to expand recreational shooting in areas like Ironwood Forest National Monument near Tucson.” Supporters argue “it could mean more hunting and fishing opportunities on federal land.” Opponents believe “it risks people’s safety and could trash some of nature’s most pristine areas.” The article shares the perspectives of “five Arizona residents who hunt or target shoot.”

Where Did The Napa Fire Begin? Investigators Scour The Ashes.

The [New York Times](#) (10/20, Fuller, Johnson) reported California’s 160 full-time fire investigators are examining the origins of the “most destructive fire in California history.” Determining the cause of the fires “could have huge financial implications in deciding who ultimately pays for the extensive damage, including almost 8,000 structures destroyed.” Wildfire experts believe it is too early to come to a conclusion, “but that the circumstances – nighttime ignition coupled with fierce winds – raise the possibility of power lines being involved.” Pacific Gas and Electric runs power lines in the affected areas, and “said it was complying with a request from regulators to preserve all potential evidence.” The Times reports that in Calistoga, “where the deadliest of the first is believed to have started, wires littered the roads even a week after the fires began. But whether the power lines provided the spark that began the fire remains an open question.”

Federal Agencies Deal With Sexual Misconduct Inconsistently.

[Government Executive](#) (10/20, Katz) reports that “federal agencies are operating with no clear definition of sexual misconduct and have doled out inconsistent punishments for those found to have engaged in the behavior,

according to a new report from House Republicans.” However, “some members of the Trump administration have already taken steps to crack down on sexual harassment in government.” The article notes that “at the Interior Department, which has perhaps seen the most high-profile cases of sexual harassment in government in recent years, Secretary Ryan Zinke announced last week new policies to better protect employees after an internal survey found 39 percent of National Park Service employees said they were victims of some sort of harassment in the previous year.”

Lolita Zinke Makes Her Mark Outside The Cabinet.

[E&E Publishing](#) (10/20, Doyle) reports on the “diverse activities” of Lolita Zinke, the wife of Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, which “spotlight the sometimes blurry boundaries between public and private spheres that confront family members in every administration.” The article notes that “at times, she’s right by the Interior secretary’s side, although officials characterize this support as familial and nothing out of the ordinary.” Interior Department spokeswoman Heather Swift said, “Mrs. Zinke has zero role at the department.” An Interior official added that “much like previous secretaries and spouses, she occasionally meets her husband while he is traveling at her own personal expense” and that “she and all Cabinet spouses received a federal ethics briefing.”

Hogan’s Idea To Widen Washington-Area Highways To Add Toll Lanes Has Hit Barriers Before.

The [Washington Post](#) (10/21, Shaver) reports that the proposal by Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan to build toll lanes on three of the state’s highways – its portion of the I-495 Capital Beltway, along I-295 between Baltimore and DC, and on I-270 between DC and Frederick – is even more ambitious than “similar proposals that stalled over the years after being deemed too expensive or disruptive to adjacent communities.” Even in spite of the fact that Hogan’s proposal would rely in part on funding from private partners with a vested stake in the new toll lanes, “the largest such deal for highways in North America,” those private builders would have to “figure out what state planners haven’t been able to: how to add four cost-effective toll lanes without having to demolish dozens, and potentially hundreds, of homes and businesses.”

White And Male: Broader Bureaucracy Mirrors Trump Cabinet’s Profile.

[Reuters](#) (10/20, Lange) reports that while President Trump has “faced criticism from advocacy groups for not including more women and minorities in his cabinet last January,” an analysis of Office of Personnel Management data found 88 percent of the more than 1,000 mid-level political appointments filled by the middle of the year “were non-Hispanic white and 62 percent were men.” Reuters says in former President Obama’s Administration, “non-Hispanic whites made up 67 percent of that group and men accounted for 47 percent – closer to what the U.S. population looks like.” Max Stier, the president of the Partnership for Public Service, said the data shows that “this administration so far has not in any direct sense prioritized diversity.” However, Reuters adds that when “asked to comment on the mid-level personnel data, White House spokeswoman Lindsay Walters said Trump had a long history of promoting women and pointed to last week’s nomination of Kirstjen Nielsen to lead the

Department of Homeland Security.”

Land-Grabbing Republican Lawmakers Are Trying To Gut The Antiquities Act.

Don't Let Them. In an editorial, the [Los Angeles Times](#) (10/21, Board) opposes a new “movement in Congress to severely reduce a president’s authority to protect federal lands from development and other uses that would mar their beauty and damage our national heritage.” The paper urges House Speaker Paul D. Ryan to “mothball” the “disingenuously named” National Monument Creation and Protection Act. The Times concludes that “the Antiquities Act should not be undone to feed the appetites of land-hungry politicians.”

In an op-ed for [The Hill](#) (10/21, Coppola), Tracy Coppola, senior legislative counsel for public lands at the nonprofit environmental law organization Earthjustice, also opposes the National Monument Creation and Protection Act. Coppola characterizes the legislation a “bill that misses the mark on the role protected national monuments and national parks play in the lives of everyday Americans.”

In an op-ed for the [Ravalli \(MT\) Republic](#) (10/22, Fugere, Hutcheson, Doyle, Epstein), Nicolle Fugere,, Hilary Hutcheson, Shane Doyle, and Larry Epstein, representatives of Hold Our Ground, criticize Rep Greg Gianforte and Sen. Steve Daines for supporting measures targeting the Antiquities Act. They warn that “H.R. 2900 and S. 33 would make it difficult, if not impossible, for any future president to act” for public lands on a “groundswell of public support.”

Additional coverage was provided by [The Guardian \(UK\)](#) (10/21, McLaughlin) and [Vice](#) (10/20).

Bureau Of Land Management

Plan Keeps Most Of Sonoran Desert National Monument Open To Shooters.

[Cronkite News](#) (10/20, Vernile) reports that the Bureau of Land Management last Friday “recommended closing 53,300 acres of the Sonoran Desert National Monument to recreational shooting, but keeping the remaining 443,000 open to shooters.” The plan, posted in the Federal Register, “calls for making 11 percent of the monument’s land off-limits to shooting.” The article notes that “hunting is not affected by any of the proposals considered by the bureau, and would be allowed anywhere in the monument with the proper permits.”

National Tribal Group Calls For Drilling Moratorium Around Chaco.

The [AP](#) (10/20) reported that the National Congress of American Indians are calling for a drilling moratorium near Chaco Culture National Historic Park in New Mexico. A resolution to cease drilling in portions of the San Juan Basin was approved Friday by the group. The AP adds that “the critics say increased development has the potential to destroy parts of the landscape that could provide a better understanding of the ancient civilization that once inhabited the area.”

Federal Agency Promoted Ranger Five Months After His Gun Was Stolen

And Used In Steinle Killing.

[KOED-FM](#) San Francisco (10/20, Emslie) reports that “five months after Kathryn Steinle was slain on San Francisco’s waterfront, the U.S. Bureau of Land Management promoted the law enforcement ranger whose unsecured stolen gun was used to kill her, according to an internal BLM email obtained by KOED.” BLM ranger John Woychowski “faced neither discipline nor criminal charges for failing to secure his weapon – a misdemeanor under California law.” The [AP](#) (10/20) reports that Woychowski was “promoted to a supervisory position five months after Kate Steinle’s July 2015 death.”

Nevada Prison-Raised Sagebrush Seedling Ready To Be Planted.

The [AP](#) (10/20, Dornan) reports that “inmates at Warm Springs Prison in Carson City are spending the week loading up 70,000 sagebrush plants they spent the last six months sprouting and tending.” According to Scott Miller, part of the crew that worked on the project this year, “the sagebrush will be planted in burned out areas near Susanville and Winnemucca.” Miller “said the Bureau of Land Management already has spots picked out to put the plants after they clear out the cheat grass.”

Our View: La Paz Federal Land Purchase Should Be Model For Country.

The [Havasupai \(AZ\) News-Herald](#) (10/22) editorializes that an effort to allow the La Paz County “to buy 8,000 acres from the Bureau of Land Management is now working its way through Congress.” The paper says that it’s important that “it’s getting a full hearing in Congress” because that “means interested parties and chime in and the special interests get to plead their cases.” The paper hopes that the process will produce “a result that is in the public’s best interest.”

Bureau Of Ocean Energy Management

Resort Town Gets High-Priced Help To Take Aim At Turbines.

[E&E Publishing](#) (10/20, Kurtz) reports that “already targeted by an appropriations bill in Congress, two proposed wind energy projects off the coast of Maryland could face a sneak attack in the Free State’s upcoming legislative session.” According to the article, “officials in the resort town of Ocean City, Md., fearful that wind turbines will damage their lucrative tourist economy, have hired a plugged-in Annapolis lobbyist to help them push the two projects farther offshore.” However, “some stakeholders in the long battle to bring offshore wind energy to Maryland are skeptical.”

Don’t Open Eastern Gulf Of Mexico To Offshore Drilling: Guestview.

In an op-ed in the [Pensacola \(FL\) News Journal](#), (10/19, Beaven) Heather Beaven, a member of the Truman Project and Oceana think-tanks, says she opposes offshore drilling along Florida’s Gulf Coast. She says that opening the area to offshore oil and gas drilling would be a “direct threat to our national security operations and our coastal economies,” and cites concerns that such activities “could interfere with critical opportunities for advanced weapons testing and joint training exercises” by the U.S. military.

Fish And Wildlife Service

16 Charged In Southern California Animal Trafficking Sweep.

The [AP](#) (10/20) reports that “authorities have seized dozens of animals and filed charges against 16 people as part of what they say is the largest wildlife trafficking sweep in Southern California.” Federal authorities “call the sweep ‘Operation Jungle Book’ and say it’s an effort to combat a growing illegal market for exotic animals that threatens the survival of species.” Ed Grace, acting chief of law enforcement for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, said, “Wildlife trafficking does not stop at international borders, and it is our duty to protect imperiled species both at home and abroad.”

Also reporting are the [Los Angeles Times](#) (10/20, Easter), the [Orange County \(CA\) Register](#) (10/20, Dixon), [NBC News](#) (10/21, Dzhanova), and [KTLA-TV Los Angeles](#) Los Angeles (10/20, Turner, Abovian).

New York Shipping Firm Would Pay At Least \$13.3 Million In Buzzards Bay Oil Spill Settlement.

The [Boston Globe](#) (10/20, Andersen) reports that “a New York shipping company and its affiliates will shell out \$13.3 million plus interest to pay for devastating wildlife damages incurred when one of its barges dumped 98,000 gallons of oil into Buzzards Bay during a massive spill in 2003, under terms of a proposed settlement filed Thursday in federal court in Boston.” The agreement, “if approved by a judge, will require Bouchard Transportation Company, Inc. and related entities to make payments to settle outstanding federal and state natural resource damage claims, according to a statement released Thursday by the US Fish and Wildlife Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and state officials in Rhode Island and Massachusetts.” According to a release by the government, “the proposal ‘compensates for injury to migratory birds’ and follows prior payments the company made totaling \$6 million to compensate for injuries to shoreline and aquatic resources, coastal recreational uses, and piping plovers.”

Big Oaks Military Activities Under Review.

The [Madison \(IN\) Courier](#) (10/21) reports that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is “examining military activities at Big Oaks National Wildlife Refuge under its mandatory 10-year re-evaluation.” The agency is “evaluating recently expired and newly requested military activities under the Compatibility Determination process that includes ground personnel doing reconnaissance and survival training, temporary storage of scrap metal, establishing temporary located military equipment such as radar offset reflector sites, and any other use that could be beneficial to the refuge operations and maintenance.”

Wildlife Refuge Dock, Pier Finished, To Open In Spring.

The [Monroe \(MI\) Evening News](#) (10/21, Cousino) reports that “construction has been completed for a school ship dock and fishing pier at the gateway in Trenton to the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge, part of a \$25 million total investment in the refuge.” According to refuge manager Hartig, “the dock that extends 740 feet into the river and connects to a 200-foot-long fishing

dike won't open until spring." Hartig said Wednesday, "It's not open right now. There are people still working on roads and heavy equipment moving around. It's not safe for people to come."

Doing Science At The Wildlife Refuge.

The [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (10/23) reports that "dozens of New Mexico high school students from five towns and cities experienced science disciplines firsthand at a national wildlife refuge, thanks to a partnership between Highlands University and the Denver Zoo." The STEM Showdown event was held at the Rio Mora National Wildlife Refuge last month. According to the article, "the students learned about science firsthand in 30-minute field sessions on a variety of topics like hydrology and wetlands, veterinary medicine, beaver ecology, geospatial science, and 'amazing race' species."

2,000 Acres On Pine Mountain Protected In Three New Kentucky Preserves.

The [Louisville \(KY\) Courier-Journal](#) (10/20, Bruggers) reports that "conservation efforts are on the move again in Eastern Kentucky with the creation of three new preserves on 2,000 acres of Pine Mountain." The Kentucky Natural Lands Trust "bought the property and announced its acquisition on Friday." According to the trust, "funding came from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Imperiled Bat Conservation Fund, along with ongoing support from the Forecastle Foundation, the Snowy Owl Foundation, Beckham Bird Club, Louisville Audubon Society, KNLT's board and a broad base of other donors."

More Bison To Join American Indian Herd In Wyoming.

The [AP](#) (10/20, Gruver) reports that "ten more buffalo are set to join a nascent herd on the starkly beautiful landscape of a Wyoming American Indian reservation, a project significant to tribal members who went over a century without living with the animals dear to their culture." The buffalo set "to be released Saturday by the Eastern Shoshone Tribe and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will join 10 released last fall on the Wind River Indian Reservation."

Survey: 949 Key Deer Survived Irma Landfall In Florida Keys.

The [AP](#) (10/22) reports that "federal wildlife officials say Hurricane Irma didn't wipe out a herd of tiny, endangered deer found only in the Florida Keys." According to a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service survey released last week, "949 Key deer survived the hurricane's 130-mph (209-kph) winds and 10 feet (3 meters) of storm surge."

Estimated Population Of Squirrel Plummeted After Wildfire.

The [AP](#) (10/21, Davenport, Press) reports that "an endangered squirrel species' estimated population has plummeted since a major wildfire burned much of its habitat atop a southeastern Arizona mountain last summer." According to the Arizona Game and Fish Department, "an annual multi-agency survey of the Mount Graham red squirrel produced an estimate of only 35 squirrels, which is only 14 percent of the 252 squirrels estimated in 2016." Steve Spangle, a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service supervisor, said damage from the Frye fire to the squirrel habitat was "a textbook example of how species with low population

sizes, especially those confined to a small geographic area, are vulnerable to natural events such as fires, floods, and severe drought.”

Home On The Range: Annual Bison Roundup Is A Quiet Affair.

The [AP](#) (10/21, Backus) reports close to 350 bison were rounded up this year “as a crew of biologists, wardens, veterinarians and others with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service took note of their general condition and took some blood samples from a smattering of the adults.” The objective is “on preserving the genetics of the National Bison Range herd, which is considered among the best in the nation.” Lee Jones, a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service wildlife health specialist, said, “Our goal is to keep inbreeding down as much as possible. The animals that are most highly related to the rest are removed from the herd.”

A Huge Salmon Die-Off Is Happening – And Our Cars Might Be Responsible.

The [Washington Post](#) (10/20, Fears) reports that “a recent study traced a major coho salmon die-off to contaminants from roads and automobiles – brake dust, oil, fuel, chemical fluids – that hitch a ride on storm water and flow into watersheds.” The study, published Wednesday in the journal *Ecological Applications*, said, “Our findings are . . . that contaminants in stormwater runoff from the regional transportation grid likely caused these mortality events. Further, it will be difficult, if not impossible, to reverse historical coho declines without addressing the toxic pollution dimension of freshwater habitats.”

Vermont’s Rare Songbird Threatened.

In an op-ed for the [Rutland \(VT\) Herald](#) (10/20, Matteson), Mollie Matteson, a senior scientist with the Center for Biological Diversity, claims that “national politics are putting American wildlife at risk of extinction.” Matteson argues that “decisions that should be founded on science and environmental health are instead based on money, power and influence.” According to Matteson, “the biggest long-term threat to the Bicknell’s thrush is climate change” so “it’s frustrating and discouraging to watch our federal government continue to deny the reality of climate change and refuse to take action to stop it.”

National Park Service

Rep. Adam Schiff Reintroduces Legislation Aimed At Protecting Open Space.

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (10/20, Carpio) reports that Rep. Adam Schiff and Sen. Dianne Feinstein “announced on Wednesday they have introduced legislation that would protect more than 191,000 acres of open space in their districts.” Schiff “met with about 40 of his constituents at Brand Park in Glendale on Wednesday to talk about the second iteration of the Rim of the Valley Corridor Preservation Act, which, if approved, would allow local agencies to use federal resources to maintain, improve and preserve many parks, hiking trails and mountain ranges used by the public.” Schiff said, “The goal with the legislation is to enable local landowners, local governments and interested stakeholders to better utilize federal resources to preserve this beautiful ecosystem for

generations to come, as well as improving access to recreational and educational opportunities. This is a truly once-in-a-lifetime chance to protect this beautiful open space. By expanding the national recreation area, the National Park Service will have the authority to implement capital improvements.”

Ice Rink Boosters ‘Disappointed’ By Federal Response To Latest Push For Project.

The [St. Louis Post-Dispatch](#) (10/21, Kohler) reports that “representatives from a nonprofit group seeking to develop an ice rink complex at Creve Coeur Lake Memorial Park, members of county government and area economic development officials tried to convince the federal government on Friday that the regional National Park Service office blocking construction was unfairly biased against the plan.” However, “an attorney for the nonprofit Legacy Ice Foundation, which would lease the county-owned facility, said the argument didn’t get any traction with officials visiting from the U.S. Department of Interior to meet several state and local officials.” Gregory R. Smith, of the St. Louis law firm Husch Blackwell, said, “We were disappointed in the response. We were disappointed with what we saw as a failure to recognize the clearly prejudicial position expressed by the (regional) office.”

Testing Of Levee Closes Part Of 17th Street In Downtown Washington.

In its “Dr. Gridblock” blog, the [Washington Post](#) (10/20, Hedgpeth) reports “part of 17th Street in Northwest Washington between Constitution and Independence avenues is closed Friday.” because of “a test installation of the 17th Street levee, according to officials with the National Park Service.” Officials said “the annual test is need to make sure the levee closure can be put up properly in case of high water.”

New Documents Detail How Firefighters Discovered Chimney Tops II Wildfire In Smokies.

[WKRN-TV](#) Nashville, TN (10/20) reports that “newly released documents from the National Park Service reveal new details about the initial discovery of the Chimney Tops II wildfire and matches that were believed to have been involved in starting it.” The documents “also estimate the costs for fighting the fire by the National Park Service were upward of \$15 million.”

New Quarter Honoring Indiana Revolutionary War Figure.

The [AP](#) (10/20) reports that “a new quarter featuring Revolutionary War figure George Rogers Clark is set for release next month in the southwestern Indiana city where his American soldiers captured a British-held fort.” The National Park Service “says the new quarter will be released during a Nov. 14 ceremony at the Vincennes Riverfront Pavilion near the Clark Memorial grounds.” According to Clark Memorial superintendent Frank Doughman, “it took more than two years for selection of the design from among 20 proposals submitted.”

Design Isle Royale National Park’s Next Passenger Vessel.

[WBUP-TV](#) Marquette, MI (10/20, Snitz) reports that Isle Royale National Park is “planning to replace its passenger vessel, the Ranger III, and has partnered

with The Grand Portage Band of Chippewa for a design contest." Environmental Protection Specialist Jeff Henquinet said, "The Ranger III currently holds up to 149 passengers. We've put a lot of miles on it. It's still in good shape. Our crew has kept it together very well, but at some point in time we will need to think about replacing it."

James A. Garfield National Historic Site Among Field Trip Grant Winners.

The [Willoughby \(OH\) News-Herald](#) (10/20) reports that James A. Garfield National Historic Site and Cuyahoga Valley National Park were "selected to receive a 2017 field trip grant from the National Park Foundation, the official charity of America's national parks." The grant, "part of the Foundation's Open Outdoors for Kids program, supports Every Kid in a Park. Beyond making field trips possible, the Every Kid in a Park Focus City program raises local community awareness about the importance of connecting kids to the outdoors."

Federal Government To Keep \$20K After Yellowstone Drug Bust.

The [AP](#) (10/20) reports that "two Illinois men have forfeited more than \$20,000 that was seized during a drug bust in Yellowstone National Park to the federal government." The Wyoming U.S. Attorney's Office "argued that the federal government should keep the money since the men had planned to use it to buy marijuana in Oregon to sell in Illinois." According to the article, "the men failed to file a claim to recover the money before the deadline this week and were informed that the government would be keeping the cash on Wednesday."

Yellowstone To Replace Arsenic Leaching Pipes Near Mammoth Hot Springs.

[Yellowstone Insider](#) (10/21, Reichard) reports that Yellowstone National Park will "replace a sewer line that reportedly led to the Gardiner Sewer District filing a lawsuit over arsenic leaching." According to the article, "the replacement will come sometime in the next two years."

Park Hikers May Have Died In 'Sympathetic Murder-Suicide'.

The [AP](#) (10/22, Nguyen) reports that "friends and relatives of a couple whose bodies were found in Joshua Tree National Park say they believe the two got lost while hiking in the sprawling desert park and struggled in the searing heat with little food or water before they died in a 'sympathetic murder-suicide.'" According to the article, "Rachel Nguyen, 20, and Joseph Orbeso, 22, had been missing for nearly three months after going for a hike in late July and failing to return to their bed-and-breakfast." The article says that "autopsies found both had gunshot wounds and evidence at the scene led detectives to believe Orbeso shot Nguyen and then himself, the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department said in a statement Friday."

Rangers Investigating Death At Harpers Ferry National Park.

The [AP](#) (10/21) reports that "authorities are investigating an accidental death inside Harpers Ferry National Historical Park."

Additional Coverage: Feds Surrender In Tooth-And-Nail Fight To Leash

Dogs In Bay Area's Open Space.

Additional coverage that the National Park Service has "announced that it's 'permanently' backing off its plan to impose tough new leash restrictions on dogs on federally managed open space in the San Francisco Bay Area" was provided by the [Huffington Post](#) (10/21, Papenfuss), the [San Francisco Examiner](#) (10/22, Stephens), and [KOED-FM San Francisco](#) San Francisco (10/20, Hernandez).

Additional Coverage: Yellowstone Plans To Build New Youth Campus.

Additional coverage that Yellowstone National Park will "build a new youth campus at Mammoth Hot Springs that will house up to 140 students at a time for educational programs within the park" was provided by the [Bozeman \(MT\) Daily Chronicle](#) (10/20, Wright).

Office Of Insular Affairs

December Congressional Appropriation 'Our Biggest Opportunity,' Plaskett Says.

The [St. Thomas Source](#) (10/19, Kossler) reports that "this year's emergency congressional appropriations for hurricane recovery are the territory's best opportunity for substantial federal help," according to Delegate Stacey Plaskett. She said Thursday that "after the year ends, new funding will be harder to come by." Earlier this week, Plaskett "said she wanted the legislation to 'encompass the totality of the needs of the Virgin Islands for rebuilding.'"

NKorea Months From Perfecting Nuclear Capabilities.

The [Pacific \(GUM\) Daily News](#) (10/19, Riechmann) reports that CIA Director Mike Pompeo "said Thursday that North Korea is months away from perfecting its nuclear weapons capabilities." At a national security forum in Washington, Pompeo said that "they are close enough now in their capabilities that from a U.S. policy perspective we ought to behave as if we are on the cusp of them achieving' their objective of being able to strike the United States." Speaking later at the same event, National Security Adviser H.R. McMaster said, "We are in a race to resolve this short of military action."

Solar Panels To Be Installed At GMH.

The [Pacific \(GUM\) Daily News](#) (10/20, Sablan) reports that Guam Memorial Hospital will "soon install solar panels, which will help save money in energy costs that can be spent on other needs at the hospital." Hospital officials "announced the solar panel project during a press conference Friday, and said they hope it will be completed by the end of the year." According to officials, "the project is being funded by an Empowering Insular Communities grant from the U.S. Department of Interior."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Guam Daily Post](#) (10/20, Chargualaf).

Office Of Surface Mining

No Word From Interior On Review Of Halted Mountaintop Removal Study.

The [Charleston \(WV\) Gazette-Mail](#) (10/21, Ward) reports that officials at the National Academies of Science, Engineering and Medicine have not heard from the Trump Administration “about a financial review that halted a major study of the potential public health effects of mountaintop removal coal mining.” According to academies spokesman William Kearney, “no update on the financial review has been provided to the academies by the Interior Department.” Last week, Rep. Raúl Grijalva wrote to Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke “to ask for an explanation of the fate of about \$400,000 in unspent money that was set aside for the mountaintop removal study, which Grijalva referred to as ‘canceled.’” But the agency hasn’t responded.

Advocates, Lawmakers Prepare For Battle Over Reclamation Fee.

[E&E Publishing](#) (10/20, Brown) reports that “the confusing fight over renewing the nation’s convoluted system for cleaning up abandoned coal mines has ensnared legislation bent on turning reclamation into economic growth.” The Abandoned Mine Land (AML) fee “doesn’t expire until 2021,” but “coal state lawmakers are already debating the issue, remembering the last reauthorization took at least a decade.” The article says that “as expected, old tensions over how to spend the money have re-emerged between historical coal states like Pennsylvania and West Virginia — those with the most cleanup needs — and the current top coal state, Wyoming — which pays more than half of all fees but is certified as having finished cleaning up priority abandoned sites (Greenwire, Sept. 29, 2016).” However, “the real wrench came when the coal industry came out earlier this year in outright opposition to reauthorizing the coal fee for the first time since Congress imposed it in [1977 \(E&E Daily, June 8\)](#).”

US Geological Survey

GOOD NEWS: Sul Ross Student Studies Pallid Sturgeon Via USGS Internship.

The [Odessa \(TX\) American](#) (10/21, Lang) reports that Sam Burch, “a Sul Ross State University graduate student in geology and a research technician at the Rio Grande Research Center (RGRC), was selected for a prestigious U.S. Geological Survey hydrology-based internship this past summer.” Burch “worked with the Columbia Environmental Research Center (CERC), based in Columbia, Mo., and traveled the Missouri River Basin and its tributaries studying and mapping river modifications (including man-made channels and dams) and their effect on the pallid sturgeon.”

Additional Reading.

- *New Kilauea Volcano Summit Eruption Video Hits Web.* [West Hawaii Today](#) (10/20).
- *2 Million Americans Are Drinking High Levels Of Arsenic In Their Well Water.* [Huffington Post](#) (10/22, Hsiao)/
- *‘Tired Mountain Syndrome’? North Korea’s Nuclear Test Site May Have It.* [Chicago Tribune](#) (10/22, Fifield).

- *What's Shaking? New Online Map Shows Texans Where Earthquakes Strike.* [Dallas Morning News](#) (10/20, Kuchment, Writer).

Top National News

Trump Makes Case For Budget And Tax Reform, Urges House To Move Quickly.

Coverage of President Trump's budget and tax reform plan portrays the measure as having momentum after initial passage in the Senate last week, but possibly in peril in the House because the plan is projected to increase the federal deficit. Reports say that the White House is campaigning hard for the measure, trying to avoid the missteps of the healthcare effort.

Errol Barnett reported on the [CBS Weekend News](#) (10/22, story 2, 1:25, Ninan) that the President "is now optimistic his tax plan will pass soon. ... The Republican-controlled Senate passed the budget this week, which the House is expected to take up in coming days." Tom Llamas said on [ABC World News Tonight](#) (10/22, story 2, 0:40) that it would be "the biggest tax cut ever." Trump said during an interview on [Fox News' Sunday Morning Futures](#) (10/22, Bartiromo), "We have so many things in this plan that are going to be for growth." He said that if GDP growth hits 2.5%, "it more than pays for everything." [USA Today](#) (10/22, Jackson) reports that the President said in the interview that "legislative setbacks suffered" by the GOP on healthcare "won't affect the prospects of a tax cut."

On [NBC Nightly News](#) (10/22, story 3, 1:45), Kate Snow reported that the President "turned up the pressure on Republicans to come up with a tax reform package today, saying he wants an overhaul plan on his desk by Thanksgiving." The [AP](#) (10/22, Colvin) reports that during a conference call with House Republicans, the President urged legislators to move quickly. According to one GOP official, Trump "told the members they were on the verge of doing something historic." The [Washington Post](#) (10/22, Wagner, Newmyer) reports that during the call, the President and House Speaker Ryan "argued that passing the revised Senate budget this week provides the best shot to get a tax bill enacted by the end of the year, according to participants." [The Hill](#) (10/22, Marcos) reports that Vice President Pence also took part in the call.

[Politico](#) (10/22, Bade) writes, "Trump's presence on the call highlights the sensitivity of this week's budget vote for House Republicans. Backing the Senate bill would require House Republicans to endorse a budget that is not balanced over 10 years, adds \$1.5 trillion to the federal deficit through tax cuts, and does not include spending reductions the House had incorporated in its own earlier draft of the budget." [Axios](#) (10/22, Swan) reports that House Ways and Means Committee Republicans "are currently exploring not cutting the income tax rate for people who earn \$1 million or more per year," which "will help stem the deficit increase from tax cuts for corporations and the middle class."

The President also makes his case in a [USA Today](#) (10/22) op-ed, writing, "We are now among the highest taxed nations in the developed world. ... Revising our tax code is not just a policy discussion – it is a moral one, because we are not talking about the government's money – we are talking

about your money, your hard work.” He writes, “The tax cuts and reforms of the 1980s show that when we empower the American people to pursue their dreams, they will not only achieve greatness and create prosperity beyond imagination, they will build an entirely new world.”

WTimes Analysis: President’s “Game Plan” Includes Ivanka Trump/Kushner “Charm Offensive.” The [Washington Times](#) (10/22, Miller) reports that the President “has an aggressive game plan to corral Senate support for tax reform, including repeated phone calls, golf outings, formal meetings and deploying Ivanka Trump and Jared Kushner in a charm offensive.” The Times says that the President “is determined to avoid a repeat of the fiasco of the Obamacare repeal when the bill fell short by a single Republican vote.” [Axios](#) (10/22, Swan) reports that Ivanka Trump will appear at a White House tax reform town hall in Bucks County, Pennsylvania on Monday.

Mulvaney, McConnell Hopeful For Tax Measure By End Of Year. [Reuters](#) (10/22, Chiacu, Schroeder) reports that OMB Director Mulvaney and Senate Majority Leader McConnell both “said on Sunday they hoped for action on a Republican tax reform package by the end of the year, while keeping their options open on how to pay for sweeping tax cuts.” The [Washington Times](#) (10/22, Richardson) reports that Mulvaney told Fox News that “he ‘absolutely’ believes that President Trump will have a tax reform bill on his desk by December.” Mulvaney said on [Fox News Sunday](#) (10/22, Perino), “We are hearing [that] the House may go ahead and either take the Senate amendments or move very quickly to accept them, and we may save as many as ten or 12 legislative days.”

[Bloomberg News](#) (10/22, Niquette, Varley, Brody) reports that McConnell said the measure could advance and be made revenue-neutral, echoing the President’s growth argument. McConnell said on [CNN’s State Of The Union](#) (10/22, Bash) that there will be significant “growth [that] you’ll get out of this pro-growth tax reform, which reduces rates for the middle class, which makes it considerably less likely that jobs go overseas, by correcting business taxes in such a way that produces more jobs and opportunity.” McConnell said on [Fox News Sunday](#) (10/22, Perino) that the “overall goal is the middle tax relief.”

Lankford, Commentators Say Budget Would Drive Up Deficit. Sen. James Lankford, appearing on [CBS’ Face The Nation](#) (10/22, Dickerson), said that there is “tremendous frustration” among some senators “as we walk through this process. There are several votes to bring back the budget not necessarily on the tax side but some of the spending side.”

Jason Furman, who chaired the White House Council of Economic Advisers during President Obama’s second term, writes in the [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/22) that the reduction in the corporate rate to 20% would reduce federal annual revenue by about \$200 billion, but is not likely to lead to the growth in average income suggested by the White House. Robert Samuelson writes in his [Washington Post](#) (10/22) column, “We cannot afford the Trump tax cut if it loses any revenue; the idea that it will ‘pay for itself’ looks like wishful thinking – nice if it happens, but the odds are against it.”

White House Reiterates Support For Kelly’s Defense Of Trump As Video Released.

White House press secretary Sarah Sanders rallied behind White House Chief of Staff Kelly over his defense of President Trump’s phone call expressing his

condolences to the widow of Sgt. La David Johnson after Rep. Frederica Wilson exacerbated the tension on Friday by rejecting his criticism of her while asserting in an interview with the New York Times that the Administration is "full of white supremacists." The tone of the coverage was dramatically different from the positive reception on Thursday, as reporting highlighted that video footage of a 2005 speech showed Kelly mischaracterized her remarks. Many articles also took issue with Sanders' assertion that Kelly, a four-star general, was above reproach by virtue of his long career serving his country.

Leading [CNN's Situation Room](#) (10/20, 5:04 p.m. EDT, Blitzer), White House correspondent Sarah Murray said Trump's "response to a US soldier killed in Niger" is "devolving into a political brawl," with "Trump taking to Twitter again overnight to blast" Rep. Wilson, "who accused him of being insensitive in a condolence call when he told Myeshia Johnson...that her husband knew what he got into when he signed up to serve." Trump's [tweeted](#), "The Fake News is going crazy with wacky Congresswoman Wilson (D), who was SECRETLY on a very personal call, and gave a total lie on content!" Murray added that White House press secretary Sarah Sanders on Friday "refused to entertain really any questions about that mission in Niger, instead insisting the Administration would wait until an investigation into the events is completed."

Leading the second hour of [CNN's Situation Room](#) (10/20, 6:01 p.m. EDT, Blitzer), host Wolf Blitzer similarly said the White House is attempting "to quash the controversy," but [NBC Nightly News](#) (10/20, story 2, 2:15, Holt) reported the "fierce political battle" instead "intensified" on Friday. In a front-page article, the [Washington Post](#) (10/20, A1, Nakamura) says Kelly's "false claims" and "escalating political mud fight [have] overshadowed the grief of Myeshia Johnson and the heroism of her dead husband, Sgt. La David Johnson, who gave his life for his country." The Post adds that the President, in an interview with [Fox Business](#) that was recorded on Friday, "accused Wilson of debasing Kelly by suggesting that the chief of staff had defended the president at Trump's insistence, in order to keep his job." Trump asserted, "When she made that statement, I thought it was sickening, actually." He continued by praising Kelly's "incredible job" and "said the general, who had listened in on his call with Johnson, was 'offended' that Wilson would make it public."

Leading the [CBS Evening News](#) (10/20, lead story, 2:45, Mason), Anthony Mason said Kelly's "emotional defense of the President...came back to bite him...when his facts were called into question by video and by a check of the record." While Sanders "told a reporter Friday that it would be 'highly inappropriate' to get into a debate with 'a four-star Marine general' over whether he misstated facts," the [Washington Post](#) (10/20, Wagner) reports that although Kelly on Thursday "said he had been 'stunned' to hear Wilson claim credit at the ceremony for securing the funding for" a federal building named after two slain FBI agents, "a video of her speech at the ceremony showed Wilson did not take credit for securing the money. She instead spent about two minutes of a nine-minute speech recalling the effort that she led in Congress to name the building for the agents, whom she praised effusively in her remarks."

According to [Bloomberg News](#) (10/20, Sink, Olorunnipa), the [South Florida Sun Sentinel](#) released the video of the event, which "showed that Kelly mischaracterized Wilson's remarks." Bloomberg acknowledges "she did at one point in her speech discuss her work to name the building after the slain FBI

agents, though the congresswoman says the speed with which the legislation passed through Congress was a testament to the respect among lawmakers for law enforcement."

Nonetheless, [The Hill](#) (10/20, Fabian) says Sanders "vociferously defended" Kelly and suggested his "four-decade career in the Marine Corps makes him beyond reproach." [Politico](#) (10/20, Nelson, Caputo) reports Sanders "aggressively defended" Kelly and the [Washington Times](#) (10/20, Boyer) reports Sanders "insisted...Kelly was accurate when he described...Wilson talking mostly about herself at the dedication of an FBI building in Florida in 2015." Sanders asserted, "There was a lot of grandstanding. ... He was stunned that she took that opportunity to make it about herself."

[The Hill](#) (10/20, Fabian) reports Sanders also said, "As Gen. Kelly pointed out, if you are able to make a sacred act like honoring American heroes all about yourself, you are an empty barrel." She continued, "If you don't understand that reference, I'll put it a little more simply – as we say in the South, all hat no cattle." According to [The Hill](#), "Wilson is known in Congress for her ornate hats."

In addition, [The Hill](#) (10/20, Fabian) reports Sanders said, "If the spirit of which [the President's] comments were intended were misunderstood, that's very unfortunate." Sanders added, "His comments were very sympathetic, very respectful, and that was the spirit in which the president intended them. If they were taken any other way, that's certainly an unfortunate thing."

However, [The Hill](#) (10/20, Manchester) reports that in a follow up statement to media outlets, Sanders "conceded on Friday evening that 'everyone can be questioned' while defending her earlier remarks in which she said debating...Kelly would be 'highly inappropriate.'" Sanders acknowledged, "Of course everyone can be questioned but after witnessing General Kelly's heartfelt and somber account, we should all be able to agree that impugning his credibility on how best to honor fallen heroes is not appropriate."

Meanwhile, the [AP](#) (10/20, Lemire) reports Wilson on Friday "kept the barbed exchanges going, adding a new element by suggesting a racial context." In an interview that ran on the front page of the [New York Times](#) (10/20, A1, Alcindor, Shear), Wilson "called Mr. Kelly a liar and hinted strongly that the altercation, prompted by a call from President Trump to the widow of a fallen black soldier, was racially charged." The Times says that although "she stopped short of accusing Mr. Kelly, a retired Marine general, of racial animus, she did say that others in the White House are racially biased." She asserted, "The White House itself is full of white supremacists." Wilson continued, "I feel very sorry for [Kelly] because he feels such a need to lie on me and I'm not even his enemy. I just can't even imagine why he would fabricate something like that. That is absolutely insane. I'm just flabbergasted because it's very easy to trace." She added, "They are making themselves look like fools. They have no credibility. They are trying to assassinate my character, and they are assassinating their own because everything they say is coming out and shown to be a lie."

The [Washington Times](#) (10/20, Miller) reports Wilson in an appearance on CNN separately "accused...Kelly of lying about her and using a 'racist term' when he publicly admonished her for politicizing the president's condolence call to a Special Forces' widow." Wilson said, "He has my sympathy for the loss of his son, but he can't just go on TV and lie on me." However, the Times says

Wilson “took offense at the phrase ‘empty barrel.’” She explained, “That’s a racist term, too. I’m thinking about that. We looked it up in the dictionary because I had never heard of an empty barrel, and I don’t like to be dragged into something like that.”

On [CNN’s Situation Room](#) (10/20, 5:42 p.m. EDT, Blitzer), White House reporter Kaitlan Collins said while Wilson contributed “to this ongoing feud,” Trump “is certainly the one who started it. But overall, the more important thing here is that the focus is shifting away from these four dead soldiers and on to a war of words between the White House and a Congresswoman.” On Sanders’ suggestion that four-star generals should not be questioned, former CIA counterterrorism official Philipp Mudd questioned, “why are we talking about this? what was she talking about? what a hot mess this is,” because it would mean “we can’t ask questions” from former officials. On Afghanistan, for example, “We’re 16 years into a war and the United States military under the direction of the President is expanding the troop presence in Afghanistan when we’ve failed to subdue the Taliban and they’re on the rise. Why do we think another troop surge is going to win? That’s not a fair question to ask?”

Rep. Eric Swalwell likewise told [CNN’s Situation Room](#) (10/20, 6:12 p.m. EDT, Blitzer), “Of course [Kelly] should be questioned,” because all American “leaders are supposed to be questioned. That’s what the soldiers who, you know, fight and sacrifice for our country – that’s what they’re fighting for is the ability of the press and our constituents to question us.” On the issue of the ambush in Niger, Swalwell lamented, “There is a blunder somewhere,” and the victims’ “families are owed an accurate explanation as to what happened to their loved ones.”

Jake Sullivan, a former director of the State Department Policy Planning Office, told [CNN’s Situation Room](#) (10/20, 5:13 p.m. EDT, Blitzer) said attention should be focused on how the US can prevent similar attacks from happening again. “I have to say,” he continued, “it was President Trump who kicked off the politics by falsely claiming that his predecessors didn’t get involved in talking to the families of the fallen.”

Former President Obama’s senior adviser, David Axelrod, told [CNN’s Situation Room](#) (10/20, 6:34 p.m. EDT, Blitzer) that he believes “it’s tragic that all of this has eclipsed what should be a reflection on these four service people who gave their lives, these four Green Berets, for the country and the investigation of exactly what happened here.” Former State Department spokesman John Kirby described Sanders’ remarks on questioning Kelly “absolutely an ignorant thing to say.”

On [Fox News Tucker Carlson Tonight](#) (10/20, 8:05 p.m. EDT, Carlson), Mark Green, a former First Public Advocate of New York City, argued that the issue is why Trump said what he said, and why he “was silent for 12 days” on the four US soldiers’ deaths. Green also dismissed the host’s criticism of Wilson for allegedly transforming Kelly’s comments into a race issue.

[Washington Post](#) (10/20, Bump) correspondent Philip Bump contends “Kelly is not first-and-foremost a Marine general. He is the White House chief of staff who was brought out to the daily news briefing to provide cover for how Trump handled a phone call to the family of a dead soldier and who then proceeded to disparage a member of Congress while telling an untrue story about her.” He adds in no way is it “inappropriate to ask Kelly questions about his comments simply because he used to serve in the military, any more than

it would be inappropriate to ask those same questions of his predecessor in the chief of staff role, Reince Priebus." Bump continues "even if Kelly were still a general, it's the media's job to ask questions." He concludes "Sanders's move is disrespectful, dishonest and dangerous. It suggests that some people who serve the country are above fair criticism and the need to be held accountable and, more egregiously, that those they serve should enjoy that same privilege."

Trump Thanks Fox News For Defending His Call To Widow. [The Hill](#) (10/20, Delk) "Briefing Room" blog reports President Trump on Friday "[thanked](#) Geraldo Rivera...for defending him against accusations that he was inconsiderate to the family of a slain U.S. soldier." In reposting a video featuring Rivera saying that the President "gets no slack at all, and it's part of the reason we are so utterly divided now, that even this, even the most sacred event – honoring a hero – becomes politicized," Trump tweeted, "Thank you @GeraldoRivera @FoxandFriends. Agree!"

Meanwhile, in the lead [Fox News Tucker Carlson Tonight](#) (10/20, 8:00 p.m. EDT, Carlson) story, host Tucker Carlson recalled Kelly's "18 minutes of mesmerizing remarks from the briefing room and begged politicians and the press not to politicize the mourning of Gold Star families," and "singled out" Wilson. According to Carlson, Wilson appeared "delighted on the attack because it made her more famous, which goes to prove Gen. Kelly was right in the first place."

Eric, Lara Trump: Kelly Thought Gold Star Controversy Was "Disgusting." The [Washington Times](#) (10/20, Persons) reports Eric Trump in an appearance on Fox News said Friday that Kelly "was upset when my father was criticized. I think he came to my father's defense in a very big way because I think he thought it was disgusting." Lara Trump added, "My father-in-law is the biggest champion of the military there is, and we all in this country love and respect our military and no one more so than the president."

[The Hill](#) (10/20, Manchester) reports Lara Trump also indicated that she had read the transcript of the President's call with Myeshia Johnson, but Sanders "said Friday that there was no transcript." Sanders stated, "I believe she was responding to reports and things she read. I haven't spoken directly to her. I refer you to the campaign that handles her press inquiries."

Under Threat Of Subpoena, Mattis Meets With McCain, Graham To Discuss Niger Operations. Leading [Fox News' Special Report](#) (10/20, 6:00 p.m. EDT, Baier), chief White House correspondent John Roberts reported Senate Armed Services Committee Chairman John McCain "complained loudly last week that the Senate is not getting the information it deserves about military operations in Niger, and he's prepared to do whatever it takes to get it," so "under the threat of a subpoena for information on the Niger attacks," Defense Secretary Mattis "marched over to Sen. John McCain's office" for a meeting with him and Sen. Lindsey Graham.

[CNN's Situation Room](#)'s (10/20, 5:09 p.m. EDT, Blitzer) Pentagon correspondent, Barbara Starr, similarly reported Mattis briefed McCain a day after the lawmaker had "threatened subpoenas if the Pentagon doesn't start telling Congress what it knows" about the incident.

The [Washington Post](#) (10/20, Demirjian) reports Mattis told McCain and Graham that "the military is shifting its counterterrorism strategy to focus more on Africa, put decision-making authority in the hands of commanders in

the field, and expand the ability to use lethal force against suspected terrorists," the lawmakers said. [CNN's Situation Room](#) (10/20, 6:08 p.m. EDT, Blitzer) global affairs correspondent Elise Labott reported Mattis also defended "his troops in the face of criticism." Said Mattis, "We can do better at communication. We can always improve on communication, and that's exactly what we're going to do." Mattis continued, "Having seen some of the news reports, the US military does not leave its troops behind, and I – we'd just ask that you not question the actions of the troops who were caught in the firefight and question whether or not they did everything they could in order to bring everyone out at once."

[Bloomberg News](#) (10/20, Dennis) reports that following the meeting, Graham warned "the war on terrorism will expand with more aggressive rules of engagement." [Fox News' Special Report](#) (10/20, 6:38 p.m. EDT, Baier) broadcast Graham, who predicted that "the next 9/11 will come from Niger." He added, "the war is heading to Africa. It is beginning to morph as we suppress the enemy in the mid-east, they are going to move. They are not going to quit."

On [Fox News' Special Report](#) (10/20, 6:43 p.m. EDT, Baier), Erin McPike of the Independent Journal Review commented, "I've heard a number of congressman say we are not talking about how ISIS is on the run because of the liberation of Raqqa. But this entire story shows they might be on the run, that they are running to other areas," namely, Africa, and therefore "all of these missions are really important. and they continue to be."

Pentagon Attempts To Answer Questions About Failed Niger Operation. In the lead story for [ABC World News Tonight](#) (10/20, lead story, 4:15, Muir), David Muir reported, "It's been 16 days since those lives were lost, and today President Trump was asked again to address the mission in public," and whether the fallen soldiers had "adequate intelligence" and "adequate backup." Correspondent Mary Bruce reiterated, "The week ended the same way it began: with questions about why President Trump still hasn't addressed the ambush in Niger that killed four Special Ops soldiers." As of Friday night, "key questions remain: Did the unit get the proper advance intelligence and backup support? Officials say they didn't expect to be in combat. Also, was Sgt. La David Johnson left behind? The rest of the unit pulled out, but his body was not recovered for at least 20 hours. The President silent on the details even as he takes credit for US victories against ISIS."

In a front-page article, the [New York Times](#) (10/20, A1, Searcey, Cooper, Schmitt) reports "the Pentagon is trying to determine whether American forces involved in a deadly ambush in Niger this month diverted from their routine patrol to embark on an unapproved mission, military officials said on Friday." The Times says these questions have arisen "because the American and Nigerien soldiers on the patrol have given conflicting accounts about whether they were simply ambushed or were attacked after trying to chase Islamic insurgents, according to military officials from both countries."

David Martin of the [CBS Evening News](#) (10/20, story 2, 2:20, Mason) explained, "The body of Sgt. La David Johnson was found nearly a mile away from the ambush site. Why he got separated from the other Americans, and how long he survived, remain unclear. Pentagon officials say a locator beacon was tracked for several hours, fueling hopes he was alive and raising the agonizing question of whether he could have been saved if the US military had

been able to react faster. The biggest mystery is why the patrol had not expected enemy contact in a part of Niger where this UN map shows 46 attacks took place over the last 20 months." Martin added that the Pentagon's "investigation has to determine not only what happened on the ground in Niger but why Washington failed to meet its obligation to the troops."

In the lead story for [NBC Nightly News](#) (10/20, lead story, 2:15, Holt), Pentagon correspondent Hans Nichols revealed that "a senior congressional aide who has been extensively briefed tells NBC News the ambush that killed him and three other soldiers stemmed in part from a massive intelligence failure." The Pentagon has cautioned "that such conclusions are premature." The FBI has joined "the investigation with forensic support, looking into how a team of well-trained Special Forces was ambushed, the Pentagon says, by a group of roughly 50 ISIS-linked fighters."

Senate To Conduct AUMF Debate Following Niger Deaths. The [Washington Post](#) (10/20, Demirjian) reports the Senate Foreign Relations Committee "is taking up a long-awaited debate about authorizing military force against the Islamic State as President Trump comes under unprecedented public scrutiny for his treatment of dead soldiers' families, following an ambush on troops helping to fight Islamic terrorists there." The Post reports the committee "will grill Secretary of State Rex Tillerson and Defense Secretary Jim Mattis in an open hearing on Oct. 30 about whether the administration thinks it is necessary for Congress to pass a new authorization for use of military force, or AUMF, to replace existing AUMFs that date back to the early years of the George W. Bush administration." The Post describes the hearing as a possible "precursor to a more congressionally-driven legislative effort to write an AUMF that can draw enough Republican and Democratic support to pass."

However, in an analysis, [McClatchy](#) (10/20, Clark, Goldstein) questions if Democrats will try to "use the incident as Trump's Benghazi." McClatchy highlights that "Democratic calls for hearings and probes are mounting." Sen. Richard Blumenthal, a member of the Armed Services Committee, calling for "a full and prompt investigation" in addition to hearings, as has Sen. Bill Nelson, while Rep. Ted Lieu wants the House Foreign Affairs Committee to hold hearings. Nonetheless, McClatchy acknowledges "many key Democrats," including Sen. Tim Kaine, "have urged resisting the temptation to use Niger for political gain."

State Department: Ambassador Did Not Deny Request For Support To Niger Attack Victims. The [Los Angeles Times](#) (10/20, Bennett) reports a State Department spokesman on Friday said the US ambassador to Niger "did not deny support for a U.S. Special Forces unit that lost four soldiers in a deadly ambush on the border between Mali and Niger on Oct. 4." The spokesman said, "As required by the president, the embassy and U.S. AFRICOM continuously engage to address security threats to all U.S. government personnel and operations." The spokesman added, "This close cooperation ensures activities are coordinated, effective and sustainable. The president directs that disagreements, which are rare, are quickly referred to the secretary of Defense and secretary of State for immediate resolution."

France Calls On US To Increase Support For Efforts Against West Africa Militants. [Reuters](#) (10/20, Irish, Stewart) reports French Defense Minister Florence Parly in a visit to Washington, DC for meetings with Defense Secretary Mattis and National Security Adviser McMaster on Friday called on

the US to “step up its support for a planned African force to fight Islamist militants in West Africa or it could fail, leaving French troops to carry the burden alone.” Parly said, “In the Sahel, France is deploying in a high-intensity environment, with tremendous support from the United States. We are immensely grateful for that support.” However, Parly added, “Much more needs to be done. We can’t be, and don’t want to be, the praetorian [guards] of sovereign African countries. They must be made able to defeat terror on their own.”

UN: Militants Have Perpetrated At Least 46 Attacks In Area Of Niger Where US Troops Killed. [Reuters](#) (10/20, Balima) reports a UN agency on Friday announced that in the Tahoua and Tillabery regions of Niger, which was “where four U.S. Green Berets were killed during a mission the U.S. military had considered low-risk,” armed groups have conducted at least 46 recorded attacks since early last year.

LATimes Analysis: Kelly Resembles Trump Voters, Not President. The [Los Angeles Times](#) (10/20, Bierman) says that in “Kelly’s extraordinary remarks on Thursday from the White House briefing room, in which he segued from defending Trump to speak of loss – both his own, of a son, and the country’s, of old civilities, all while attacking a Florida congresswoman – offered a glimpse of what” he and the President “seem to share. Both hearken to an undefined time in America when some things were ‘sacred,’ as Kelly put it, to a better moment that’s been lost.” The Times adds that “in sharing his nostalgia, Kelly did not sound like the more rough-spoken Trump. But he sounded an awful lot like many of the voters who put Trump into office.”

Fox News Apologizes For Featuring Pro-Trump Veteran Who Lied About Being A Navy SEAL. The [New York Times](#) (10/20, Bromwich) reports Fox News on Thursday issued a correction after airing a story earlier this month about John Garofalo, “a highly decorated veteran: a Navy SEAL who had served in Vietnam, had earned two Purple Hearts and had hand-carved a presidential seal that he hoped to give to President Trump.” The Times adds that in addition to retracting the story, the network “said that ‘all’ of his claims ‘turned out to be untrue.’” In a statement, Fox said Garofalo “did not serve in Vietnam,” was “never a U.S. Navy SEAL,” and while “he showed us medals, Garofalo was not awarded two Purple Hearts or any of the other nearly two dozen commendations he claimed to have received, except for the National Defense Service Medal.” Fox concluded, “We apologize to our viewers, especially veterans and servicemen and women.”

WPost: Kelly Owes Wilson An Apology. In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (10/20) demands White House Chief of Staff Kelly apologize to Rep. Frederica S. Wilson for mischaracterizing “the representative’s remarks at the dedication of an FBI building in Miramar, Fla., in 2015.” The Post adds that “as a video by the Florida Sun Sentinel of Ms. Wilson’s remarks that day shows, Mr. Kelly got it all wrong.” The Post concludes “it is unfortunate that the sacrifice of brave people...can get overwhelmed by the petty name-calling of politics. That is a point Mr. Kelly was trying to make Thursday, and that he undercut with his misrepresentation of Ms. Wilson. He needs to set the record straight.”

Marcus Criticizes Kelly For Declaring Women “Sacred.” In her [Washington Post](#) (10/20, Marcus) column, Ruth Marcus says that while Kelly on Thursday had her “mesmerized and, to be honest, a bit teary-eyed as the retired four-

star general spoke of what it is like to be on the early-morning receiving end of the news that would break any parent's heart," his "disquisition" reminiscing on how women had been "sacred" during his youth left her "taken aback." According to Marcus, assuming Kelly was "referring to the report on Harvey Weinstein – where were you, exactly, during the presidential campaign?" She concludes that "if the upside of chivalry is the opened door, the cape spread upon the muddy ground, the downside is the presumption, perhaps subconscious, that feminine is the equivalent of weak; the impulse to treat women in the workplace differently from their male counterparts; and the consequent distortion – sometimes overt, more often subtle – of career choices and opportunities."

Trump Promises Tax Cut After Senate GOP Passes Budget.

[Reuters](#) (10/20, Ahmann) reports President Trump in an interview on Friday with [Fox Business](#) scheduled to air on Sunday "said...he thinks Republicans have the votes needed to pass a big tax cut package" and "said he had been thinking about tying tax legislation to an infrastructure spending bill but that it was not clear a combined package would gain more votes." Trump asserted, "I don't want to take any chances cause I feel we have the votes right now the way it is," according to the transcript of the interview. [The Hill](#) (10/20, Manchester) reports the President also argued "lawmakers should forego Christmas break if they do not pass tax reform before then."

Meanwhile, the [AP](#) (10/20, Gordon, Taylor) reports the President in a pair of early morning tweets [also said](#), "The Budget passed late last night, 51 to 49. We got ZERO Democrat votes with only Rand Paul (he will vote for Tax Cuts) voting against. This now allows for the passage of large scale Tax Cuts (and Reform), which will be the biggest in the history of our country!"

Ryan: GOP Tax Plan To Introduce New Tax Bracket For Highest Earners. [The Washington Times](#) (10/20, Persons) reports House Speaker Ryan in an appearance on CBS News "said Friday that the House plans to introduce a fourth tax bracket for high-income earners." Ryan asserted, "This is about the people, about half of which in this country are living paycheck to paycheck, and giving them a break on their taxes, giving them some tax relief, and closing loopholes and carve-outs, which disproportionately benefit the very high income people — the very well-connected businesses." [The Hill](#) (10/20, Jagoda) reports Ryan continued, "We're introducing the fourth bracket...so that high-income earners do not see a big rate cut, and so that those resources go to the middle class."

[Politico](#) (10/20, Faler) reports Ryan "declined Friday to get into the specifics of how it would work, saying lawmakers are still hashing that out, but said Republicans don't want their plan to be a windfall for the rich." According to Politico, "Ryan's comments came on the heels of Senate approval of a budget plan that will grease the legislative skids for Republicans' tax rewrite plans."

Conservative Lawmakers Signal Support For Tax Cuts. [Reuters](#) (10/20, Becker) reports the President's tax reform proposals "won partial support on Friday" after Sen. Rand Paul "said he was 'all in' for massive tax cuts, but the party was still far from united over how to achieve the main item on its domestic agenda." The [Washington Times](#) (10/20, Persons) reports Paul tweeted, "I'm all in for tax cuts @realDonaldTrump. The biggest, boldest cuts

possible – and soon!” The Times highlights that Paul had been the sole Republican to vote against the Senate GOP’s budget bill “due to changes in the federal spending caps.”

Meanwhile, in an interview with [Bloomberg News](#) (10/20, House), House Freedom Caucus Chairman Mark Meadows revealed he has told “Republican leaders most of his group will support the GOP’s budget – as long as the Ways and Means Committee marks up and passes a tax bill by the week of Oct. 30,” as the lawmakers within the group “want a House-wide floor vote on a tax bill by Thanksgiving.” Meadows said, “We are willing to take a look at supporting the Senate budget next week without going to conference, as long as it speeds up the work on the tax bill.” [Politico](#) (10/20, Ferris, Bade) reports the House Freedom Caucus “decided on the stance on a conference call Friday, according to GOP sources.”

In addition, [The Hill](#) (10/20, Elis) reports Rep. Dave Brat, a member of the conservative House Freedom Caucus, and other conservatives “are dropping their demands for billions in mandatory spending cuts as GOP House leaders ready to take up the Senate-passed budget next week, a key step for tax reform.” According to The Hill, House Budget Committee Chairwoman Diane Black issued a statement on Friday announcing her support for the Senate budget bill.

The [Washington Times](#) (10/20, Persons) reports Sen. Tim Scott in an appearance on Fox News “said Friday that he’s ‘encouraged’ by talks with the House Freedom Caucus about the Republican budget deal.” Scott said, “The word coming out of the House as late last night when we were still on the floor was that the budget as we constructed it probably is acceptable for the Freedom Caucus. ... If that’s the case, that saves us about two weeks of negotiations with the House.”

A front-page [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/20, A1, Rubin) analysis lays out the challenges that remain to passing a tax reform bill, as does the [New York Times](#) (10/20, Tankersley), which reports the passage of the Senate’s budget resolution “sets the stage for what could be a wild ride of tax debate over the next few months, which Republican leaders hope will end with...Trump signing a bill into law by Christmas.” The Times emphasizes that “it will be a difficult task, particularly in the Senate, where Republicans can afford to lose only two votes from their ranks to pass a bill along party lines.” [Bloomberg News](#) (10/20, Kapur) similarly acknowledges the “sharp divides over an array of non-binding amendments revealed the towering challenge [the President] faces from here.”

WSJournal: House Should Pass The Senate Budget. In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/20) writes that instead of forming a combined budget in a conference committee, the House of Representatives should pass the Senate budget, which – unlike the deficit-neutral House budget – leaves room for \$1.5 trillion in tax cuts over 10 years.

WPost: Despite Senate’s Vote For “Fiscal Irresponsibility,” Congress Still Has Time To Form Better Budget. In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (10/20) writes that although Senate Republicans on Thursday passed a budget plan allowing a “massive tax cut with uncertain benefits for most Americans,” there is still an opportunity for congressional committees to halt the Senate’s “fiscal irresponsibility” and form a plan that at least calls for revenue-neutral tax reform, such as that passed before by the House.

US Posts Largest Budget Deficit Since 2013.

[Bloomberg News](#) (10/20, Wasson, Mohsin) reports the US on Friday “posted its largest budget deficit since 2013 in the fiscal year that just ended, as a pickup in spending exceeded revenue gains.” According to Bloomberg, the Treasury Department revealed that the deficit “grew to \$665.7 billion in the 12 months through Sept. 30, compared with a \$585.6 billion shortfall in fiscal 2016,” which “was in line with the Congressional Budget Office’s estimate of \$668 billion.” Treasury Secretary Mnuchin and OMB Director Mick Mulvaney in a joint statement “blamed weaker-than-expected tax receipts on historically ‘sub-par’ economic growth.” Mulvaney said, “These numbers should serve as a smoke alarm for Washington, a reminder that we need to grow our economy again and get our fiscal house in order. We can do that through smart spending restraint, tax reform, and cutting red tape.” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/20, Davidson) reports that Mnuchin said that the deficit “underscore the importance of achieving robust and sustained economic growth.” Mnuchin added, “Through a combination of tax reform and regulatory relief, this country can return to higher levels of GDP growth, helping to erase our fiscal deficit.”

According to the [New York Times](#) (10/20, Rappeport), the budget deficit “highlight[s] the nation’s worsening fiscal trajectory as lawmakers consider a \$1.5 trillion tax cut.” The [AP](#) (10/20, Taylor) reports House Speaker Ryan in a Friday appearance on “CBS This Morning” said, “We’re Republicans. We’re sensitive to the deficit.” However, Senate Minority Leader Schumer asserted, “With the deficit as large and growing as quickly as it is, Republicans pursuing a reckless plan that would blow a huge hole in the deficit and put Medicare and Medicaid at risk is the height of irresponsibility.”

Judge Extends Halt To Trump’s Travel Ban.

[Reuters](#) (10/21, Goldberg) reports that US District Judge Derrick Watson on Friday extended his block on President Trump’s travel ban. Watson’s ruling, issued in the US District Court for the District of Hawaii, “converted his temporary restraining order to a preliminary injunction.”

Mattis To Discuss North Korean Threat With Asian Defense Ministers.

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/22, Lubold) reports Defense Secretary Mattis arrived in the Philippines on Sunday, and will meet with Japanese Defense Minister Itsunori Onodera, Philippine Defense Minister Delfin Lorenzana, and South Korean Defense Minister Song Young-moo during a Monday gathering of Association of Southeast Asian Nations defense ministers. The Journal says Mattis is also slated to meet with Indian, Indonesian, and Malaysian officials for discussions on “the regional security crisis caused by the reckless DPRK, North Korea provocations” and other issues, according to Mattis in remarks to reporters.

NBC Analysis: North Koreans Appear Unafraid Of Potential War With US. On [NBC Nightly News](#) (10/22, story 7, 1:50, Snow), Keir Simmons reported from a 1,000-year-old Buddhist temple 100 miles north of Pyongyang, North Korea. Noting the temple’s beauty, Simmons said, “Standing here, it’s hard to take in that the leadership of North Korea has said a nuclear war could break out at any moment.” Simmons mentioned that the temple was bombed by the US during the Korean War, and he asked a woman there if she fears the

temple will see another war. The woman reportedly replied, "Another war won't happen because we are a nuclear superpower. ... The US should wake up from its war dream." A monk at the temple said, "Kim Jong-un will protect us," and reportedly added that "sometimes it's okay to kill if it saves more lives."

Petraeus Comments On North Korea Rhetoric. Former CIA Director Petraeus, in an appearance on [ABC's This Week](#) (10/22, Raddatz), commented on the rhetoric on North Korea and the possibility for a diplomatic resolution. Petraeus said, "Really, all of this rhetoric, frankly, is aimed, not at North Korea, but at China." He added, "Secretary [of State] Tillerson is undertaking the kind of strategic engagement that is necessary here, to build a relationship with China." Petraeus downplayed the likelihood a US-North Korea military conflict, and noted that the communication strategy was to encourage China to act on this issue.

Cruz Urges State Dept. To Relist North Korea As State Sponsor Of Terrorism. Sen. Ted Cruz, in an op-ed for the [New York Times](#) (10/22, Cruz), outlines the long list of "accusations against Pyongyang." He stresses, "It is time to acknowledge that North Korea may never be interested in negotiating away its nuclear deterrent," and thus "the United States must approach North Korea with sobriety and urgency." Cruz "strongly urge[s] the State Department to relist North Korea" as a state sponsor of terrorism, which will strengthen the US' "hand and weaken that of Kim Jong-un," and ultimately "meet this challenge with the resolve it has long demanded."

Administration Plan For Coal, Nuclear Power Draws Criticism From Environmental, Oil Groups.

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/22, Puko) reports that an Energy Department proposal asking the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to implement market reforms designed to shore up nuclear and coal-fired power plants is drawing opposition from an array of environmental and oil groups, including oil and gas companies, some public utilities, wind and solar power producers, electricity consumers, and environmentalists. The plan submitted last month, which in effect would ensure profits for certain nuclear and coal-fired power plants, has placed coal miners and a small group of power companies against nearly the entire rest of the energy industry, much of which views the proposal as a bailout for struggling power plants.

EPA Cancels Climate Change Speeches By Agency Scientists.

The [New York Times](#) (10/22, Friedman) reports the EPA has canceled speeches by three agency scientists who were slated to discuss climate change at the State of the Narragansett Bay and Watershed conference on Monday in Rhode Island. EPA spokesman John Konkus confirmed the speaking appearances had been canceled. The Times adds that the move "highlights widespread concern that the E.P.A. will silence government scientists from speaking publicly or conducting work on climate change."

Editorial Wrap-Up

New York Times.

“America’s Forever Wars.” In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (10/22) writes that in light of the fact that the US military is widely deployed and engaged in a large number of conflicts – with just over 240,000 troops in at least 172 countries and territories, many engaged in counterterrorism operations – it is “time to take stock of how broadly American forces are already committed to far-flung regions and to begin thinking hard about how much of that investment is necessary, how long it should continue and whether there is a strategy beyond just killing terrorists.” The Times concludes that while the military is “essential” for national security, the US should incorporate more diplomacy and engagement in multilateral institutions and should examine how to address its military “largess.”

Washington Post.

“Sessions’s Plan For Immigration Courts Would Undermine Their Integrity.” The [Washington Post](#) (10/22) editorializes that Attorney General Sessions “decried the state of the immigration courts in remarks Oct. 12 before the Justice Department’s Executive Office for Immigration Review, lamenting ‘rampant abuse and fraud’ in asylum applications.” The Post notes that as part of Sessions “push for an overhaul of the immigration system, the department also plans to begin evaluating immigration judges on the basis of how many cases they resolve.” The Post argues that “this proposal would do little to fix the United States’ backlogged immigration courts and much to undermine their integrity.” According to the Post, “implementing quotas could actually have the effect of jamming up the court system further,” as “immigrants ill-served by judges struggling to meet quotas would be more likely to battle the judges’ rulings, glutting federal appeals courts.” The Post contends that “providing more resources to immigration courts would be a much more effective means of tackling the backlog.”

“Watch What Duterte Does, Not What He Says.” A [Washington Post](#) (10/22) editorial describes Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte as “erratic, profane and crude,” and says he is “a person to whom the old adage applies: Watch what he does, not what he says.” Duterte, who launched “a nationwide extrajudicial campaign against suspected drug dealers and users in which thousands of people were killed,” has said “he may end the awful campaign. Let’s hope he means it.” The Post adds that Trump, who is scheduled to visit the Philippines in November “should do what he can to bring Mr. Duterte back toward the United States and discourage him from resuming the extrajudicial drug war.”

“Why is Va. Treating Its Students – Especially Its Black Students – Like Criminals?” The [Washington Post](#) (10/22) editorializes that “in a staggering number” of school discipline cases, “the students, who are often preteens in elementary and middle schools, are referred to police and the courts — a wildly disproportionate response that can stigmatize children at school and, in some cases, be a stain on their records for years.” According to the Post, “in the most comprehensive study on the so-called school-to-prison pipeline, published by the Center for Public Integrity in 2015, Virginia schools were the worst offenders, shunting disobedient kids to law enforcement at nearly three times the national rate.” The Post adds that “a new state law is in place to encourage local school boards to develop alternatives to suspending students, including counseling, community service and mediation,” but “lawmakers will have to keep the pressure on to tamp down what amounts to massive

overreaction on the part of school authorities.”

Wall Street Journal.

“Trump Caves On Ethanol.” In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/22) writes that President Trump and EPA Administrator Pruitt caved under pressure from the ethanol lobby and Midwestern Republican senators when Pruitt announced Thursday that the EPA won’t reduce its proposed biofuels quota for 2018 and in fact may even increase it. The Journal argues that the decision represents a capitulation to one of Washington’s worst examples of corporate welfare and a violation of one of Trump’s key campaign promises.

“Shinzo Abe’s Big Win.” In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/22) says Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe’s victory in Sunday’s snap election does not reflect a resounding support for his policies, but instead voters’ belief that there were no other viable candidates. The Journal says Abe’s failure to deliver on his promise to boost economic growth potential is particularly damaging, and unless he revisits that promise, he will neither thwart a leadership challenge from his own party nor succeed in his call to reform the constitution.

“Richard Cordray’s Bad Numbers.” In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/22, Journal) writes that a new Treasury Department report found that the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau’s 2015 study – upon which it based its rule prohibiting mandatory arbitration agreements forbidding customers from filing class-action lawsuits – carried faulty analysis and that the arbitration rule in fact would hurt consumers and the economy. The Journal concludes that Senate Republicans should consider the report’s findings as it potentially heads to vote this week on a Congressional Review Act resolution to overturn the CFPB rule.

Big Picture

Headlines From Today’s Front Pages.

Wall Street Journal:

[At Fidelity. New Fallout From Claims Of Sexual Harassment, Bullying](#)
[China’s Pursuit Of Fugitive Businessman Guo Wengui Kicks Off Manhattan Caper Worthy Of Spy Thriller](#)
[Trump Backs Some GOP Senators As Bannon Escalates ‘War’ On Incumbents](#)
[Hunt For Yield Fuels Boom In Another Complex, Risky Security](#)

New York Times:

[A Newly Assertive CIA Expands Its Taliban Hunt In Afghanistan](#)
[Still Waiting For FEMA In Texas And Florida After Hurricanes](#)
[Hopes Dim For Congressional Russia Inquiries As Parties Clash](#)
[Where Internet Orders Mean Real Jobs, And New Life For Communities](#)
[Xi Jinping Pushes China’s Global Rise Despite Friction And Fear](#)
[A Long-Delayed Reckoning Of The Cost Of Silence On Abuse](#)

Washington Post:

[Learning To Love The Coffee They Grow](#)

[Trump's Sons See Green In The Blues](#)
[Decisive Win For Japan's Abe](#)
[Virginia Is On Mind Of Democrats Nationwide](#)
[Retirement And College Costs Create Double Bind](#)

Financial Times:

[Shinzo Abe Gains Big Victory In Japan Election](#)
[Babis Victory In Czech Election Raises Populism Fears](#)
['Wolf Of Wall Street' Warns ICOs Are 'Biggest Scam Ever'](#)

Washington Times:

[Mueller's Top Gun In Russia Probe Known For Hardball Tactics, Overturned Rulings](#)
[Shinzo Abe, 'Trusted Trump Ally' In Japan, Wins Mandate Before Summit On North Korea, Trade](#)
[Federal Tax Loophole Let Planned Parenthood Build Clinics Financed With 'Abortion Bonds'](#)
[Abortion, Immigration Dilemmas: Feds Under Short Deadline To Resolve Case For Mexican Girl](#)
[Sessions' 'Sanctuary' Penalties Also Hurt Jurisdictions Cooperating With Immigration Agents](#)

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:

ABC: Niger-US Casualty Investigation; White House-Tax Reform; Tampa-Serial Killer Manhunt; Hollywood Sexual Harassment Scandals; Oklahoma-Tornadoes; Miami Terror Plot Investigation; Ohio-Police Shooting; JFK Files Revealed; Furniture Recalls; West Virginia-Storage Fire; Bill O'Reilly-Sexual Harassment Settlement; Vegetable Recall; Long Island Robbery; Marine Air Show Family.

CBS: White House-Fallen Soldiers Call; White House-Tax Reform; Former Presidents Public Appearance; JFK Files Revealed; Severe Weather; Catalonia Independence Movement; Health-Gene Cancer Therapy; Air Pollution Health Risk; Walking-Healthy Habit.

NBC: Tampa-Serial Killer Manhunt; Hollywood Sexual Harassment Scandal; White House-Tax Reform; Oklahoma-Tornadoes; Puerto Rico-Hurricane Recovery; Japan-Election Result; North Korea Threats; China-People's Congress; Police Bodycam Effectiveness; Atlanta-New Football Stadium; Creative Pediatrician.

Network TV At A Glance:

JFK Files Revealed – 4 minutes, 35 seconds
Hollywood Sexual Harassment Scandals – 4 minutes, 25 seconds
Tampa-Serial Killer Manhunt – 4 minutes, 15 seconds
White House-Tax Reform – 3 minutes, 50 seconds
Severe Weather – 2 minutes, 30 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: Miami Terror Plot Investigation; Congress-Healthcare Bill; Fidelity-Sexual Harassment.

CBS: Kidnapped US Soldier Trial; Afghanistan-US Policy; Congress-Tax Reform; Severe Weather.

FOX: Congress-Healthcare Bill; White House-Tax Reform; US Gasoline Price.

NPR: Trump-Asia Tour; Japan-Election Result; Niger-US Casualty Investigation; Kidnapped US Soldier Trial.

Washington Schedule

Today's Events In Washington.

White House:

PRESIDENT TRUMP — Meets with Prime Minister Loong of Singapore; presents the Medal of Honor.

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE — Delivers remarks at an event to commemorate the anniversary of the 1983 bombing of the Marine barracks in Beirut, Lebanon; attends the President's joint press conference with Prime Minister Loong; attends the President's presentation of the Medal of Honor.

US Senate: 3:00 PM Senate debates disaster relief supplemental – Senate convenes and resumes consideration of the House Message to Accompany 'H.R.2266, the Additional Supplemental Appropriations for Disaster Relief Requirements Act', including a vote on a motion to invoke cloture Location: Washington, DC <http://www.senate.gov/>

US House: 2:00 PM House of Representatives returns after District Work Period

5:00 PM House Rules Committee hearing – Hearing on 'H.R. 469, the Sunshi for Regulations and Regulatory Decrees and Settlements Act of 2017' and 'H.R. 732, the Stop Settlement Slush Funds Act of 2017' Location: U.S. Capitol, H-313, Washington, DC <http://www.rules.house.gov/>
<https://twitter.com/RulesReps>

Other: 8:15 AM Singaporean PM Lee speaks at Economic Club of Washington, DC – Singaporean Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong speaks at the Economic Club of Washington, DC, discussing U.S.-Singapore bilateral relations, economic developments in Singapore and the Asia-Pacific, and other global developments Location: The Mayflower Hotel, 1127 Connecticut Ave, NW, Washington, DC www.economicclub.org <https://twitter.com/TheEconomicClub>

6:00 PM Future of Health Summit – Milken Institute Future of Health Summit, bringing together over 500 thought leaders from business, govt, philanthropy, technology, life sciences, food, and health to explore solutions to improve health and wellness. Speakers include U.S. Surgeon General Vice Adm. Jerome Adams, National Institutes of Health Director Francis Collins, Food and Drug Administration Commissioner Scott Gottlieb, NIH National Institute on Drug Abuse Director Nora Volkow, Democratic Sen. Cory Booker, Republican Sen. Ben Sasse, Virginia Governor Terry McAuliffe, World Bank Group President Jim Yong Kim, PepsiCo Chairperson and CEO Indra Nooyi, SoulCycle CEO Melanie Whelan, Major League Soccer President Mark Abbott, Susan G. Komen Foundation founder Nancy Brinker, former U.S. CTO Aneesh Chopra, IBM Watson Health General Manager Deborah DiSanzo, sweetgreen co-founder Jonathan Neman, and former Acting Assistant Secretary of Health and Human Services Karen DeSalvo Location: The Ritz-Carlton, Washington DC, 1150 22nd St NW, Washington, DC www.milkeninstitute.org
<https://twitter.com/MilkenInstitute>

7:00 PM White House Press Secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders speaks at GW on President Trump's first year – 'Trump's First Year: Will Politics, Policy

and the Presidency Ever be the Same' forum, hosted by George Washington University School of Media and Public Affairs and the White House Correspondents' Association to explore the Trump presidency, deals made and lost, whether he has kept his campaign policies, and how policy can be covered during the 'Twitter presidency'. Speakers include White House Press Secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders, Yahoo! News Chief Washington Correspondent Olivier Knox, Fox News Chief White House Correspondent John Roberts, American Urban Radio Networks White House correspondent and Washington Bureau Chief April Ryan, The New York Times White House Correspondent Glenn Thrush, GW Professor of Political Science Sarah Binder, Bloomberg News White House Correspondent Margaret Talev and GW School of Media and Public Affairs Director Frank Sesno Location: George Washington University School of Media and Public Affairs, 805 21st St NW, Washington, DC
<http://www.gwu.edu/index.cfm> <https://twitter.com/GWtweets>

Military Officers Association of America Annual Meeting – Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) Annual Meeting, including Career Fair, MOAA Partners and Exhibitors Expo, Community Heroes Awards Night, Congressional Breakfast, and Chapter Levels of Excellence Award Ceremony Location: Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites Alexandria-Historic District, 625 First St, Alexandria, VA
<http://www.moaa.org/> <https://twitter.com/MilitaryOfficer>

Last Laughs

Late Night Political Humor.

No late-night talk show aired on Sunday night.

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DATE: THURSDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2017 7:00 AM EDT

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- Charlton County (GA) Herald: Secretary Of The Interior Visits Okefenokee Wildlife Refuge.
- Daily Caller: Zinke Violated Ethics Regs, Watchdog Says.
- Grand Junction (CO) Daily Sentinel: Bennet Asks Feds To Pay Counties Drilling Royalties.
- Deseret (UT) News: Op-Ed: Utah Delegation Needs A Clear Message About Our Monuments.
- Montana Standard: Save The Bird, Save The Herd.

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- U.S. News & World Report: US Government Halts Wyoming Wild Horse Roundup Amid Dispute.
- SweetwaterNOW (WY): BLM Has Gathered 1,062 Horses & 269 Foals So Far; 12 Deaths.
- Nevada Appeal: Nevada's Heller, Laxalt Join Sandoval In Supporting Sage Grouse Decision.
- KTVB-TV Boise (ID): BLM Crew Clears Graffiti Off Black Cliffs.

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- U.S. Mulls "Astro Act" For Offshore Oil And Gas.

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- High Country (CO) News: The Battle Over Alaska Refuge Oil Reignites Under Trump.
- National Journal: GOP's Hunt For Revenue Revives Longtime Fight Over Arctic Oil Drilling.
- Cape Cod (MA) News: Gov. Baker Issues Support For Chatham In Monomoy Dispute.
- New York Times: Another Victim Of Hurricane Maria: Puerto Rico's Treasured Rainforest.
- CNBC: Martha Stewart Boasts She 'Always' Carries Shawl That May Be Made From Endangered Species When She Travels.

- Miami Herald: Feeding Endangered Key Deer Could Kill Them, Federal Wildlife Managers Say.
- KFOR-TV Oklahoma City: Wildlife Officials Asking Oklahomans To Help Protect Bats From Deadly Disease.

National Park Service

- U.S. News & World Report: Rainbow Flag Flies At US Monument, But Not On Federal Land.
- U.S. News & World Report: Indiana Awards \$275,000 To Boost 7 Preservation Projects.
- The Guardian (UK): Trump's Pro-Coal Agenda Is A Blow For Clean Air Efforts At Texas' Big Bend Park.
- Hartford (CT) Courant: Oldest Buildings In Hartford's Colt Complex Will Be Donated For Park Visitor Center.
- Estes Park (CO) Trail-Gazette: Residents Talk With RMNP Superintendent During Mayor's Chat.
- U.S. News & World Report: Yellowstone Visitation Down During Snowy September.

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- Washington Times: Trump Says He's "Tougher" On North Korea Than Other Officials.
- St. Kitts & Nevis Observer: Hurricane: Pence Pledges A Bigger, Better US Virgin Islands.
- InsuranceNewsNet: AXA Financial Extends Grace Periods On Policies.
- Guam Daily Post: 16 Graduate From Inaugural Conservation Academy.

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- Additional Reading.

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- ABC: Trump Pitches Tax Plan To Truckers In Pennsylvania.
- Breitbart: Trump Says He'll Sign Measure Allowing Healthcare Purchases Across State Lines.
- Fox News: Trump: "We Have To Get Something In Return" For DACA Deal.
- Washington Times: Trump Could Have Direct Role In Selecting Border Wall Winner.

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- "Biggest Loser At New York Mayoral Debate? The Voters."
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 - "The Culture Of Complicity Protecting Harvey Weinsteins Everywhere."
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Big Picture

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DOI In The News

House Panel Approves Bill To Overhaul Presidential Monuments Power.

[The Hill](#) (10/11, Henry) reports the House Natural Resources Committee approved a bill reforming the Antiquities Act, sending the measure to the floor for consideration. The bill will likely cause a fight over the future of the president's power to declare national monuments. The legislation would set limits on the president's ability to unilaterally preserve federal land and would institute more public input on potential designations. The bill's author, Rep. Bob Bishop, said, "Congress never intended to give one individual the power to unilaterally dictate the manner in which Americans may enjoy enormous swathes of our nation's public lands. ... Overreach in recent administrations have brought us to this point and it's Congress' duty to clarify the law and end the abuse."

The [AP](#) (10/11, Daly) reports that Rep. Raul Grijalva "called Bishop's bill a tacit admission by the GOP that President Donald Trump does not have legal authority to reduce or abolish existing national monuments." Grijalva also claimed that the bill was "thrown together at the last minute with only one special interest group in mind: the oil and gas industry." In addition, "environmental groups and the outdoor recreation industry condemned the GOP bill."

[KTVZ-TV](#) Bend, OR (10/11, 7:13 p.m. PT) reported that "the bill comes after Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke recommended four large national monuments in the West be reduced in size."

Also reporting are the [Washington Times](#) (10/11, Wolfgang), the [Washington Examiner](#) (10/11, Siegel), the [Salt Lake \(UT\)](#)

[Tribune](#) (10/11, Burr), the [Deseret \(UT\) News](#) (10/11, O'Donoghue), the [Helena \(MT\) Independent Record](#) (10/11, Daly), the [Billings \(MT\) Gazette](#) (10/11, Daly), and the [Washington Examiner](#) (10/11, Siciliano, Seigel).

Restore The Antiquities Act's Noble Vision. In an op-ed for the [Washington Examiner](#) (10/11, Bishop), Rep. Rob Bishop writes that the provisions of his bill "ensure consultation with locals and robust scientific evaluation through public processes that would be required by law." He adds that "it strengthens the president's authority to protect actual antiquities without the threat of disenfranchising people." Bishop writes that "if my Democratic colleagues are serious about their calls for accountability, they will support this bill."

California Wildfires Continue To Rage As Death Toll Rises To 21.

[NBC Nightly News](#) (10/11, lead story, 2:30, Holt) reported that three days have passed with "still no control" of the 22 wildfires burning across California, which have resulted in at least 21 dead and 3,500 businesses and homes destroyed, especially in the wine country north of San Francisco. Winds were "picking up once again" Wednesday night, as new evacuations were underway and 8,000 firefighters battled the fires. Authorities "are dealing with hundreds of missing persons reports, complicated by destroyed cell towers," and officials "are seeing the worst air quality ever recorded in parts of the Bay Area."

[ABC World News Tonight](#) (10/11, lead story, 3:40, Muir) reported that whole neighborhoods have "turned to ashes" as firefighters race to contain the damage. Cal Fire Director Ken Pimlott described the fires as "literally burning faster than firefighters can run." As of Wednesday night, fires have burned through 170,000 acres, and new evacuation orders in Sonoma and Napa Counties were declared. At least 73 cell towers have been destroyed, and winds around Santa Rosa were forecast to gust up to 40 miles per hour.

The [CBS Evening News](#) (10/11, lead story, 2:40, Mason) reported Pimlott called the fires "a serious, critical, catastrophic event." Cal Fire Battalion Chief Jonathan Cox praised firefighters' efforts and their "real sense of purpose and mission," but expressed concern that the fires could be "pushed in other directions." Nearly 400 people have been reported missing.

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (10/11, Willon) reports that officials "fear that strong winds forecast for Wednesday evening and Thursday morning will spread embers from the deadly Tubbs fire to populated areas of Santa Rosa and Calistoga that have so far been spared the flames."

The [New York Times](#) (10/11, A1, Fuller, Pérez-Peña, Bromwich) reports that survivors have "told of narrow escapes from walls of flame that seemed to erupt from nowhere on Sunday night and Monday morning, forcing them to run even before text

messages and other alerts were sent out by emergency warning systems.”

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/11, Lazo, Ailworth, Lovett) reports that California Gov. Jerry Brown said Wednesday that the cost of the fires will reach “tens of billions” of dollars, and that the wildfires were “one of the biggest” in the state’s history. More than 60,000 people have fled their homes.

Zinke’s Mix Of Fundraisers, Government Work Raises New Ethics Concerns.

□ [Rochester \(NY\) Spectrum News](#) (10/11, 4:55 p.m. ET) reported that “a growing number of [President Trump’s] Cabinet members are facing questions about using taxpayer money to take private or government jets instead of commercial flights. ... At least five Cabinet members are now under investigation by their department’s inspectors general: [Energy Secretary Rick] Perry, [Treasury Secretary Steven] Mnuchin, EPA Secretary Scott Pruitt, VA Secretary David Shulkin, and Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke.”

□ [KHNL-TV Honolulu](#) (10/11, 6:06 a.m. HT) reported, “The new travel scandal is Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke. He attended political events while pretending to travel on official business. Zinke initially did not disclose that a so-called business trip included a \$3,000-per-person skiing trip fundraiser. He also flew on official business to a political fundraiser in St. Croix.”

Additional coverage of the concerns raised over Zinke’s attendance of fundraisers while on government business trips was provided by [USA Today](#) (10/11), [Talking Points Memo](#) (10/11, Macneal), [MSNBC](#) (10/11), and [WCPO-TV Cincinnati](#) Cincinnati (10/11, Pulse, Biek).

Also reporting are [CNN](#) (10/11, Marsh, Wallace), [CNN](#) (10/12), the [Daily Caller](#) (10/11, Pearce), [MSNBC](#) (10/11), and [MSNBC](#) (10/11).

Trump’s Cabinet Can’t Seem To Stop Taking Private Planes. In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (10/11) criticizes Trump Cabinet members for what the Post describes as private travel at “exorbitant expense to taxpayers.” The Post particularly criticizes Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke for “spending \$12,375 on a charter flight from Las Vegas, where he spoke at the behest of a political patron, to his home state of Montana in June.” The Post adds that Energy Secretary Perry, Veterans Affairs Secretary Shulkin, and Treasury Secretary Mnuchin “are among at least seven Cabinet-level officials who have shunned the plebeian confines of readily available commercial planes in favor of private jets and military flights at public expense, sometimes to smart destinations in Europe and sometimes accompanied by their spouses – all at a total cost of millions of dollars.”

Secretary Of The Interior Visits Okefenokee Wildlife Refuge.

The [Charlton County \(GA\) Herald](#) (10/11) reports that on October 4, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke visited the Okefenokee Wildlife

Refuge. During his visit, "Zinke met with refuge and other local leaders from Charlton County."

[Keys Weekly \(FL\)](#) (10/11, Sanchez) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke also visited Everglades National Park. Pedro Ramos, superintendent of Everglades and Dry Tortugas national parks, said, "Secretary Zinke came to personally assess the damage caused by Hurricane Irma and ensure the well being of his NPS team in South Florida."

Local TV coverage was provided by [WBBH-TV](#) Fort Myers, FL (10/6), [WINK-TV](#) Fort Myers, FL (10/6), and [WPBF-TV](#) West Palm Beach, FL (10/5).

Scott, Putnam Make Pitch For Federal Aid After Hurricane Irma.

The [Sunshine State \(FL\) News](#) (10/11, Nielsen) reports that Florida Gov. Rick Scott and Commissioner of Agriculture Adam Putnam visited Washington, D.C. on Wednesday "to make the case for federal aid in the Sunshine State after Hurricane Irma swept through the state, causing extensive damage last month." According to the article, "meetings with FEMA agents, Department of the Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke [and] U.S. Department of Energy Secretary Rick Perry were all on tap for the governor on Wednesday."

Local TV coverage was provided by [WBBH-TV](#) Fort Myers, FL (10/11, 5:05 p.m. ET).

Zinke Violated Ethics Regs, Watchdog Says.

The [Daily Caller](#) (10/11, Pearce) reports that "a government watchdog group is calling for an ethics investigation into Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke after an endorsement Zinke made as a congressman two years ago was found on a fundraising firm's website." Campaign for Accountability "filed a request for investigation with the Office of Government Ethics Wednesday, claiming Zinke broke federal ethics regulations by using his office as secretary of the Interior to endorse a private business." ForthRight Strategy, "a fundraising firm hired by Zinke during his 2014 congressional race, featured an endorsement from Zinke on the front page of its website, according to CfA." However, the statement predates "when Zinke was nominated to serve as secretary of the Interior."

Bennet Asks Feds To Pay Counties Drilling Royalties.

The [Grand Junction \(CO\) Daily Sentinel](#) (10/12, Harmon) reports that "the federal government should move quickly to pay millions of dollars to four northwest Colorado counties, U.S. Sen. Michael Bennet, D-Colo., wrote to Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke." Bennet wrote to Zinke. "Colorado and its counties have been owed these royalties for far too long and we must resolve this issue. I ask you to take all available steps to ensure that this money, which rightfully belongs to the state of Colorado, is distributed as soon as possible. I also ask that you explore any options to deliver the funds directly to the relevant counties in order to avoid further

delays or reductions in the funds.”

Op-Ed: Utah Delegation Needs A Clear Message About Our Monuments.

In an op-ed for the [Deseret \(UT\) News](#) (10/11, Boling), Josh Boling, a teacher and naturalist, criticizes the review of recently designated national monuments. Boling claims that “this monument review was never about democratic process; if it were, it would have taken more than a few scant months to complete. It wasn’t about inclusivity; if it were, Zinke would have at least sat down at a table with the tribes, even if he had no intention of actually doing anything with their information. And it certainly wasn’t about transparency, or Zinke would have held at least a press conference to inform the public of what we already knew.”

Save The Bird, Save The Herd.

In an op-ed for the [Montana Standard](#) (10/12, Hadley), Kathy Hadley a board member of Montana Wildlife Federation, and board chair of the National Wildlife Federation, urges Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke “to support the sage-grouse conservation plans developed by the people who live in the West and know the land.” She also urges Zinke “to commit to working with all the governors from the west to implement science-based conservation plans and practices on our public lands that will protect sage-grouse habitats.” Hadley argues that “the sage grouse plans are the gold standard when it comes to conservation.”

Bureau Of Indian Affairs

Homeland Hero.

The [Flathead \(MT\) Beacon](#) (10/11, Scott) reports that “dozens” of “Native American veterans and active-duty members” have petitioned Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke to defend the Badger-Two Medicine. Tribal members, “as well as numerous conservation groups, are seeking to furnish the wild and sacred Badger-Two Medicine with permanent protections from oil and gas drilling.” Jesse DesRosier’s, a Pikuni (or Blackfeet) warrior and veteran of the United States Marines Corps, said, “The Badger-Two Medicine is our Vatican. It’s a temple for us, and it remains under attack.”

Bureau Of Indian Education

Family Sues Indian Boarding School In Pierre For Wrongful Death.

The [Sioux Falls \(SD\) Argus Leader](#) (10/11, Hult) reports that “the family of a girl who died after a suicide attempt at a federal Indian boarding school has filed a wrongful death lawsuit against the federal government.” Emerson Little Elk claims “the Pierre Indian

Learning Center's staff failed to adequately monitor his granddaughter, who had a history of depression and threats of suicide, and that the center's staff was slow to respond when they were informed of her suicide attempt in October 2015." According to the article, "the girl was 14 years old when the incident took place at the Pierre boarding school, which is overseen by the Department of Interior's Bureau of Indian Education."

Bureau Of Land Management

US Government Halts Wyoming Wild Horse Roundup Amid Dispute.

The [AP](#) (10/11, Gruver) reports that the Bureau of Land Management has "agreed to halt a Wyoming wild horse roundup amid a legal dispute over whether it should count foals toward the roundup quota." The BLM and "roundup opponents agreed in a court filing Tuesday the roundup would stop at 1,560 horses of all ages, a number the BLM was set to reach Wednesday." Meanwhile, U.S. District Judge Nancy Freudenthal in Cheyenne was set to decide "within days whether to allow the roundup to resume while a lawsuit filed by the opponents moves ahead."

BLM Has Gathered 1,062 Horses & 269 Foals So Far; 12 Deaths.

[SweetwaterNOW \(WY\)](#) (10/11, Glennemeier) reports that "the Bureau of Land Management Rock Springs and Rawlins field offices have been working on gathering wild horses out of the Adobe Town, Salt Wells Creek, and Great Divide Basin areas." According to the article, "in total so far as of October 10, the project has gathered 1,062 adults horses, 269 foals, and returned 4 animals to the range." Also, "twelve horses been euthanized, all categorized as having chronic or pre-existing conditions diagnosed with a prognosis of 'hopeless for recovery' by a veterinarian."

Nevada's Heller, Laxalt Join Sandoval In Supporting Sage Grouse Decision.

[Nevada Appeal](#) (10/11) reports that Sen. Dean Heller and Nevada Attorney General Adam Laxalt have joined Nevada Gov. Brian Sandoval in "applauding the BLM decision to cancel withdrawal of federal lands in six western states." Laxalt said, "I am gratified that the BLM has accepted our basic argument, which is that we can balance conservation of the sage grouse without injuring the economic lifeblood of Nevada's local communities."

BLM Crew Clears Graffiti Off Black Cliffs.

[KTVB-TV](#) Boise, ID (10/11, Parris) reports that Bureau of Land Management crews are "working to restore a popular rock climbing spot that was tagged with graffiti earlier this year." Vandals hit "the Black Cliffs climbing area near Lucky Peak in March, leaving behind

purple, red, and white spray paint all over the cliff face." Workers "used pressure washers and environmentally-friendly chemicals to strip the paint off the rocks Wednesday."

Bureau Of Ocean Energy Management

U.S. Mulls "Astro Act" For Offshore Oil And Gas.

[Maritime Executive](#) (10/11) reports that a House subcommittee met on Wednesday to review a draft bill that aims to ease offshore drilling in federal waters while also steering revenues to certain coastal states, known as the "Accessing Strategic Resources Offshore Act," or "ASTRO Act." The legislation "establishes revenue sharing for states in the Mid and Southern Atlantic planning areas, in an attempt to fairly compensate the qualifying producing states, and to ensure disbursement certainty into the future." In addition, it "adds flexibility to the national oil and gas leasing process by giving the Secretary of the Interior the authority to conduct lease sales in areas excluded from approved 5 Year Plans." The act "also limits the president's authority to withdraw OCS areas from leasing and to combine the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) and the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE)."

In an op-ed for [Marine Link](#) (10/11, Luthi), National Ocean Industries Association (NOIA) president Randall Luthi supports the ASTRO Act. According to Luthi, "the ASTRO Act provides a path towards the multi-generational American energy dominance that the U.S. and the world needs."

Fish And Wildlife Service

250 Years After Washington Drained It, Feds Soak A Swamp.

The [AP](#) (10/11, Finley) reports that "the U.S. government is trying to undo the damage from two centuries of logging at the Great Dismal Swamp." According to the article, "a years-long project is under way to make the swamp wet again" in the refuge, "where ditches dug to reach lumber dried out the peat, releasing climate-changing carbon and making wildfires more frequent."

Additional coverage was provided by [WCAV-TV](#) Charlottesville, VA (10/11, Finley) and [WUNC-FM](#) Chapel Hill, NC (10/11, Michaels).

The Battle Over Alaska Refuge Oil Reignites Under Trump.

The [High Country \(CO\) News](#) (10/11, Worby) reports that "on Oct. 5, the House of Representatives passed a budget resolution that includes a push to open the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge's coastal plain to drilling." Following the House vote, the Senate Budget Committee "passed a similar bill, with a vote expected in the Senate later this month." Meanwhile, the Trump Administration has "renewed efforts to allow drilling for oil and gas in the Arctic Refuge as part of a larger push for American energy independence."

GOP's Hunt For Revenue Revives Longtime Fight Over Arctic Oil Drilling.

[National Journal](#) (10/11, Plautz) reports the GOP's hunt for new sources of revenue has restarted the partisan debate over oil and gas drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Both chambers' budget directed that natural resources committees to produce legislation increasing federal revenue to offset tax reform cuts. However, Democrats and some Republicans have opposed opening the ANWR as a revenue source, citing the potential environmental damage to the region. Franz Matzner, deputy director of the NRDC, said, "The scale is a drop in the bucket of the broader budget and tax-reform process. ... There's only one excuse to look at our remaining natural resources for development, and that is ideological."

Gov. Baker Issues Support For Chatham In Monomoy Dispute.

The [Cape Cod \(MA\) News](#) (10/11, Merchant) reports that "the Town of Chatham recently received the support of Governor Charlie Baker in its effort to regain control of about 4,000 acres of submerged lands and waters taken last year by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service." Baker sent a letter to the House Committee on Natural Resources endorsing a bill filed by Rep. William Keating "which would solve the disputed western boundary of the Monomoy National Wildlife Refuge." The governor's endorsement "comes after he received a petition this summer from the town with more than 1,000 signatures seeking support."

Another Victim Of Hurricane Maria: Puerto Rico's Treasured Rainforest.

The [New York Times](#) (10/11, Ferré-sadurní) reports that Hurricane Maria "obliterated" El Yunque National Forest, "the only tropical rain forest in the United States forest system." The forest "has been an enormous source of pride in Puerto Rico and one of the main drivers of the island's tourism industry." Also, "the livelihood of the Puerto Rican parrot, an endangered species living in El Yunque and Río Abajo State Forest, is of special concern." Marisel López, leader of the Puerto Rican Parrot Recovery Program of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, said, "The Puerto Rican parrot is an iconic species of the island. It's our legacy."

Martha Stewart Boasts She 'Always' Carries Shawl That May Be Made From Endangered Species When She Travels.

[CNBC](#) (10/11, Mangan) reports that Martha Stewart "boasted in an interview published Wednesday of 'always' traveling with 'a very comfortable shawl' – a shawl that, if it is what she originally said it is, is illegal for Americans to own or travel with because it is made from the hair of slaughtered endangered Tibetan antelopes." Stewart included the "shahtoosh" in a New York Times story entitled "What Martha Stewart Can't Travel Without." But when told

about article, "a top official at the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, said that if, in fact, Stewart owns an shawl that is actually made from shahtoosh: 'That would be an issue.'" In response to a request for comment, Stewart said, "I should have said shahtoosh-like, which is what I meant."

Feeding Endangered Key Deer Could Kill Them, Federal Wildlife Managers Say.

The [Miami Herald](#) (10/11, Staletovich) reports that federal wildlife managers in the Florida Keys are asking residents to refrain from "feeding the endangered deer." According to the article, "since Irma washed over Cudjoe Key Sept. 10, pushing a storm surge that submerged much of the Lower Keys including the National Key Deer Refuge on Big Pine, residents who have long tended to the deer like beloved pets began putting out water and food, fearful that saltwater contaminated foraging grounds." Officials are concerned "that putting out dog food or grains not naturally in the deer's diet could bring more harm and in recent weeks have repeated warnings about feeding them."

Wildlife Officials Asking Oklahomans To Help Protect Bats From Deadly Disease.

[KFOR-TV](#) Oklahoma City (10/11) reports that "wildlife officials are warning Oklahomans to take precautions and protect bats from a deadly disease." Earlier this year, scientists with the U.S. Geological Survey "confirmed that a tricolored bat in Delaware County tested positive for white-nose syndrome." National White-nose Syndrome Coordinator Jeremy Coleman of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service said, "It's troubling that white-nose syndrome continues to push west and threatens the Ozark Plateau, a stronghold for bat conservation. We are focused on finding solutions and helping bats survive. We're committed to working with Oklahoma and other partners across the country to closely monitor bats and fight this devastating disease."

National Park Service

Rainbow Flag Flies At US Monument, But Not On Federal Land.

The [AP](#) (10/11) reports that "gay rights activists who worked to get a rainbow flag installed permanently at the newly created Stonewall National Monument are upset the National Park Service says the flag isn't actually on federal land but on property owned by the city." To the group that had pushed for the flag to be added to the site, the NPS' "surprise announcement that the city, not the federal government, would be maintaining the flag and its pole seemed like a betrayal." The NPS "denied that any slight was intended, but the dispute threatened to dim the mood at the dedication ceremony, in Manhattan's Greenwich Village."

Also reporting are the [Washington Post](#) (10/11, Eilperin,

Fears), the [New York Daily News](#) (10/11, Blau), and [WCBS-TV New York](#) New York (10/11).

Indiana Awards \$275,000 To Boost 7 Preservation Projects.

The [AP](#) (10/11) reports that Indiana is “awarding more than \$275,000 to give a boost to seven preservation projects around the state.” The state Department of Natural Resources “says the grants from the National Park Service will be matched by \$249,000 in local and private funds.”

Trump’s Pro-Coal Agenda Is A Blow For Clean Air Efforts At Texas’ Big Bend Park.

[The Guardian \(UK\)](#) (10/11, Dart) reports that environmental advocates are concerned that the Trump Administration’s “pro-coal agenda will derail the prospects” of improving the air quality at Big Bend National Park. The article notes that “Tuesday’s announcement that the EPA plans to abandon the 2015 Clean Power Plan to reduce carbon emissions came less than two weeks after the agency revealed a revised plan to combat regional haze in Texas and Oklahoma that critics say will do little to cut pollution.”

Oldest Buildings In Hartford’s Colt Complex Will Be Donated For Park Visitor Center.

The [Hartford \(CT\) Courant](#) (10/10, Gosselin) reports that “the developers of the former Colt manufacturing complex have reached an agreement that clears the way for donating two brownstone sheds for a visitor center for a new national park in the city.” The agreement with the National Park Service is expected to be signed Wednesday. However, “perhaps as much as a year’s worth of work is still needed before the Coltsville National Historical Park will officially open.”

Residents Talk With RMNP Superintendent During Mayor’s Chat.

The [Estes Park \(CO\) Trail-Gazette](#) (10/11, Clemens) reports that “the monthly mayor’s chat was held at Latitude 105 last Friday morning, where special guest Darla Sidles, Superintendent of Rocky Mountain National Park (RMNP) was there to talk with Estes Park residents and answer any questions they had.” Much of the conversation “centered about the growing number of visitors to RMNP each year, with about a 40 percent increase in visits from just a few years ago.” Sidles said, “The Park has done a great job at finding short-term solution. But the overcrowding is our no. 1 issue, and it is affecting our visitor experience.” She added, “We have to set visitor expectations, and continue to get the word out that planning is the best option to have a positive experience.”

Yellowstone Visitation Down During Snowy September.

The [AP](#) (10/11) reports that “an early shot of winter weather depressed recreational visits in Yellowstone National Park during

the month of September." According to the National Park Service, "just over 640,000 people visited Yellowstone in September." The figure was "down about 8.8 percent from September 2016, when the park recorded more than 700,000 recreational visits." Still, the NPS "says Yellowstone saw its third busiest September on record in the park."

Office Of Insular Affairs

Trump Says He's "Tougher" On North Korea Than Other Officials.

The [Washington Times](#) (10/11, Boyer) reports President Trump said Wednesday that he is taking a "tougher" approach on North Korea than some of his advisers." Perhaps I feel stronger and tougher on that subject than other people," Trump told reporters in the Oval Office. "I listen to everybody, but ultimately my attitude is the one that matters." He added, "Ultimately, I will do what's right for the United States and really what's right for the world," the president said. "That's really a world problem. And it's a problem that has to be solved."

[Reuters](#) (10/11) reports Trump yesterday also "appeared to confirm he had North Korea in mind last week when he described a gathering of military leaders as 'the calm before the storm.'" In an interview with Fox News, Trump was asked what he meant with the cryptic phrase. Trump told [Fox News' Hannity](#) (10/11), "We can't let this go on. We just can't. You can say what you want. That should have been handled 25 years ago, and 10 years ago, and five years ago. It should have been handled by numerous, not just Obama, but certainly President Obama should have taken care of that. Now it's at a point where it's very, very far advanced. Something has to be done. We can't allow this to happen."

North Korea: Trump Has "Lit The Wick Of War." Wolf Blitzer reported on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (10/11) that North Korean Foreign Minister Ri Yong Ho "said President Trump has 'lit the wick of war,'" and that Trump's speech at the UN was "bellicose and insane." Blitzer [added](#) that Ri "said any sanction resolution, any additional sanctions, is equivalent to an act of aggression and war...and they will do what is necessary." Ri, [USA Today](#) (10/11, Durando) reports, also said North Korea's forces have "inexhaustible power that won't leave aggressor state America unpunished."

Sen. Ed Markey said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (10/11) that Americans "should all be very concerned" as the rhetoric between Trump and North Korea escalates. He argues such talk is "moving us towards a situation where there could be an accidental war that gets triggered, potentially by Kim, who has a paranoia about our desire to...decapitate his regime." Markey said "there is no military option" – "the only option that we have is to impose much tougher trade sanctions" – and "yet the President just seems to have

dismissed it. He insults Tillerson" and "anyone else who talks about diplomacy."

Rep. Ted Yoho said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (10/11), "I don't believe President Trump lit the wick for this." He argued that North Korea has always been the "aggressor," and that dating back to the Clinton Administration, "diplomacy was tried and repeatedly failed." Despite that assessment, Yoho also said the goal "is to put sanctions on North Korea, have the world buy into it...and get that diplomatic end to this."

Rep. Adam Kinzinger, however, said on [CNN's The Lead](#) (10/11), "I think the way [Trump's] handling North Korea is actually really good because you finally have a stick being shown, a stick option to back up the potential for a carrot and get a diplomatic solution to this thing."

US Flies Bombers Over Korean Peninsula. [Reuters](#) (10/11, Kim, Beech) reports the US military flew two strategic bombers over the Korean Peninsula "in a show of force late on Tuesday," as President Trump met top defense officials to discuss "how to respond to any threat from North Korea." The White House said in a statement that Trump was briefed by Defense Secretary Mattis and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Joseph Dunford at a national security team meeting.

Hurricane: Pence Pledges A Bigger, Better US Virgin Islands.

The [St. Kitts & Nevis Observer](#) (10/9, Ehrlich) reports that during his visit to the US Virgin Islands, Vice President Pence said "that the White House is committed to assisting in rebuilding the US territory 'bigger and better' in the wake of two devastating hurricanes." Gov. Kenneth Mapp "welcomed Pence, his wife, Karen, and other Cabinet members, including Transportation Secretary Elaine Chao, to St Croix prior to an official briefing at the Henry E. Rohlsen Airport." Mapp "said the assistance of the federal government has made it possible for schools to plan reopening and the private sector to begin to get back on its feet just two weeks after Hurricane Maria and 30 days after Hurricane Irma."

AXA Financial Extends Grace Periods On Policies.

[InsuranceNewsNet](#) (10/9, Tuohy) reports that "four AXA Financial insurers have relaxed the premium payment grace period for life, health and disability policyholders throughout Florida, U.S. Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico in the wake of hurricanes Irma and Maria." According to AXA, "premium payments toward contracts underwritten by AXA Equitable Life, (formerly The Equitable Life Assurance Society of the U.S.), AXA Equitable Life and Annuity Co. (formerly The Equitable of Colorado), MONY Life and U.S. Financial Life are eligible for the grace period."

16 Graduate From Inaugural Conservation Academy.

The [Guam Daily Post](#) (10/9) reports that "sixteen individuals graduated from the first Guam Community College Regional Marine

& Terrestrial Conservation Law Enforcement Academy, trained in ways to protect the environment and combat human trafficking." The graduates were "recognized for completing the nearly three-month training during a special ceremony on Oct. 6 at the Pacific Star Hotel in Tumon." The article notes that "funding for this first-of-its-kind academy was obtained from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, U.S. Department of the Interior Office of Insular Affairs, U.S. Forest Service's PIPTIEM Program, USAID's Project Ready Program, the FSM Congress and the Raymond James Asia Pacific Group, through the Micronesian Conservation Trust, according to a press release from GCC."

US Geological Survey

Fire Island Breach Stable 5 Years After Sandy, Study Finds.

The [Long Island \(NY\) Press](#) (10/11, Bolger) reports that "five years after Sandy breached Fire Island, the new channel between the Atlantic and Great South Bay is shifting, but stable and unlikely to increase bay-front storm flooding, a new study found." The U.S. Geological Survey "made the findings in what the federal agency billed as one of the most detailed scientific studies ever conducted of the early stages in the life of a barrier island breach." Cheryl Hapke, "a USGS oceanographer, FI erosion expert and lead author of the report released last month," said, "Storm strikes are the force that drives the geomorphology – the geologic shape and evolution – of barrier islands along the Northeast coast. But until this event, no one ever had the opportunity to watch a breach open and evolve, and to study that process in depth."

USGS Evaluates Withlacoochee High Water Marks.

The [Hernando \(FL\) Sun](#) (10/11) reports that "eight USGS field crews traveled around the Jacksonville, Tampa and Fort Myers areas last week looking for evidence that tell scientists how high the flood waters and storm surge from Hurricane Irma reached." One crew was "able to make it to Hernando County to evaluate the Withlacoochee River." The USGS said, "High water mark data collected from Hurricane Irma will allow FEMA to revise its current maps for the affected areas."

Additional Reading.

- *Funding For Black Hills Stream Gauges Dies On Fourth Vote Since May.* [Rapid City \(SD\) Journal](#) (10/11, Tupper).
- *Texas Tech Researchers Working On Natural Controls For Golden Alga.* [High Plains and Midwest AG \(KS\) Journal](#) (10/11, Perkins).
- *There's Gold In Them Thar Sewage Pipes, Swiss Researchers Say : The Two-Way :* [NPR](#). [NPR](#) (10/11, Domonoske).
- *What California Needs To Learn From The Mexico Earthquakes.*

[Forbes](#) (10/11, Choudhary).

Top National News

Media Analyses: Trump Threatens Free Press With Reaction To NBC Report.

All three broadcast networks covered President Trump's criticism of an NBC [report](#) (10/11, Kube) stating that he called for a tenfold increase in the size of the US nuclear arsenal during a July meeting, and the President's seeming suggestion that media outlets should face the loss of broadcast licenses for such reporting. The latter thread of the story gets the most attention and it is universally negative, with multiple outlets comparing Trump's words to President Nixon's abuse of power against the media, questioning Trump's commitment to the First Amendment, and noting that federal broadcast licenses do not exist.

[NBC Nightly News](#) (10/11, story 3, 2:40, Holt) reported that Trump made comments "about the size of the US nuclear arsenal...that stunned a top secret meeting shortly before the Secretary of State called him a 'moron.' The President dismissed our reporting, saying it's not true and that our sources are made up. Those sources, however, do exist. In fact, three of them were in the room when the President talked about dramatically increasing the number of US nukes." Trump: "No, I never discussed increasing it. We won't need an increase. But I want modernization, and I want total rehabilitation. It's got to be in tip-top shape." NBC's Kristen Welker: "But three officials present in the room say the [July 20] meeting was at times tense, including when the President was shown a chart of the history of the nuclear arsenal peaking in the late 1960s at more than 32,000 weapons. The President told his team he wanted the US to have that many. The current number stands at 4,000. ... In disputing the NBC News report, the President took the extraordinary step of appearing to attack the First Amendment, [tweeting](#) about NBC and the networks, 'At what point is it appropriate to challenge their license?'" Ten hours after that initial tweet, Trump [tweeted](#), "Network news has become so partisan, distorted and fake that licenses must be challenged and, if appropriate, revoked. Not fair to public!"

On [ABC World News Tonight](#) (10/11, story 6, 2:10, Muir), Jonathan Karl reported that the President's Wednesday comment was "actually a change from December, when he [tweeted](#), 'The United States must greatly strengthen and expand its nuclear capability until such time as the world comes to its senses regarding nukes.' Today, the President didn't just dispute the NBC report, but went so far as to question their right to report it." Trump: "And it's frankly disgusting the way the press is able to write whatever they want to write. And people should look into it." Karl: "And on Twitter, he seemed to make a threat: 'With all of the fake new coming out of NBC and the networks, at what point is it

appropriate to challenge their license? Bad for country!” In a 30-second item, the [CBS Evening News](#) (10/11, story 4, 0:30, Mason) called those comments “a page out of the Nixon playbook, which included license challenges and threats of antitrust suits against the networks.”

[USA Today](#) (10/11, Estepa) reports, “Angry over a story that said he wanted to increase the country’s nuclear arsenal, President Trump charged on Wednesday that NBC and other news networks should have their licenses challenged.” The [Washington Post](#) (10/11, Nakamura) reports that the President “threatened NBC over a news report he called ‘pure fiction.’” The President “has previously challenged NBC’s reporting on the meeting, including a revelation” that Tillerson “referred to the president as a ‘moron’ after the meeting and considered resigning from the Cabinet.”

The [New York Times](#) (10/11, Baker, Kang) reports that the President “threatened” NBC, drawing “criticism that the president was using his office to undermine First Amendment guarantees of free speech and free press. And, in fact, the networks themselves – and their news departments – do not hold federal licenses, though individual affiliates do.” Like CBS, the Times also compared Trump to Nixon, who “told advisers to make it difficult for The Washington Post to renew the F.C.C. license for a Florida television station it owned.” The [Los Angeles Times](#) (10/11, Bierman, Bennett) similarly writes that Trump “has threatened press freedoms before, but on Wednesday, he went a step further: suggesting that television networks lose their federal broadcast licenses for what he considers ‘fake news.’” The Times also says the threat “recall[ed] for many the threats of President Richard M. Nixon.”

[Politico](#) (10/11, Nelson, McGill) reports, “Trump lashed out at NBC, appearing to make a threat that is not even possible, given that the Federal Communications Commission doesn’t directly license networks.” The [Daily Caller](#) (10/11, Ross) says that “any attempt to take NBC News or other networks off the air would be nearly impossible,” and [Bloomberg News](#) (10/11, Shields) says that Trump can “probably not” do that, “in part because the NBC network he attacked has no licenses (which are issued to TV stations) and in part because the federal government cannot legally police political speech.”

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/11, Bender) also reports that Trump denied calling for the massive increase in the nuclear arsenal. [Reuters](#) (10/11), the [Washington Times](#) (10/11, Boyer, Persons), and [The Hill](#) (10/11, Easley) have straightforward accounts of the President’s remarks.

Mattis Calls NBC Report “False” And “Erroneous.” The [Washington Examiner](#) (10/11, Brown) reports that Defense Secretary Mattis also challenged the report, saying, “Recent reports that the President called for an increase in the US nuclear arsenal are absolutely false. This kind of erroneous reporting is irresponsible.” The [Daily Caller](#) (10/11, Pickrell) and [Townhall](#) (10/11, Brown) also cover Mattis’ statement.

Sasse Asks If Trump Is “Recanting” Oath To Defend First

Amendment. The [Washington Examiner](#) (10/11, Correll) reports that Sen. Ben Sasse “is questioning whether President Trump is still committed to preserving the First Amendment after he repeatedly floated retribution against the media for publishing stories he doesn’t like.” In a statement, Sasse said, “Mr. President: Words spoken by the President of the United States matter. Are you tonight recanting of the oath you took on January 20th to preserve, protect, and defend the First Amendment?”

White House Says Trump’s Relations With Tillerson Are Fine.

Sara Murray reported on [CNN’s Situation Room](#) (10/11) that Trump on Wednesday “downplayed any talk of tension between himself and his Secretary of State as old news, something that happened last week.” Murray continued: “In fact, the White House does say the President had lunch with Secretary Tillerson yesterday.” Kellyanne Conway said on [Fox News’ America’s Newsroom](#) (10/11) that the President “has confidence in his secretary of state and his entire Cabinet. They met yesterday for lunch and they are in touch very closely as you can imagine as any president and secretary of state are.”

NYTimes Says Congress Should Limit Trump’s Ability To Launch Nuclear Attack. The [New York Times](#) (10/11) editorializes, “The broad debate over President Trump’s fitness for the difficult and demanding office he holds has recently been reframed in a more pointed and urgent way: Does he understand, and can he responsibly manage, the most destructive nuclear arsenal on earth?” The Times writes that “Congress has been sufficiently alarmed to consider legislation that would bar the president from launching a first nuclear strike without a declaration of war by Congress,” which is “a sound idea [that] could be made stronger with a requirement that the secretaries of defense and state also approve any such decision.”

Trump Pitches Tax Plan To Truckers In Pennsylvania.

Coverage of President Trump’s stop outside Harrisburg, PA to promote his tax reform plan is heaviest in print and local media, with only one broadcast network airing a brief report. Reports stress the President’s pitch to truck drivers as he tries to portray the plan as beneficial to the middle class – and not a boon for the wealthiest. Some reports also say that Trump chose Pennsylvania hoping to put pressure on Democratic Sen. Bob Casey, who is up for re-election next year in a state Trump carried in 2016.

[ABC World News Tonight](#) (10/11, story 8, 0:50, Muir) reported that the President was in Pennsylvania “talking about his proposed tax plan, and making some new promises about how much middle class families would save under the plan.” ABC’s Cecilia Vega: “President Trump says the typical American family will save \$4,000 – a ‘pay raise,’ he is calling this. He is claiming this will come from cuts to the corporate tax rate. But this is a tax reform plan...with few details right now. Some experts say it’s actually the

top one percent of income earners who will earn and win the most out of this plan, and it will add trillions to the federal deficit.”

The [Harrisburg \(PA\) Patriot-News](#) (10/11) reports that after the “tax reform plan initially was skewered by critics as a boon for the wealthy,” the President “took a deliberate blue-collar approach to present his proposed tax cuts in the Harrisburg area.” At an airport stop near Harrisburg, “he invited groups of truckers, staged rigs as a backdrop and presented his framework for an overhaul of the country’s tax code in terms of how it would affect truckers.” Trump said, “Our framework ensures that the benefits of tax reform go to the middle class, not to the highest earners. It’s a middle-class bill.”

The [Allentown \(PA\) Morning Call](#) (10/11, Olson) reports that the President promoted the plan “as a proposal that will benefit Pennsylvania truckers and trucking company officials seeking to pass on their businesses to their children.” He told a crowd of about 1,000, “When your trucks are moving, America is growing.”

[Transport Topics](#) (10/11, Lamb) reports that “representatives from trucking companies, many of which are family-owned, expressed enthusiasm at the prospect of ending the estate tax,” saying that would make it easier to keep businesses in their families.

[WPMT-TV](#) Harrisburg, PA (10/11, 10:05 p.m. EDT) reported that Trump “focused on the trucking industry, which he called a critical partner in keeping the American economy running and competing with other countries.” [WHTM-TV](#) Harrisburg, PA (10/11, 11:02 p.m. EDT) reported, “You could say the President was preaching to the choir. a thousand invited guests, mostly pro-business. He was warmly received as he talked taxes, trucks and truckers.” [WGAL-TV](#) Lancaster, PA (10/11, 11:01 p.m. EDT) reported that Trump “rebuffed critics who claim his plan is a big win for the wealthy.”

The [AP](#) (10/11, Lucey, Boak) reports, “Trump has left it up to Congress to fill in many specifics of his plan, which omits details such as the income levels for his new tax brackets. The outreach to truckers in Pennsylvania is an attempt to give a blue-collar appeal to a framework that outside tax analysts say would largely favor the wealthy.” The President told the truckers, “You’re going to make more money. You’re going to do better than ever before. And we truly admire you. You are our heroes, believe me. You are our heroes.” Charles Hurt of the Washington Times said on [Fox News Special Report](#) (10/11), “This is by far the most populist presidency we’ve had in modern times. I don’t ever remember a president campaigning or hosting an event with long-haul truck drivers.”

[Philly \(PA\)](#) (10/11, Whelan) reports that Trump stuck “mostly to the words on a TelePrompter,” and “stayed away from the distractions that have muddled his message in recent days: the fight over NFL players kneeling in protest during the national anthem, for instance; the dispute with Secretary of State Rex Tillerson, who had called the president a “moron,” over the two

men's respective IQs; and his Twitter-sniping with ESPN."

The [Washington Post](#) (10/11, Paletta, Wagner) reports that the speech "came just one week before Senate Republicans must decide whether to pave the way for his tax plan." With Sen. Rand Paul "expected to oppose the budget resolution, as he has traditionally voted against any budget that doesn't eliminate the deficit," the Administration will need near-unanimity among other Senate Republicans, or some Democratic support. [The Hill](#) (10/11, Fabian, Jagoda) reports that Sen. Bob Corker has also "pledged not to vote for a tax bill if it adds to the deficit."

The [Washington Times](#) (10/11, Miller) reports that the Pennsylvania venue was chosen "in part to put pressure" on Casey. [Politico](#) (10/11, Nussbaum) says the speech "did not include any sustained appeal to Democrats," but the [New York Times](#) (10/11, Baker) headlines its report "In Pennsylvania, Trump Hunts For Democratic Support For Tax Plan," writing that the President "took his campaign for tax cuts to another key battleground state on Wednesday in search of elusive Democratic votes" as he argued that the plan "would benefit middle-class Americans, like truck drivers, more than it would help his fellow business tycoons." Casey, however, posted [dozens of tweets](#) Wednesday that were critical of the plan. The [Washington Examiner](#) (10/11, Weaver) reports that Trump touted Rep. Lou Barletta (R-PA), who is challenging Casey, saying, "He's going to win. You're going to win big."

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (10/11, Mascaro, Puzzanghera) reports that as the President "hit the road Wednesday to promote the plan, Republicans in Congress were quietly discussing scaling back key provisions in an effort to deliver the top White House priority. There's already talk that the cornerstone of the GOP proposal – a dramatically reduced 20% corporate tax rate that Trump has called a 'red line' – may slip to 22% or 23%," with Republicans reporting "resistance from lawmakers and lobbyists who want to preserve deductions and loopholes that were targeted for elimination" to offset "the massive corporate cut from the current 35% rate."

House Republicans from Pennsylvania were on hand for the speech. Rep. Patrick Meehan (R-PA) [tweeted](#), "Pleased to be on hand for @POTUS speech on #TaxReform in PA – strong focus on what tax reform means for middle class & small business jobs". Rep. Lloyd Smucker (R-PA) [tweeted](#), "Great to be in Harrisburg for #taxreform today. @realDonaldTrump is right: make tax code simple, honest, and fair for all Americans."

[USA Today](#) (10/11, Shannon, Lee, Machcinski, Long, Heisey) reports, "Before the event, a group of about 20 protesters had been parked in a private parking lot just outside the fencing of Harrisburg International Airport." They "were asked by airport police to move their vehicles to a location about a half-mile from the staging area" and "moved their vehicles peacefully, but only two returned for when President Trump landed at the airport."

[Bloomberg News](#) (10/11, Olorunnipa, Epstein) also reports on the speech.

Trump: "It's A Massive Tax Cut." Trump said on [Fox News' Hannity](#) (10/11), "First of all, it's a massive tax cut. ... When we first introduced it, for years they talked about tax reform. The problem with the word 'reform,' nobody understands what it means. It could mean you raise taxes. This is the largest tax cut in the history of our country."

CEA Chairman: Trump Tax Cut Could Lift Wages By \$4,000 Per Year. The [Washington Free Beacon](#) (10/11, Meyer) reports that Council of Economic Advisers Chairman Kevin Hassett, speaking at a Washington event on tax reform, said "a tax cut like the one President Trump is proposing could potentially lift wages by about \$4,000." Hassett said, "Over the last eight years the average real income growth was only about 0.6% per year. That's just not fast enough. ... What President Trump wants the team to do is come up with a plan that fixes that."

Politico Analysis: Tax Cuts That Do Not Benefit Wealthiest Hard To Craft. [Politico](#) (10/11, Faler) reports that while Trump "has promised that wealthy Americans won't get a massive tax cut as part of Republicans' plans to rewrite the tax code," that is hard to achieve, since "higher earners already shoulder most of the tax burden while average Americans pay a relatively small share of income taxes." That makes it "increasingly difficult to cut taxes, particularly tax rates, without favoring the rich."

[Reuters](#) (10/11, Becker, Morgan) reports that "about three-quarters of Americans say they believe the wealthiest people should pay more in taxes, Reuters/Ipsos polling shows." The survey found that 53% of adults "strongly agree" that the wealthiest Americans should pay higher tax rates," while another 23% "somewhat agree."

Cruz, Sanders To Debate Trump Tax Plan On CNN Next Week. [CNN](#) (10/11) reports that Sens. Ted Cruz and Bernie Sanders will debate Trump's efforts to overhaul the nation's tax code on CNN on October 18 at 9 pm ET. The debate will be moderated by Dana Bash and Jake Tapper.

Trump Says He'll Sign Measure Allowing Healthcare Purchases Across State Lines.

[Breitbart](#) (10/11, Poor) report that President Trump "offered a preview of his forthcoming action on health care" during an interview on [Fox News' Hannity](#) Wednesday. Trump said, "We are going to have great health across state lines. ... It will cost the government nothing. Private insurance – incredible health care. I tell you what, this will take it and I can sign it myself, I don't need anybody. I would have done it earlier, except I was hoping they were going to put this through and we would have it in the bill. We are signing tomorrow a health care package that will cover – people say 30 percent or 25 percent in some people say 50 percent. It will cover a large percentage of people."

The [New York Times](#) (10/11, A1, Pear, Abelson) reports that Trump is expected to sign an executive order Thursday “to relax health care standards on small businesses that band together to buy health insurance and may take steps to allow the sale of other health plans that skirt the health law’s requirements.” While he “has been telegraphing his intentions for more than a week, Democrats and some state regulators are now greeting the move with increasing alarm, calling it another attempt to undermine” the ACA. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/11, Radnofsky, Armour, Mathews) says in a front-page story that while it will take months for the changes in the executive order to take effect, it is the biggest change to healthcare since Trump was elected.

Trump: “We Have To Get Something In Return” For DACA Deal.

President Trump said on [Fox News’ Hannity](#) (10/11), “We have 800,000 people. They are not necessarily young. A lot of people think they are children. They average from 16 to 39 or so. A lot of these people are in the military. They have jobs. I fully understand it, but if we are going to do something, we have to get something in return. What I want is tremendous border regulation, I want the wall, and we are going to get other things. We are going to see if we can work something out. Whether or not we do, I don’t know. It would be wonderful to solve the DACA problem.”

Trump Could Have Direct Role In Selecting Border Wall Winner.

The [Washington Times](#) (10/11, Dinan) reports that a spokesman for DHS said Wednesday that the President may have a direct role in selecting the winning border wall prototype from among eight contenders currently being constructed and tested by the Department. Trump “was prohibited by contracting law from being involved in the selection of the eight finalists,” but “he could be involved in picking the final best designs – though it’s not year clear what role he will play, said David Lapan, the spokesman.” [Axios](#) (10/11, Britzky) shows pictures of four border wall prototypes that were tweeted Wednesday by the San Diego division of Customs and Border Protection.

Samuelson: Build Wall To Prevent Deportation Of Dreamers.

Robert Samuelson writes in the [Washington Post](#) (10/11) that the wall should be built “and, in doing so, prevent an estimated 690,000 DACA ‘dreamers’ from being deported from the United States.” Samuelson argues that if Trump is to go back on a campaign promise to eliminate the DACA program, “he needs something big in return. This could be the wall.”

Editorial Wrap-Up

New York Times.

“Mr. Trump Alone Can Order A Nuclear Strike. Congress Can Change That.” The [New York Times](#) (10/11) editorializes, “The broad debate over President Trump’s fitness for the difficult and demanding office he holds has recently been reframed in a more pointed and urgent way: Does he understand, and can he responsibly manage, the most destructive nuclear arsenal on earth?” The Times writes that “Congress has been sufficiently alarmed to consider legislation that would bar the president from launching a first nuclear strike without a declaration of war by Congress,” which is “a sound idea [that] could be made stronger with a requirement that the secretaries of defense and state also approve any such decision.”

“Biggest Loser At New York Mayoral Debate? The Voters.” In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (10/11) writes that Tuesday night’s debate among the three candidates for New York mayor offered few policy specifics, was by “loud and obnoxious” spectators and “endless audience shouting,” and resulted in no indisputable winner. The Times concludes that the biggest loser from the debate was the voters of New York.

Washington Post.

“The Culture Of Complicity Protecting Harvey Weinsteins Everywhere.” In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (10/11) says that while “the details of Mr. Weinstein’s actions are grotesque enough,” the “fact that his systematic abuse of power seems to have been an open secret” is “just as shocking.” The Post laments the “complicity” that “protects many Harvey Weinsteins in many industries,” and says the stories from Weinstein’s alleged victims “make clear the crucial role that those in positions of responsibility must play by denouncing misconduct when they see it and demanding accountability, rather than remaining quietly complicit.”

“The EPA Rips Up The Clean Power Plan.” In an editorial, [Washington Post](#) (10/11) criticizes EPA Administrator Pruitt’s decision to repeal the Clean Power Plan and argues that the rule’s elimination not only bypasses the fact that many, including the Supreme Court, had viewed the policy as legal, but also likely will lead to much fewer limits on carbon emissions. The Post describes Pruitt’s approach as “anti-scientific,” “ideological,” and “a betrayal of his office.”

“Trump’s Cabinet Can’t Seem To Stop Taking Private Planes.” In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (10/11) criticizes Trump Cabinet members for what the Post describes as private travel at “exorbitant expense to taxpayers.” The Post particularly criticizes Interior Secretary Zinke for “spending \$12,375 on a charter flight from Las Vegas, where he spoke at the behest of a political patron, to his home state of Montana in June.” The Post adds that Energy Secretary Perry, Veterans Affairs Secretary Shulkin, and Treasury Secretary Mnuchin “are among at least seven Cabinet-level officials who have shunned the plebeian confines of readily available commercial planes in favor of private jets and military flights at

public expense, sometimes to smart destinations in Europe and sometimes accompanied by their spouses – all at a total cost of millions of dollars.”

Wall Street Journal.

“An Air Traffic Winner.” In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/11) writes that House Republicans’ current plan to convert Federal Aviation Administration air-traffic control into an operation run by airlines, pilots, controllers, and other industry experts would help improve both the economy and travelers’ experience. The Journal argues that Republicans should seize the opportunity to pass the legislation while they have a President who wants reform as part of his infrastructure improvement plan.

“Senate Blue Slip Bluster.” A [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/11) editorial praises Senate Majority Leader McConnell’s decision to move forward on judicial nominees even if home-state Democratic senators don’t return the so-called ‘blue slips’ to the Judiciary Committee, arguing that Minority Leader Schumer is using the “blue slip” process, which is a courtesy, for political purposes.

“The Boy-Girl Scouts Of America.” In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/11) writes that the Boy Scouts of America’s decision to allow girls to join the organization in the future represented a compromise that prevents total gender integration in the group while addressing growing pressure to allow girls to join and the BSA’s flagging membership. The Journal says the question remains as to if the decision will satisfy the progressive movement’s concerns about gender differences, but concludes by expressing hope that BSA will succeed in its new policy.

Big Picture

Headlines From Today’s Front Pages.

Wall Street Journal:

[President To Ease Health Insurance Rules](#)

[Beijing Pushes For A Direct Hand In China’s Big Tech Firms](#)

[Russia Has Turned Kaspersky Software Into Tool For Spying](#)

[Junk Bond Boom Reaches Far Corners Of The World](#)

New York Times:

[Trump’s Tough Talk On NAFTA Suggests Pact’s Demise Is Imminent](#)

[Foiled In Congress, Trump Moves On His Own To Undermine Obamacare](#)

[Rohingya Recount Atrocities: “They Threw My Baby Into A Fire”](#)

[Weinstein Company Was Aware Of Payoffs In 2015](#)

[Boy Scouts Will Accept Girls, In Bid To “Shape The Next Generation Of Leaders”](#)

[The Girl In The No. 8 Jersey](#)

[Raining Ash And No Rest: Firefighters Struggle To Contain California Wildfires](#)

Washington Post:

[Boy Scouts, In Historic Move, Will Accept Girls](#)

[Puerto Rico's Misery Drags On](#)

[Trump Amps Up Threats On Press](#)

[President Trump's Loyal Whisperer](#)

[Fears Grow Of Wildfires Merging In California](#)

[Charity Privately Paid Roy Moore](#)

Financial Times:

[Kobe Steel Shares Plunge As Scandal Widens](#)

[Spanish Prime Minister Demands Clarity On Catalan Independence](#)

[Peltz's P&G Loss Unlikely To Stop Activist Investing Tide](#)

[Trump Administration Hits Out At IMF Over Tax Reforms](#)

Washington Times:

[Military Heats Up Battle In Libya As Islamic State Militants Seek Refuge](#)

[D.C. Officials Defend Gun Laws, Look To Further Tighten Concealed-Carry Rules](#)

[Trump Sells Tax Plan In Pennsylvania: "Rocket Fuel For Our Economy"](#)

[As Boy Scouts Welcome Girls, Rival Group Sees Expansion Of "War On Boys"](#)

[California Wildfires Expected To Worsen In Coming Days: State's "Biggest, Most Serious" Event](#)

["Disgusted" Obamas Were Star-Struck By Hollywood Mogul Weinstein's Access, Cash](#)

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:

ABC: West Coast Wildfires; West Coast Wildfires-Firefighting; West Coast Wildfires-Tracking; Weinstein Sexual Harassment Scandal; Las Vegas Shooting Investigation; Trump-US Nuclear Arsenal; Trump-Homeland Security Secretary Pick; Trump-Tax Reform; Louisiana State University-Hazing; Seattle-Gun Fire Exchange; Utah-Nurse Arrest Outcome; Boy Scout-Girl Members; West Coast Wildfires-Aftermath.

CBS: West Coast Wildfires; West Coast Wildfires-Affected Families; Las Vegas Shooting Investigation; Trump-US Nuclear Arsenal; Weinstein Sexual Harassment Scandal; Louisiana State University-Hazing; Syria-Raqqa Assault; Boy Scout-Girl Members; Hurricane Season Record; Chicago-Soda Tax Rollback; Utah Foster Family; Retired K-9 Dog.

NBC: West Coast Wildfires; West Coast Wildfires-Affected Families; Trump-US Nuclear Arsenal; Louisiana State University-Hazing; Weinstein Sexual Harassment Scandal; Las Vegas Shooting Investigation; Niger-US Casualty Investigation; Trump-Iran Nuclear Deal; Boy Scout-Girl Members; Utah-Nurse Arrest Outcome; Chicago-Soda Tax Rollback; Lost Dog Found; Puerto Rico Hurricane

Recovery.

Network TV At A Glance:

West Coast Wildfires – 15 minutes, 35 seconds

Weinstein Sexual Harassment Scandal – 7 minutes, 30 seconds

Las Vegas Shooting Investigation – 5 minutes, 40 seconds

Trump-US Nuclear Arsenal – 5 minutes, 20 seconds

Boy Scout-Girl Members – 3 minutes, 40 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: Las Vegas Shooting Investigation; West Coast Wildfires; NAFTA Renegotiation; Boy Scout-Girl Members; Wall Street News.

CBS: West Coast Wildfires; Trump-NFL Kneeling; Niger-US Casualty Investigation; Louisiana State University-Hazing; Falcon 9 Launch.

FOX: West Coast Wildfires; Emergency Aid Budget; Trump-Tax Reform.

NPR: West Coast Wildfires; Puerto Rico Hurricane Recovery; Trump-US Nuclear Arsenal; Trump-Tax Reform.

Washington Schedule

Today's Events In Washington.

White House:

PRESIDENT TRUMP — Signs an Executive Order to promote healthcare choice and competition; participates in the announcement of the Secretary of Homeland Security nominee.

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE — Joins the President as he signs an Executive Order to promote healthcare choice and competition; attends the President's announcement of the Secretary of Homeland Security nominee.

US Senate: On recess until 16 October.

US House: 9:30 AM House Foreign Affairs Committee markup hearing – Markup hearing on 'H.R. 535, Taiwan Travel Act' and 'H.R. 1698, Iran Ballistic Missiles and International Sanctions Enforcement Act' Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2172, Washington, DC <http://www.hcfa.house.gov>
<https://twitter.com/HouseForeign>

9:30 AM HUD Secretary Carson testifies to House Financial Services Committee – Hearing on 'The Future of Housing in America: Oversight of the Department of Housing and Urban Development', with testimony from Secretary of Housing and Urban Development Ben Carson Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2128, Washington, DC <http://financialservices.house.gov>
<https://twitter.com/FinancialCmte>

10:00 AM Energy Secretary Perry testifies to House Commerce subcommittee – Energy Subcommittee hearing on 'Department of Energy Missions and Management Priorities', with testimony from Secretary of Energy Rick Perry Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2123, Washington, DC

<http://energycommerce.house.gov/>
<https://twitter.com/HouseCommerce>

10:00 AM House Homeland Security subcommittee hearing on first responder communications – Emergency Preparedness, Response, and Communications Subcommittee hearing on ‘Assessing First Responder Communications’, with testimony from Department of Homeland Security Office of Emergency Communications Director Rear Adm. (Ret.) Ronald Hewitt; First Responder Network Authority Director of Government Affairs Ed Parkinson; and Government Accountability Office Director of Physical Infrastructure Issues Mark Goldstein Location: U.S. Capitol Visitor Center, HVC-210, Washington, DC homeland.house.gov
<https://twitter.com/HouseHomeland>

10:00 AM Commerce Secretary Ross testifies to House Oversight Committee on the 2020 Census – House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform hearing on the 2020 Census, with testimony from Secretary of Commerce Wilbur Ross; Government Accountability Office Director of Strategic Issues Robert Goldenkoff, and Director of Information Technology Management Issues David Powner; Department of Commerce Office of the Economic and Statistical Program Assessment Assistant Inspector General Carol Rice; and Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights President and CEO Vanita Gupta Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2154, Washington, DC
<http://oversight.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/GOPoversight>

10:00 AM House Judiciary Committee markup hearing – Markup hearing on ‘H.R. X, Congressional Subpoena Compliance and Enforcement Act’, ‘H.R. 2228, Law Enforcement Mental Health and Wellness Act’, and ‘H.R. X, Protecting Access to the Courts for Taxpayers Act’ Location: Rm 2141, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://judiciary.house.gov/>
<https://twitter.com/HouseJudiciary>

10:00 AM House Natural Resources subcommittee legislative hearing – Water, Power and Oceans Subcommittee legislative hearing on ‘H.R. 3144, To provide for operations of the Federal Columbia River Power System pursuant to a certain operation plan for a specified period of time, and for other purposes’ and ‘H.R. 3916, Federally Integrated Species Health (FISH) Act’, with testimony from Republican Reps. Cathy McMorris Rodgers and Ken Calvert; Bureau of Reclamation Acting Commissioner Alan Mikkelsen; PNGC Power President and CEP Beth Looney; Northwest Sportfishing Industry Association Executive Director Liz Hamilton; United Power Trades Organization President Jack Heffling; and Family Farm Alliance Executive Director Dan Keppen Location: Longworth House Office Building, Rm 1334, Washington, DC
<http://naturalresources.house.gov>
<https://twitter.com/NatResources>

10:00 AM House Committee on Veterans’ Affairs markup hearing Location: Cannon House Office Building, Rm 334, Washington, DC <http://veterans.house.gov/>

<https://twitter.com/HouseVetAffairs>

10:00 AM House Small Business Committee hearing on fostering women's entrepreneurial success – Hearing on 'Fostering Women's Entrepreneurial Success', with testimony from Strategic Resolution Experts President and CEO Jeannette King; Jancare Private Health Service President and CEO Janice Green; Association of Women's Business Centers President and CEO Antonella Pianalto; and Hester Group President Hester Clark Location: Rm 2360, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC

<http://smallbusiness.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/SmallBizGOP>

10:15 AM House Commerce subcommittee hearing on '21st Century Trade Barriers' – Digital Commerce and Consumer Protection Subcommittee hearing on '21st Century Trade Barriers: Protectionist Cross Border Data Flow Policies' Impact on U.S. Jobs', with testimony from American University Washington College of Law Associate Professor Jennifer Daskal; BSA – The Software Alliance President and CEO Victoria Espinel; Information Technology Industry Council President and CEO Dean Garfield; and ACT – The App Association President Morgan Reed Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2322, Washington, DC

<http://energycommerce.house.gov/>

<https://twitter.com/HouseCommerce>

10:30 AM House Veterans' Affairs Committee legislative hearing – Legislative hearing on draft legislation entitled 'the Asset and Infrastructure Review Act of 2017' and 'H.R. 2773, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to sell Pershing Hall', with testimony from Republican Rep. Mike Coffman; Disabled American Veterans National Legislative Director Joy Ilem; The American Legion Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Division Director Louis Celli Jr.; Paralyzed Veterans of America Associate Executive Director of Government Relations Carl Blake; Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States National Legislative Service Director Carlos Fuentes; Government Accountability Office Physical Infrastructure Team Director Dave Wise; Veterans Health Administration Assistant Deputy Under Secretary for Policy and Planning Dr Regan Crump; and Department of Veterans Affairs Office of Asset Enterprise Management Director James Sullivan + written statement from Concerned Veterans for America Location: Cannon House Office Building, Rm 334, Washington, DC

<http://veterans.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseVetAffairs>

12:00 PM House expected to debate legislation related to disaster supplemental appropriations – House of Representatives meets for legislative business, with agenda expected to include legislation related to disaster supplemental appropriations Location: Washington, DC <http://www.house.gov/>

2:00 PM House Homeland Security subcommittee hearing on North Korea – Oversight and Management Efficiency Subcommittee hearing on 'Empty Threat or Serious Danger: Assessing North Korea's Risk to the Homeland', with testimony from George Washington University Center for Cyber and Homeland Security

Director Frank Cilluffo; Foundation for Defense of Democracies Senior Fellow Anthony Ruggiero; National Defense University Center for the Study of Weapons of Mass Destruction Senior Research Fellow Patrick Terrell; Symantec Corporation Senior Director of Global Government Affairs and Policy Jeff Greene; and Commission to Assess the Threat to the United States From Electromagnetic Pulse Attack Chief of Staff Dr Peter Vincent Pry Location: U.S. Capitol Visitor Center, HVC-210, Washington, DC homeland.house.gov <https://twitter.com/HouseHomeland>

2:00 PM Speaker's Task Force on Intergovernmental Affairs second hearing – New Speaker's Task Force on Intergovernmental Affairs holds second hearing, 'Are We 'Federalizing' Federalism? A Primer on Federalism, State and Local Government and Interrelations with the Federal Government'. Witnesses include Yale Law School Dean and Professor Heather Gerken, George Mason University Professor of Government Dr Timothy Conlan, and Hillsdale College Associate Vice President and Dean of Educational Programs Dr Matthew Spalding * In May, House Speaker Paul Ryan and Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi announced the creation of the bipartisan group of lawmakers focused on balancing the interests between federal and local govts Location: U.S. Capitol, H-313, Washington, DC <https://robbishop.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/RepRobBishop>

2:00 PM House Small Business subcommittees joint hearing on SBA Microloan Program – Investigations, Oversight, and Regulations Subcommittee and Economic Growth, Tax, and Capital Access Subcommittee joint hearing on 'Oversight Improvements Needed: SBA OIG's Review of the Microloan Program', with testimony from Small Business Administration Acting Inspector General Mike Ware, and Associate Administrator for Capital Access William Manger Location: Rm 2360, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://smallbusiness.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/SmallBizGOP>

House Ethics Committee self-imposed deadline to announce update on GOP Rep. Chris Collins – House Committee on Ethics due to announce its course of action on the matter regarding Republican Rep. Chris Collins – which was referred to the Committee by the Office of Congressional Ethics in July – on or before today * Matter was extended in August, although with the Committee noting that the extension 'does not itself indicate that any violation has occurred, or reflect any judgment on behalf of the Committee' * Reasons for investigations are generally kept secret, although reports have previously alleged that Rep. Collins improperly urged people to invest in an Australian biotechnology company in which he is the largest shareholder Location: TBD <http://www.house.gov/ethics/>

Other: 8:00 AM French finance minister speaks at U.S. Chamber of Commerce – U.S. Chamber of Commerce hosts French Economy and Finance Minister Bruno Le Maire for remarks and a moderated conversation on the country's economic reform agenda under

President Emmanuel Macron's leadership, the future of EU economic policy, and the state of transatlantic economic relations
Location: U.S. Chamber of Commerce, 1615 H St NW, Washington, DC www.uschamber.com <https://twitter.com/USChamber>

8:00 AM Making Every Vote Count event on 'The Need for Presidential Selection Reform' at NPC – Making Every Vote Count host event on 'The Need for Presidential Selection Reform' at the National Press Club, with speakers including Democratic Rep. Jamie Raskin
Location: National Press Club, 529 14th St, NW, Washington, DC <https://makeeveryvotecount.com/>

8:30 AM U.S. Chamber of Commerce / National Safety Council forum on the opioid epidemic – U.S. Chamber of Commerce and the National Safety Council hosts 'Opioid Epidemic: From the Front Lines to the Boardroom, Best Practices & Recommendations' forum, to emphasize how the private and public sectors can come together to address the opioid crisis. Speakers include National Safety Council President and CEO Debbie Herman, U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation President Carolyn Cawley, Democratic Rep. Bill Foster, former Rep. Mary Bono, Office of National Drug Control Policy Acting Director Richard Baum, and Ziegenfelder Company President and CEO Lisa Allen
Location: U.S. Chamber of Commerce, 1615 H St NW, Washington, DC www.uschamber.com <https://twitter.com/USChamber>

8:45 AM GOP Rep. Paul Ryan speaks on tax reform at the Heritage Foundation – House Speaker Paul Ryan speaks on 'The Historic Choice on Tax Reform' at the Heritage Foundation, making the case for reform that he says 'delivers more jobs, fairer taxes, and bigger paychecks for American families and workers'
Location: Heritage Foundation, 214 Massachusetts Ave NW, Washington, DC www.heritage.org <https://twitter.com/Heritage>

9:30 AM CSIS Asian Architecture Conference – Asian Architecture Conference, hosted by Center for Strategic and International Studies Southeast Asia Program, Scholl Chair in International Business, and Simon Chair in Political Economy, to discuss some of the important issues surrounding the upcoming Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum and East Asia Summit, provide an update on CSIS' Asia Economic Strategy Commission, and discuss the key issues facing leaders in the EAS in the Philippines. Includes opening keynote from APEC Caucus Co-chair Democratic Rep. Rick Larsen, with other speakers including U.S. Ambassador for Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation Amb. Matt Matthews, former U.S. Trade Representative Charlene Barshefsky, and former U.S. Ambassador to China, to Indonesia, and to Singapore J. Stapleton Roy
Location: Center for Strategic and International Studies, 1616 Rhode Island Ave NW, Washington, DC <http://www.csis.org> <https://twitter.com/CSIS>

10:00 AM Heritage Foundation discussion on the 'rising inability of Americans to qualify for military service' – 'A Looming National Security Crisis – Young Americans Unable to Join the Military'
Heritage Foundation discussion, co-hosted by Mission:

Readiness', on the rise in the inability of Americans to qualify for military service. Panelists include Republican Sen. Don Bacon, U.S. Army Recruiting Command Commanding General Maj. Gen. Jeffrey Snow, and Mission: Readiness Member Lt. Gen. (Ret.) John Bednarek Location: Heritage Foundation, 214 Massachusetts Ave NW, Washington, DC www.heritage.org
<https://twitter.com/Heritage>

10:00 AM AG Sessions visits Executive Office for Immigration Review and speaks on 'the crisis facing our asylum system' – Attorney General Jeff Sessions visits the Executive Office for Immigration Review and delivers remarks on 'the crisis facing our asylum system' Location: Executive Office for Immigration Review, 5107 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, VA Falls Church www.justice.gov
<https://twitter.com/TheJusticeDept>

3:30 PM G24 Ministers and Governors Meeting – G24 Ministers and Governors Meeting, ahead of the IMF-World Bank Annual Meetings, followed by press conference Location: International Monetary Fund, 700 19th St NW, Washington, DC
<http://www.g24.org>

6:30 PM U.S. permanent representative to NATO speaks at The Washington Post – The Washington Post hosts U.S. Permanent Representative to NATO Kay Bailey Hutchison for interview with columnist David Ignatius on 'the future of NATO, mounting threats from Russia against Western allies and the ambassador's top priorities for military cooperation, intelligence-gathering and combating terrorism' * Part of the Post's 'Securing Tomorrow' series with leaders in national security, intelligence, and defense Location: The Washington Post Live Center, 1301 K St NW, Washington, DC
<http://www.washingtonpost.com/>
<https://twitter.com/washingtonpost>

G20 Finance and Central Bank Deputies meeting – G20 Finance and Central Bank Deputies meeting ahead of the G20 Meeting of Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors and this weekend's IMF / World Bank Annual Meetings Location: Washington, DC www.g20.org

G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting commences with working dinner – G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting commences with a working dinner, ahead of this weekend's Annual Meetings of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund Location: IMF, Washington, DC
<http://www.g20.org>

Last Laughs

Late Night Political Humor.

Jimmy Kimmel: "The big story out of the BET show was Eminem launching a five-minute freestyle attack on Donald Trump. It was very well done. He found a way to rhyme the word 'orange,' which previously had been thought impossible."

Jimmy Kimmel: "According to the story in Vanity Fair, John Kelly is miserable in his job, only staying in it out of a sense of duty to keep Trump from making a disastrous decision. But publicly, they say he's very happy. Sure he is, you can see how happy he is right there. He always looks like he's in one of those 'Wanna Get Away' Southwest Airlines commercials."

Stephen Colbert: "Over the summer, Trump met with top military officials and said he wanted a nearly ten-fold increase in the US nuclear arsenal. A ten-fold increase? Excuse me while I one-fold into the fetal position. He knows we can already end all life on Earth, right? The cockroaches will survive, which is good news for Steve Bannon."

Stephen Colbert: "Speaking of staffing issues, last night, around 9:00, Trump tweeted, 'The fake news is at it again, this time trying to hurt one of the finest people I know, General John Kelly, by saying he will soon be..... fired. This story is totally made up by the dishonest media. The chief is doing a fantastic job for me and, more importantly, for the USA!' Yes, very important you clear up that John Kelly works for the USA, because so much of Trump's staff works for Russia."

James Corden: "An article today revealed that during a national security meeting last summer, Donald Trump said that he wanted to increase the number of America's nuclear weapons by ten fold. Trump would have gone higher than ten fold, but he ran out of fingers to count them on."

James Corden: "Eminem's lyrics were politically charged. He defended the NFL players who have been kneeling during the national anthem, and later Donald Trump responded with his own rap that went, 'Will the NFL players please stand up, please stand up, please stand up.'"

Jimmy Fallon: "Trump said it's disgusting that the press is able to write whatever it wants to write. When asked about the First Amendment, he said, 'Is that the one that says not to talk about fight club?'"

Jimmy Fallon: "Last night at the BET awards, Eminem did a four-minute freestyle rap criticizing Trump. ... Trump was mad, but he was also a little confused. Today, he told people to boycott the M&M store."

Seth Meyers: "President Trump this morning tweeted, quote, 'With all the fake news coming out of NBC and the networks, at what point is it appropriate to challenge their license?' You're coming after NBC? They didn't take our license after that monkey hospital

show, they're not going to take it for you."

Seth Meyers: "President Trump said today, quote, 'It's frankly disgusting the way the press is able to write whatever they want to write, and people should look into it.' Hey man, are you having trouble reading the First Amendment?"

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To: [Natalie Davis](#)
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Date: Wednesday, October 11, 2017 10:33:59 AM

For report.

Sent from my iPhone

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[US Department of the Interior News Briefing](#)



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Bureau Of Indian Affairs

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Bureau Of Land Management

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- Natural Gas Intelligence: BLM Green Lights Up To 146 NatGas Wells In Long-Disputed Colorado Area.
- Uintah Basin Standard (UT): BLM Fracking Rules On Ute Tribal Lands Remains Uncharged.
- E&E Publishing: Landowners Call On BLM To Probe Well Plugging .
- KTVB-TV Boise (ID): Idaho Inmates Work To Restore Sage Grouse Habitat.
- Elko (NV) Daily Free Press: Thomas Mitchell: Jobs And Wildlife Can Coexist.

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- E&E Publishing: Little Owl Sparks A Large ESA Flap.
- Newsweek: Thousands Of Bats Slaughtered Annually In Asia End Up On EBay And Etsy For Artsy Americans.
- Scottsbluff (NE) Star-Herald: Ex-US Fish And Wildlife Worker Takes Plea Deal In Theft Case.
- Mount Desert (ME) Islander: Dealer Pleads Guilty To Buying Poached Elvers.
- Moscow-Pullman (ID) Daily News: Our View: Walrus Are In Danger, But Not Enough For Feds To Care.

National Park Service

- WTOP-FM Washington: Lasers Vs. Grime: Park Service Says Treatment Wiped Out Jefferson Memorial's Black Film.
- Naples (FL) Daily News: Florida DEP Renews Oil Exploration Permit In Big Cypress.
- Flathead (MT) Beacon: Glacier Park Attracts More Than 3 Million Visitors In 2017.
- U.S. News & World Report: Traffic Accident Kills 4 Bison In Grand Teton National Park.
- Alaska Public Radio Network: State And Park Service Look To Make Parks Highway Safety Improvements.

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- KKTU-TV Colorado Springs (CO): Dog Hailed A Hero In Puerto Rico Recovery Efforts.

US Geological Survey

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DOI In The News

At Least 15 Dead In Northern California Wildfires.

[NBC Nightly News](#) (10/10, lead story, 2:50, Holt) reported in its lead story that "at least 15 people have died" in Northern California "amid the blitz of wildfires in a scale not seen there in decades." NBC (Fryer) added that "seventeen large explosive wildfires are burning, scorching more than 115,000 acres, prompting federal government to declare a major disaster." The [Los Angeles Times](#) (10/10, Kohli, Willon, Sahagun) reports that Vice President Pence visited California's emergency management headquarters, where he said that President Trump has approved a "major disaster declaration" for the state. [USA Today](#) (10/10, Weise, Bacon) reports that President Trump said from the White House, "The federal government will stand with the people of California, and we will be there for you."

In its lead story, The [CBS Evening News](#) (10/10, lead story, 2:45, Blackstone) reported that some "200 people are still missing in the Northern California fires." CBS added that "there's a fear that winds just now beginning to pick up, that they could spread this destruction even further." [ABC World News Tonight](#) (10/10, lead story, 3:45, Gutman) reported in its lead story that "there is zero percent containment on all the major fires here in Northern California." In a separate story, [ABC World News Tonight](#) (10/10, story 2, 4:15, Muir) reported on the "apocalyptic" devastation in one Santa Rosa neighborhood.

The [New York Times](#) (10/10, Hsu) says the fires "have dealt a devastating blow to the important wine and tourism industries, destroying several historic wineries and threatening the remaining grape harvest in the Napa and Sonoma valleys." The [CBS Evening News](#) (10/10, story 10, 1:40, Villarreal) reported on the Paradise Ridge Winery, where "nearly 100,000 bottles of wine were destroyed Sunday night." CBS added that "at least six other

wineries in this area have burned to the ground.”

The [New York Times](#) (10/10, A1, Fuller, Pérez-Peña, Bromwich) reports that the Northern California fires are “part of an outbreak of blazes stretching almost the entire length of the state.” In a separate story, The [CBS Evening News](#) (10/10, story 2, 1:55, Strassmen) reported that wildfires in Southern California “have followed a similar pattern. In Anaheim Hills, south of Los Angeles, Canyon Heights Drive lost five homes in three hours.” [ABC World News Tonight](#) (10/10, story 3, 0:20, Muir) reported that thousands were forced to evacuate.

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/10, A1, Ailworth, Lovett) reports that Ken Pimlott, chief of California’s firefighting agency, CAL-FIRE, anticipates that one of the fires will be among the 20 most destructive in the state’s history.

UMF Professor Studying Western Megafires. The [Franklin County \(ME\) Daily Bulldog](#) (10/10) reports that Drew Barton, a professor of biology at the University of Maine at Farmington, and his collaborator, Helen Poulos of Wesleyan University, have “received a continuing grant of nearly \$30,000 from the National Park Service and the Western National Parks Association to examine 30 years of changes in the forests in Arizona’s Chiricahua Mountains and how these fires are changing the nature of the forests.” Barton’s and Poulos’ research is looking at “megafires and providing land managers with critical information.” First, they’re examining “how these fires are changing the nature of the forest – large pine forested areas are being lost and replaced by scrubby oaks.” Also, “they are developing a model and map of the remaining live trees and dead wood in the Chiricahua National Monument so land managers can predict where the next fire is likely to occur and how large, intense and dangerous it is likely to be.”

Trump Is Ignoring How Fires Spread In The West. In an op-ed for the [San Luis Obispo \(CA\) Tribune](#) (10/10, Miller), Char Miller, a professor of environmental analysis at Pomona College, writes that with “major fires erupting across the West this summer – and now into fall” – it “seems the right time to carefully assess wildland fire, its climate drivers and forest health consequences.” But the Trump Administration’s “key wildfire officials – Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue and EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt – have refused to acknowledge the primary role that dangerous climatological factors, such as drought, heat and wind, play in energizing and propelling wildland fire.” Instead, the officials are “fingering ‘radical environmentalists’ who allegedly have scuttled timber sales that would have removed trees and reduced ignition sources.” Miller acknowledges that “thinning forests to create defensible space near communities has a place among the strategies required to respond intelligently to wildland fire.” However, “decades of data show that intense logging creates more destructive fires than the ones that burn through roadless areas, parkland and wilderness.”

GOP Pushes Overhaul To Antiquities Act.

The [Daily Caller](#) (10/10, Pearce) reports that “the House Committee on Natural Resources will markup a bill to make major reforms to the Antiquities Act Wednesday. Rep. Rob Bishop, “who chairs the committee, announced his bill and the scheduled markup session in a statement Monday.” Bishop said in a statement, The 1906 Antiquities Act was originally intended as an executive tool to protect historical and archeological artifacts and structures under threat. Regrettably, this worthy goal has been manipulated for ulterior political purposes.”

Antiquities Act Is A Menace To Constitutional Government. In an op-ed for the [Washington Examiner](#) (10/10, Bishop), Rep. Rob Bishop writes that “there is no more flagrant violation of this principle of our government than the repeated abuse of the Antiquities Act in the designation of national monuments.” Bishop argues that “any honest reading reveals that it was created to protect ‘landmarks,’ ‘structures,’ and ‘objects’ – not vast swaths of land.” He concludes that “the time has come for Congress to reform the Antiquities Act and rein in the president.”

Lawmakers To Revisit Revenue-Sharing Fight.

[E&E Daily](#) (10/10) reports that a House subcommittee will meet on Wednesday to review a draft bill that would “ease offshore drilling in federal waters while also steering revenues to certain coastal states.” Known as the “Accessing Strategic Resources Offshore (ASTRO) Act,” the bill would direct “50 percent of the revenue from offshore oil and gas production to the general treasury, with another 50 percent directed to a separate account to be distributed to certain coastal states.”

Panel To Consider Bill To Expand Western Renewables.

[E&E Daily](#) (10/10, Smith-Schoenwalder) reports that “a House Natural Resources subcommittee will hear four bills this week on public land issues, including one that would facilitate renewable energy and promote economic development in the West.” H.R. 2630, from Rep. Paul Gosar, “would authorize the Interior secretary to convey about 8,000 acres of Bureau of Land Management land to La Paz County, Ariz., a move that would allow the county to ‘take advantage of one of their best assets, sunshine,’ according to Gosar.” The Subcommittee on Federal Lands will “hear testimony on three other bills: H.R. 219, from Rep. Don Young (R-Alaska), to correct the Swan Lake hydroelectric project survey boundary and to convey the remaining land within the corrected boundary to Alaska. H.R. 3373, from Del. Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-D.C.), to amend the District of Columbia Stadium Act of 1957 to add 50 years under the lease that allows D.C. to use the parking facilities and underground area of the Robert F. Kennedy Memorial Stadium. H.R. 3607, from Rep. Tom McClintock (R-Calif.), to authorize the Interior secretary to establish fees for medical services provided in units of

the National Park System.”

Zinke’s Travels: Ski Resort And Alaskan Steakhouse.

[Politico](#) (10/10, Whieldon, Lefebvre) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke has “attended at least two additional political fundraisers while traveling for official business, including a weekend ski getaway less than three weeks after he was sworn in where donors paid up to \$3,000 to attend, according to sources and documents reviewed by POLITICO.” The article says that “Zinke’s previously undisclosed attendance at the events adds to scrutiny he is facing over his habit of mixing political activities with official business when traveling outside of Washington, D.C., and to questions over travel expenses incurred by members of President Donald Trump’s Cabinet.” Politico adds that “in addition to the fundraisers, Zinke has held at least a half-dozen other events with big donors or influential conservative organizations while on official trips.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [New York Post](#) (10/11, Tacopino) and [Business Insider](#) (10/10, Abadi).

Ethics Chief ‘Deeply Concerned’ About Actions By Top Federal Officials. The [New York Times](#) (10/10, Lipton) reports that David J. Apol, the acting head of the Office of Government Ethics, “sent a letter to all federal agencies late last week warning that he is ‘deeply concerned that the actions of some in government leadership have harmed perceptions about the importance of ethics.’” The letter, which called on federal workers to act honorably, did “not include specifics about what actions by Trump administration employees have elevated his concerns.” The Times notes that the two-page memo came six days after former Health and Human Services Secretary Price announced his resignation following questions over his use of private and government planes.

Additional coverage was provided by the [Washington Post](#) (10/10).

Trump’s Interior Head: If We Take Down Confederate Statues, American Indians Will Complain Next.

The [Huffington Post](#) (10/10, D’Angelo, Liebelson) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke “says that if Confederate monuments are taken down, there’s no telling how far America might go – Native Americans could call for the removal of statues commemorating leaders who orchestrated violence against their ancestors.” In an interview with Breitbart published Sunday, Zinke said, “Where do you start and where do you stop? It’s a slippery slope. If you’re a native Indian, I can tell you, you’re not very happy about the history of General Sherman or perhaps President Grant.” Zinke “told Breitbart that the Trump administration will not remove any monuments from federal land, including Confederate monuments.” He said, “When you try to erase history, what happens is you also erase how it happened and why it happened and the ability to learn from it.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Daily Intelligencer \(NY\)](#) (10/10, Levitz).

Environmentalists Oppose Commercial Fishing Within Northeast Marine National Monument.

[WRNI-FM](#) Providence, RI (10/10, Brookins) reports that “local environmentalists are worried allowing commercial fishing within the boundaries” of the Northeast Canyons and Seamounts Marine National Monument “would harm the area’s ecosystem and biodiversity.” Advocacy group Environment America “believes commercial fishing should remain banned because they said the monument is home to hundreds of species, including deep-sea corals and migratory fish, and serves as an entanglement-free zone for endangered marine mammals.” On the other hand, the New England Fishery Management Council supports Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke’s recommendations. Janice Plante, spokeswoman for the council, “said the agency is best equipped to regulate New England fisheries because that’s what they were designed to do.”

Additional Coverage: Sage Grouse Lands Reopening For Mineral Development.

Additional coverage that the Interior Department is “reopening 10 million acres of federal lands in Nevada and five other Western state for mineral development after finding that mining has no impact on sage grouse populations” was provided by the [Las Vegas Sun](#) (10/10).

Saving Public Lands For Working Americans.

In an op-ed for the [Washington Times](#) (10/10, Barron), Christopher R. Barron, the president of Right Turn Strategies, writes that “from the moment he descended that escalator to announce his candidacy in 2015, Donald Trump vocally and forcefully broke with establishment Republican orthodoxy on a number of issues – including the issue of public lands.” But despite his “pledges, and at the urging of special interests and a handful of disgruntled members of Congress, President Trump issued an executive order this spring instructing Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke to review all presidential designations or expansions of national monuments of greater than 100,000 acres since Jan. 1, 1996.” Barron asserts that “for tens of millions of working-class Americans, the folks who were the backbone of the Trump revolution, public lands are an essential part of their life.” He concludes that “as President Trump weighs how to move forward on the question of public lands, monuments and national parks, he should once again put the interests of working-class Americans above those of the establishment elites.”

Mark Woods: Some Swamps (and Rivers And Lakes) We Shouldn’t Drain.

In his column for the [Florida Times-Union](#) (10/10, Woods), Mark

Woods writes that he doesn't doubt that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke "loves the outdoors." But he raises concerns about the Trump Administration's stance on public lands, in light of Zinke's recommendations following the review of recently designated national monuments.

Guest Opinion: Hot Lotto And Selling Our Public Lands.

In an op-ed for the [Billings \(MT\) Gazette](#) (10/10, Bucks), Dan Bucks, who served as Montana Director of Revenue from 2005-2013, likens Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke's pursuit of "energy dominance" on federal lands to the 2015 "Hot Lotto" scandal. Bucks claims that they both "rig outcomes in violation of the law, and unfairly hand over the American people's wealth to only a favored few." According to Bucks, "Interior is now picking coal, oil and gas companies as the predetermined winners and ceding control of our public lands to them." He warns that "it is rushing to sell coal, oil and gas to companies at bargain basement prices and under lax rules—shortchanging the American people both now and for years to come."

Interior Secretary Zinke's Claim That The U.S. Has Struggled To Produce 'Low-Cost, Abundant And Reliable Energy'.

The [Washington Post](#) (10/11, Lewis) analyzes Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke's claim that "our country has inherited an energy-dependent country from previous generations, and in recent years, we've struggled to be self-sufficient in producing low-cost, abundant and reliable energy," which was made during a speech at the Heritage Foundation on Sept. 29, 2017. The article finds that "Zinke's claim that the U.S. has struggled to produce 'low-cost, abundant, and reliable energy sources' just doesn't square with the current state of domestic energy production." It notes that "even though the United States does not produce 100 percent of its energy domestically, in 2016, domestic energy production increased to 86 percent after hitting historic lows in 2005." According to the article, "the crux of Zinke's claim is that regulation increases the cost of U.S. production, and to achieve his vision of becoming an 'energy superpower,' the United States needs to cut the red tape." However, "instead of focusing on all the gains made by the energy industry over the past several years, Zinke obscures the reality of the domestic energy production." For this, Zinke is given "Four Pinocchios."

Bureau Of Indian Affairs

DOI, Calif. Tribe Urge End To Group's Anti-Casino Suit.

[Law360](#) (10/10, Posses) reports that the Interior Department and the North Fork Rancheria of Mono Indians have "doubled down on quick-win requests in litigation challenging an off-reservation casino, telling a federal court that taking an advocacy group's view

would essentially eviscerate the department's authority to issue procedures allowing gambling when a state refuses to negotiate." The parties "offered reply briefs on Friday in further support of their summary judgment bids and in opposition to a quick win request by individual citizens and community groups."

Bureau Of Land Management

Suit Seeks To Stop Oil-Gas Drilling On 9 Public Land Parcels.

The [AP](#) (10/10) reports that three environmental groups and San Miguel County in Colorado have filed suit against the federal government over nine oil and gas lease sales in the state that could threaten the Gunnison sage grouse. The lawsuit accuses the Bureau of Land Management of not consulting wildlife managers and not conducting required reviews prior to selling the leases this year. Plaintiff environmental groups include Rocky Mountain Wild, the San Juan Citizens Alliance, and Conservation Colorado.

BLM Green Lights Up To 146 NatGas Wells In Long-Disputed Colorado Area.

[Natural Gas Intelligence](#) (10/10, Nemec) reports that the Bureau of Land Management approved SG Interests Ltd to develop natural gas operations near Paonia, Colorado in the North Fork Valley. BLM approved the company for up to 146 natural gas wells as part of the Bull Mountain Unit Master Development Plan that spans almost 20,000 acres.

BLM Fracking Rules On Ute Tribal Lands Remains Uncharged.

The [Uintah Basin Standard \(UT\)](#) (10/10) reports on the impact of the Wyoming v. United States court ruling regarding Obama administration-era hydraulic fracturing rules for the Ute Indian Tribe. As a result of the ruling, "federal regulations that existed before March 2015 will remain in effect while the United States completes the procedural steps to formally repeal those same rules." The Ute Tribal Business Committee released a statement saying: "We hope that the Tenth Circuit will take this opportunity to decide this important issue of federal Indian law now, instead of allowing BLM to continue to violate both tribal sovereignty and federal law."

Landowners Call On BLM To Probe Well Plugging .

[E&E Publishing](#) (10/10, King) reports that landowner advocates requested that federal and state regulators make additional information available about abandoned and plugged gas wells in Wyoming in a September 22 letter to the Bureau of Land Management. Gas wells in Pavillion, Wyoming have shown evidence of corroded casings, which has sparked concerns that Encana Corp.'s gas wells may be leaking gas into water supplies, according to Pavillion Area Concerned Citizens Chairman John Fenton.

Idaho Inmates Work To Restore Sage Grouse Habitat.

[KTVB-TV](#) Boise, ID (10/10, Parris) reports that “after months of hard work, a group of women at the South Boise Women’s Correctional Center are putting the final touches” on a project “to keep the greater sage grouse off the Endangered Species List.” They are “helping grow native plants that will be used to restore the birds’ native habitat.” . The seedlings will be delivered to the Bureau of Land Management “to help restore sage grouse habitats that were destroyed by recent wildfires.”

Thomas Mitchell: Jobs And Wildlife Can Coexist.

In his column for the [Elko \(NV\) Daily Free Press](#) (10/11, Mitchell), Thomas Mitchell writes that “the Interior Department under Montanan Ryan Zinke is displaying an uncommon outbreak of common sense.” Mitchell supports the Bureau of Land Management’s move to cancel the Obama Administration’s “prohibition of mining on 10 million acres of federal lands across six Western states, including Nevada.” Mitchell asserts that “jobs and wildlife can coexist when just a little common sense is applied.”

Bureau Of Ocean Energy Management

SLO Council Opposes Offshore Oil And Gas Drilling After Trump Order.

The [San Luis Obispo \(CA\) Tribune](#) (10/10, Wilson) reports that the San Luis Obispo City Council has “resolved to oppose any new oil and gas drilling off the California Coast, in response to an executive order signed in April by President Donald Trump that could open the door to offshore leases.” According to the article, “citing climate action as a major city goal and joining a campaign led by the Center for Biological Diversity, the council unanimously passed a resolution voicing opposition to any new or expanded fossil fuel extraction in the Pacific Ocean.” The resolution states, “Oil drilling presents a clear and ever-present danger to the health and safety of residents, businesses and economies, with the threat of an oil spill potentially wreaking havoc on ecosystems, on human health, and economic activities. Fracking and related techniques, where water and chemicals are injected under high pressure to crack rock formations and free up petroleum products, are linked to water and air pollution, health concerns, and harm to marine wildlife.”

Bureau Of Reclamation

Big Water Tunnels Project OK’d By Southern California Agency.

The [AP](#) (10/10, Melley) reports that “the powerful Metropolitan Water District voted Tuesday to pay its share of the \$16 billion

project to build two massive tunnels to pipe water from Northern California to Southern California cities." The AP says that "the 28-6 vote gives Gov. Jerry Brown's ambitious project an important boost of support – and guarantees more than a quarter of the funding – after an influential agricultural group withdrew its backing last month." However, the fate of the tunnels "remained somewhat uncertain."

Also reporting are the [Los Angeles Times](#) (10/10, Boxall), the [Sacramento \(CA\) Bee](#) (10/10, Sabalow, Kasler), the [Los Angeles Daily News](#) (10/10, Chou), and the [Orange County \(CA\) Register](#) (10/10).

Bureau Of Safety And Environmental Enforcement

Gas Prices Inching Lower After Hurricanes.

[UPI](#) (10/10, Graeber) reports that according to AAA, despite 90 percent idle oil production due to Hurricane Nate, US motorists will see gas prices decrease. AAA spokesperson Jeanette Casselano said "the latest demand figures show the lowest since the week Hurricane Harvey hit and can likely be the beginning of a downward demand trend indicating even cheaper gas prices to come this fall." UPI states that "the federal government said it expected gas prices to be around \$2.40 for most of the month and drop to \$2.23 per gallon by December."

Fish And Wildlife Service

Little Owl Sparks A Large ESA Flap.

[E&E Publishing](#) (10/10, Doyle) reports that the Fish and Wildlife Service is "scrambling to save its interpretation of a crucial but notoriously ambiguous phrase in the Endangered Species Act." What Arizona U.S. District Judge Rosemary Márquez "next decides in a lawsuit over the pygmy-owl could buffet officials and other species alike." The ESA phrase in question is "significant portion of its range." According to the article, "a decision is pending, even as attorneys disagree over the current status of Márquez's original order."

Thousands Of Bats Slaughtered Annually In Asia End Up On eBay And Etsy For Artsy Americans.

[Newsweek](#) (10/10, Hugo) reports that "bats are being killed in Southeast Asia specifically to sell to American dead-bat enthusiasts, much of the supply on eBay and Etsy." According to the article, "between mid-2000 and 2013, the United States imported 114,927 bats," and "a total of 113,200 of those bats were dead—that's nearly 9,000 slaughtered bats per year." These figures "may be conservative because many imports are simply never seen." William Karesh, executive vice president for health and policy at EcoHealth

Alliance, said, "I think it's under-reported because all they know is what they find. Fish and Wildlife doesn't have the staffing levels to monitor every bag, every suitcase, every box, every container that comes to every port."

Ex-US Fish And Wildlife Worker Takes Plea Deal In Theft Case.

The [AP](#) (10/9) reports that "a December sentencing is scheduled for a former U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service worker who'd been charged with burglarizing the service office in Wood River." According to court records, John Cochran "pleaded no contest Thursday to two counts of theft after prosecutors dropped two burglary counts." His sentencing is set for Dec. 8.

Dealer Pleads Guilty To Buying Poached Elvers.

The [Mount Desert \(ME\) Islander](#) (10/10, Rappaport) reports that "last March, a federal grand jury indicted Woolwich elver dealer William Sheldon, now 71, on seven charges relating to buying and selling illegally harvested juvenile eels over a four-year period beginning in 2011." Last Thursday, Sheldon plead guilty "to one count of violating the federal Lacey Act, admitting to buying elvers from an undercover U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service agent in April 2013 that had been illegally harvested in South Carolina and elsewhere."

Our View: Walrus Are In Danger, But Not Enough For Feds To Care.

The [Moscow-Pullman \(ID\) Daily News](#) (10/10, Malott) editorializes that "climate change has forced the walrus to adapt and save itself for the time being," but "rather than step up to help solve the problem, Fish and Wildlife has decided the walrus aren't worth the money or effort because they're hanging on for now." The paper says that "listing the walrus on the endangered species list was an opportunity to shine a light on the reality of climate change." However, it concludes that "unless it starts affecting how we humans get our food, our current federal government clearly isn't going to care."

National Park Service

Lasers Vs. Grime: Park Service Says Treatment Wiped Out Jefferson Memorial's Black Film.

[WTOP-FM](#) Washington (10/10, Moore) reports that "a high-tech method using lasers to clean a grimy black coating on the Jefferson Memorial's dome has proved so successful, officials now want to give the rest of the monument a laser scrub-down, the National Park Service said Tuesday." [WRC-TV](#) Washington (10/10, Vesoulis) reports that "the test's success will allow them to clean the rest of the memorial." Justine Bello, an architectural conservator, said, "The level of clean that was achieved exceeded our expectations."

We were able to clean the stone in a safe manner that protected both this cultural resource and the surrounding natural environment as well."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Washington Post](#) (10/11, Weil).

Florida DEP Renews Oil Exploration Permit In Big Cypress.

The [Naples \(FL\) Daily News](#) (10/10, Staats) reports that Florida has "renewed a permit to allow a Texas company to continue a controversial search for oil in the Big Cypress National Preserve." Environmental groups had urged the Department of Environmental Protection to not allow Burnett Oil Co. "to resume the work, which has left behind muddy ruts and damaged trees." Burnett's "new permit, which is dated Friday, expires Oct. 5, 2018, and is subject to a 21-day challenge period."

[Florida Politics](#) (10/10, Powers) reports that "Democratic gubernatorial candidate Gwen Graham on Tuesday blasted a state decision to renew an oil exploration permit in the Big Cypress National Preserve in the Everglades." Graham said, "Protecting Big Cypress National Preserve is vital to preserving and restoring Florida's Everglades. The state should be working to end oil drilling in the Everglades, not expand it. As governor, I will fight to protect our clean land and water from oil drilling and fracking."

Glacier Park Attracts More Than 3 Million Visitors In 2017.

The [Flathead \(MT\) Beacon](#) (10/10, Franz) reports that "more than 3 million people have visited Glacier National Park in 2017 making it the busiest year in park history." The article says that "according to data released by the National Park Service on Tuesday, 3.3 million people had visited the park through September, a 12.9 percent increase during the same nine-month period in 2016." The article notes that "total visitation in Glacier Park was down in September compared to the same month last year due to the Sprague Fire, which closed a large swath of the west side of the park, including the popular Going-to-the-Sun Road."

Additional coverage was provided by the [AP](#) (10/11) and [KTVO-TV](#) Billings, MT (10/10, Bragg).

Traffic Accident Kills 4 Bison In Grand Teton National Park.

The [AP](#) (10/10) reports that Grand Teton National Park rangers are "investigating a traffic accident that left four bison dead in northwest Wyoming." The incident "occurred Oct. 2 in the park on a foggy night on U.S. 26/89/191 when a pickup truck hit one bison on the highway, rolled and then struck and killed three more nearby bison." According to the National Park Service, "the Casper woman who was driving alone escaped with minor injuries."

State And Park Service Look To Make Parks Highway Safety Improvements.

The [Alaska Public Radio Network](#) (10/10, Bross) reports that the

state of Alaska and the National Park Service are “teaming up to improve safety on the Parks Highway near the entrance to Denali.” According to Alaska Department of Transportation project engineering manager Carl Heim, “the area around milepost 231 where the highway crosses a bridge over the Nenana River, is a popular place with park visitors walking to trails on the other side.” Heim “said the state plans to rebuild the bridge with an attached sidewalk.”

Office Of Insular Affairs

WPost Analysis: Video Trump Tweeted Out Overstates Federal Role In Puerto Rico Recovery.

Jenna Johnson of the [Washington Post](#) (10/10, Johnson) writes that a nine-minute video “about Puerto Rico relief efforts that President Trump tweeted out this week...provides the kind of narrow, positive view of relief efforts in Puerto Rico that the president has been trying to convey amid the humanitarian crisis there – a montage of stacks of bottled water, helicopters moving concrete slabs and supplies, boats carrying medical items and trucks hauling diesel.” But the “selectively edited compilation” overstates the federal role, including clips of local efforts without identifying them as such. Johnson says that the video “shows the extent to which Trump and his administration are portraying the federal government’s handling of the disaster in Puerto Rico in the best possible light, despite the enduring power, water and health problems there.”

Puerto Rico Health System In Critical Condition. The [New York Times](#) (10/10, A1, Robles) reports that numerous sick people in Puerto Rico are in “mortal peril” almost three weeks after Hurricane Maria’s destruction. HHS Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response Robert Kadlec said, “The devastation I saw, I thought was equivalent to a nuclear detonation. Whatever you do, will be almost insufficient to the demand and need that is out there for these 3.5 million Americans in Puerto Rico. We are doing everything we can with what we have, and we have a lot.”

Island Still 84% Without Power. The [CBS Evening News](#) (10/10, story 7, 2:10, Mason) reported, “It is a slow road to recovery in Puerto Rico, nearly three weeks after Hurricane Maria hit. FEMA says commercial airline service is back to 100%, and 78% of gas stations are open. But only about a third of cell towers are working, and 84% of the power is still out. The death toll is up to 45.” The [New York Times](#) (10/10, Caron) reports that Gov. Ricardo Rosselló said Friday that “the goal is to have 25 percent of the electrical system restored ‘within the next month.’”

FreedomWorks’ Tamny Opposes Puerto Rico Debt Forgiveness. John Tamny of the Center for Economic Freedom at FreedomWorks writes in the [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/10) that forgiving Puerto Rico’s debt would only make the territory’s situation worse by letting inept leaders off the hook. He argues that in order to pay off the debt,

Puerto Rico will need to strengthen private enterprise to promote growth, which will help all residents.

Dog Hailed A Hero In Puerto Rico Recovery Efforts.

[KKTV-TV](#) Colorado Springs, CO (10/10) reports that “a small pup is being hailed a hero for leading a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) employee to her owner in Puerto Rico during recovery efforts.” USFWS employee James Casey was “conducting a security assessment of a closed hospital in Humaco when he noticed Agua the dog. Casey, from Texas, was with 30 Interior Department responders on a mission for the Federal Emergency Management Agency.” According to the article, “Casey and the rest of the team followed Agua,” and “when they got to the bottom of a hill, they found a woman, the dog’s owner.”

US Geological Survey

Will ‘Negro’ Name Stick To Utah Canyon?

The [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (10/10, Maffly) reports that the fight over the name of Negro Bill Canyon “remains a sore point of contention in Utah, one that may finally be put to rest this week.” The U.S. Board on Geographic Names is “expected to vote Thursday whether to change the canyon’s name, using the pioneer’s surname rather than a race-based nickname that no one ever called him during his lifetime.” The Board on Geographic Names “voted down a name change in 2001, citing a lack of support.” However, “officials with the Bureau of Land Management and Grand County have since reversed their stances, while the Utah Committee on Geographic Names voted against a name change.”

Additional Reading.

- *Earthquake: Magnitude 3.0 Quake Strikes Near Salton Sea.* [Los Angeles Times](#) (10/10, Quakebot).
- *Magnitude 6.3 Quake Hits Northern Chile: USGS.* [Reuters](#) (10/10).

Top National News

Trump Again Hits Corker On Twitter Amid Concerns About Impact On GOP Agenda.

Coverage of President Trump’s criticisms of Sen. Bob Corker continues for a third day, but the volume of reporting has declined. Corker has not been responding to the President’s ongoing Twitter gibes, and while some of the most recent reporting focuses on the President’s Tuesday dubbing of the Tennessean as “Liddle Bob Corker,” there is more space given to analysis of the potential damage to the GOP agenda. Reporting also includes speculation that Corker’s concerns about Trump are widely shared among Capitol Hill Republicans who have not been as outspoken.

[ABC World News Tonight](#) (10/10, story 6, 2:00, Muir) reported on “the war of words” between the two. ABC’s Jonathan Karl reported that Corker “infuriated the President by saying this to New York Times.” Corker: “He doesn’t realize that, you know, that we could be heading towards World War III with the kinds of comments that he’s making.” Karl: “‘The Failing @nytimes set Liddle’ Bob Corker up by recording his conversation,’ the President [tweeted](#) today. ‘Was made to sound a fool, and that’s what I am dealing with!’ But...it was, in fact, Corker who asked the New York Times to record the interview.”

The [CBS Evening News](#) (10/10, story 5, 1:50, Mason) called it “the latest episode of the Republican family feud.” CBS’ Margaret Brennan: “In this audio clip, the Senator clearly consents to being taped.” Corker: “I know they’re recording it, and I hope you are, too.” Brennan: “In that interview, Corker said Mr. Trump may be headed towards World War III. Today, White House spokesperson Sarah Sanders weighed in.” Sanders: “Sen. Corker is certainly entitled to his own opinion, but he’s not entitled to his own facts.” Brennan: “She then repeated the erroneous claim that Corker supported the Iran nuclear deal, even though he voted against it.”

On [NBC Nightly News](#) (10/10, story 3, 2:15, Holt), Kristen Welker reported that “party leaders are urging both sides to cool it. The family feud could derail the entire fall GOP agenda.” [Breitbart](#) (10/10, Spiering) reports that “White House reporters repeatedly asked” Sanders “about Trump’s feud with Corker, wondering how it would help the president pass his big-ticket items in the Republican-led Senate.”

The [AP](#) (10/10, Werner) reports that Trump “lashed out” at Corker, “continuing a feud with the Tennessee Republican. ... Fellow GOP senators, treading carefully, avoided siding with Trump or Corker. But leading lawmakers called on both men to end a quarrel that could imperil the Republican agenda on Capitol Hill.” The [New York Times](#) (10/10, Baker) reports that Trump “escalated his attack” on Corker “by ridiculing him for his height, even as advisers worried that the president was further fracturing his relationship with congressional Republicans just a week before a vote critical to his tax cutting plan.” However, the [Washington Times](#) (10/10, Boyer) reports that the President said that his tax reform plan is not in jeopardy. He told reporters, “The people of this country want tax cuts.”

[USA Today](#) (10/10, Jackson) reports that Trump also “waved off...Corker’s recent claim that his threats against other countries and reckless rhetoric could put the nation ‘on a path to World War II,’ telling reporters that ‘we were on the wrong path before’ he took office.” [CNN’s Situation Room](#) (10/10) reported that during a meeting in the Oval Office with former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, Trump said, “We were on the wrong path before. All you have to do is take a look. If you look over the last 25 years through numerous administrations, we were on a path to a very big problem – a problem like this world has never seen. We’re on the right path

right now, believe me.”

[The Tennessean](#) (10/10, Boucher) reports that the White House “won’t weigh in” on whether Corker should resign. Sanders “said it is up to Corker and the people of Tennessee to decide” if he should leave office early. [Roll Call](#) (10/10, Bennett) says that Tuesday was “the third full day of the Trump-Corker feud.” However, [Politico](#) (10/10, Everett) reports that Corker “had no response to Trump’s latest taunt as of Tuesday; he and his office have kept quiet since giving a lengthy interview to the New York Times on Sunday. Corker’s remarks – aside from saying the president could trigger World War III, Corker accused him of treating his job like a reality show – marked the harshest criticism by a sitting Republican senator of Trump yet.”

Paul Kane of the [Washington Post](#) (10/10, Kane) writes that on Tuesday, “a collective, if private, acknowledgment emerged that Corker was speaking for most Senate Republicans when he stood up to a Trump taunt,” but “you wouldn’t know it from senators’ public pronouncements. After Corker tweeted on Sunday that the White House had been turned into ‘an adult day-care center,’ most Republicans were silent – deciding to ride out this moment with the belief that it would fade away.”

Rep. Elijah Cummings (D-MD) was asked on [MSNBC’s Morning Joe](#) (10/10) what he hears from his Republican colleagues in the House about Trump. Cummings said, “I hear the same things that Sen. Corker said. And I have been asking them, why don’t they say these things in public? I think many of them are concerned about being the victim of a tweet. Other ones are worried about having somebody run against them from the right.”

Rep. Eric Swalwell (D-CA) said on [CNN’s Situation Room](#) (10/10), “If Sen. Corker is indeed correct that other senators have expressed this concern, if you have seen something, it’s time to say something. He shouldn’t be the only one. We need other patriots to come forward because the stakes are too great if we don’t stop this president from taking us to a nuclear war.”

Leonard Pitts writes in his [Miami Herald](#) (10/10) column, “Yes, he’s childish and incompetent. Is that really news by now? But of course, it wasn’t that assessment...that made jaws drop over the weekend so much as it was the person making it. ... But whatever satisfaction one might derive from hearing Trump hammered by his own troops is insufficient to blunt the anger that rises close behind.” Pitts also writes that Corker was an enthusiastic supporter of Trump during the 2016 campaign.

NYTimes Analysis: Administration’s Claims On Corker’s Iran Deal Role Are “Misleading.” The [New York Times](#) (10/10, Qiu) writes under the headline “Trump Misleadingly Blames Bob Corker For Iran Deal” that Trump’s blaming of Corker for the Iran nuclear deal “is a misleading charge: Mr. Corker...repeatedly spoke out against the accord to limit Tehran’s nuclear program before it was brokered by world powers in 2015.” Sanders said Monday, “Sen. Corker worked with Nancy Pelosi and the Obama Administration to pave the way

for that legislation, and basically rolled out the red carpet for the Iran deal.” That was a reference to a 2015 bill that Corker “sponsored and pushed through...to give Congress some say over the deal, as Republicans demanded at the time.” The bill ultimately passed 98-1 in the Senate and 400-25 in the House.

LATimes Analysis: Trump Resisting Kelly’s Efforts To Rein In His Impulses. The [Los Angeles Times](#) (10/10, Bierman, Decker, Bennett) reports that the President “by many accounts has bristled” at efforts at management imposed by White House Chief of Staff Kelly “and continues – usually alone on mornings, nights and weekends – to act on his own gut sense, using his own lines to contact allies outside the White House and, using Twitter, to reach those millions of supporters he calls ‘my people.’” This continued on Tuesday as Trump “tweeted a schoolyard taunt about Corker’s height.” The Times writes, “Allies see signs that Trump is frustrated with Kelly and increasingly unwilling to be managed, even just a little.”

Administration Moves To Repeal Clean Power Plan.

EPA Administrator Pruitt on Tuesday issued a proposed rule that would eliminate the Obama-era climate rule known as the clean power plan. Pruitt said on [Fox News’ Special Report](#) (10/10), “The President made a promise to the American people that the EPA would not be an agency that picks winners and losers as we generate electricity in this country. The past administration made a commitment to declare war on coal. And effectively yesterday and today, that war is over. The war on coal is over.” The [Washington Post](#) (10/10, Eilperin) quotes a statement from Pruitt, which said, “We are committed to righting the wrongs of the Obama administration by cleaning the regulatory slate. ... Any replacement rule will be done carefully, properly, and with humility, by listening to all those affected by the rule.”

[The Hill](#) (10/10, Cama) reports that the action is “a win to fossil fuel companies, business groups and Republicans – including Pruitt, the former Oklahoma attorney general – who fought the climate plan from the start.”

The [Washington Times](#) (10/10, Wolfgang) says the move, which follows through on one of the President’s “vows to coal country,” will be “challenged in court, with environmental groups and Democrats quickly vowing to fight any move to repeal the CPP.” But Pruitt “says he’s on solid legal footing, and that repeal will save as much as \$33 billion over the next 13 years.” The [Washington Free Beacon](#) (10/10, Harrington) likewise cites “senior Trump administration officials” who said the repeal “would save \$33 billion in avoided compliance costs by 2030.”

[Reuters](#) (10/10, Gardner, Flitter) says the EPA “did not issue a timeline on replacing the plan, only saying it would issue a rule in the ‘near future,’” which “could delay fresh investment in electricity generation, an industry rife with aging plants, analysts said.” The [New York Times](#) (10/10, Friedman) reports that “those adept at

reading between the lines of dense federal documents say the subtext reads more like: 'Don't hold your breath,'" adding that "industry leaders and environmental activists predict that...nothing will take its place for possibly years to come." A [New York Times](#) (10/10) editorial calls the move "deeply disheartening," and argues that if Pruitt offers a substitute plan, "it won't amount to much, surely not the closing of any coal-fired plants."

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/10, Puko) reports that despite the Administration's plans to repeal the rules, some of the nation's biggest power companies including American Electric Power Co., NRG Energy Inc. and Southern Co., say they will move forward with investments in renewable and gas-fired electricity and will make climate change part of their corporate strategy.

CNN: Pruitt Lifted Environmental Restrictions On Bristol Bay After Meeting With Mining CEO. On [CNN's Anderson Cooper 360](#) (10/10), Cooper highlighted EPA Administrator Pruitt's "decisions to lift the protections of a pristine area in Alaska that could pave the way for a massive new mine there." Pruitt "made the decision after meeting with a mining executive." Senior investigative correspondent Drew Griffin added that at the May 1 meeting at EPA headquarters, the CEO of Pebble Ltd. Partnership asked Pruitt "to withdraw environmental restrictions on Alaska's Bristol Bay" imposed by the Obama Administration "to stop that company from building a massive mine." Pruitt "quickly agreed" and "little more than an hour" after the meeting, "EPA staffers were shocked to receive this email obtained exclusively by CNN which says, 'We have been directed by the administrator to withdraw the restrictions.'" Griffin added that "multiple sources" say Pruitt "made that decision without a briefing from any of EPA's scientists or experts."

Trump Says He Will Sign Order Allowing Health Insurance Purchases Across State Lines.

[USA Today](#) (10/10, Korte) reports that President Trump said Tuesday that he will bypass Congress and sign an executive order to allow consumers to buy health insurance across state lines. Trump said, "They'll be able to cross state lines, and they will get great, competitive healthcare, and it will cost the United States nothing. ... But it will be great, great healthcare for many, many people — a big percentage of the number of people that we were talking about for failed Obamacare." The Post points out that with the executive action, Trump "is doing something he often criticized Obama doing," but White House press secretary Sarah Sanders "said Trump has a clear mandate to take action with or without Congress."

[Reuters](#) (10/10, Abutaleb, Mason) says the order "is expected to allow Americans to buy stripped-down health insurance policies, a step some experts say would further undermine the Obamacare law that Trump opposes." The [AP](#) (10/10, Murphy) says the coverage "could wind up costing some shoppers less if the policies

don't have to meet the coverage requirements of individual states or the Affordable Care Act. But that's true largely for customers with good health."

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (10/10, Levey) reports that the Administration is "reportedly looking specifically at ways to loosen health insurance regulations and promote wider use of a form of insurance known as association health plans." The Times provides "a rundown of how these plans work and what the administration's moves could mean for Americans and their health insurance."

Supreme Court Dismisses Travel Ban Challenge.

[USA Today](#) (10/10, Wolf, Korte) reports that the Supreme Court on Tuesday "dismissed a major challenge to President Trump's travel ban on majority-Muslim countries" because "it has been replaced by a new version, sending the controversy back to the starting block." According to USA, "the ruling is a victory for the Trump administration, which had asked the court to drop the case after Trump signed a proclamation Sept. 24 that replaced the temporary travel ban on six nations with a new, indefinite ban affecting eight countries," an action that the justices ruled "made the court challenge moot." The decision "effectively wipes the record clean in" the 4th Circuit Court of Appeals, "one of two federal appeals courts that had struck down major portions of Trump's travel ban." USA notes that a separate case from the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals "remains pending because it includes a ban on refugees worldwide that won't expire until later this month," but the Supreme Court "is likely to ditch that case."

The [New York Times](#) (10/10, Liptak) reports that if the 9th Circuit case is dismissed, "a politically charged clash between presidential power and claims of religious discrimination that could have produced a blockbuster decision will instead end with a whimper." According to the Times, "a new wave of litigation aimed at" the Trump Administration's "latest policies, announced last month, is already underway, and appeals in those cases may yet reach the Supreme Court," but for now, "what could have been one of the marquee cases of a busy term was removed from the docket."

The [Washington Times](#) (10/10, Dinan) reports that while the 4th Circuit "had only ruled Mr. Trump's 90-day pause unconstitutional, the 9th Circuit had also ruled the president's 120-day halt on refugee admissions to be illegal," and "that 120-day period expires later this month, suggesting that at least, for now, it remains a live controversy." Justice Sonia Sotomayor "dissented from the court's order, saying she would have instead just sent the case back to the lower appeals court to be continued."

Trump To Push Tax Plan In Pennsylvania Wednesday.

[Philly \(PA\)](#) (10/10, Tamari) reports that President Trump will visit Pennsylvania Wednesday, to tout his tax reform plan, "the best remaining chance for a major legislative victory in his first year,

when a president's power is typically highest." When Trump delivers a speech outside Harrisburg, "the script calls for him to explain how the plan would help middle-class workers like truck drivers, according to a senior White House official who briefed reporters on the condition of anonymity." However, there "would be little surprise if festering battles with fellow Republicans or NFL players feature just as prominently...as taxes."

Trump Says Changes To Tax Plan Coming In Next Few Weeks.

[Bloomberg News](#) (10/10, Sink) reports that President Trump said Tuesday that he will make changes to his tax plan in the next few weeks. Speaking to reporters in the Oval Office, Trump said, "We'll be adjusting a little bit over the next few weeks to make it even stronger, but I will tell you it's become very, very popular." However, Trump "didn't specify what kind of changes he expects to make to the plan." [Reuters](#) (10/10) says Trump said his ongoing feud with Sen. Bob Corker will not hurt his push for tax reform. Asked if the "spat with Corker would affect the tax effort," Trump said, "I don't think so, no."

Politico: Trump Repeats False Claim That US Is Highest-Tax Nation In The World. [Politico](#) (10/10, Nussbaum) says Trump reiterated a claim he has "repeated over and over again," that the US is the highest-taxed nation in the world. However, the claim is "false – something fact checkers have been pointing out since 2015, when Trump first began declaring it on the campaign trail." Politico adds that White House press secretary Sarah Sanders "sought for the second time in less than a week to defend the comment by saying, in effect, that Trump did not mean what he said." Sanders argued, "We are the highest taxed corporate tax [sic] in the developed economy. That's a fact." When a reporter pointed out that that the President said "we're the highest taxed nation in the world," Sanders replied, "The highest taxed corporate nation. Seems pretty consistent to me. Sorry, we're just going to have to agree to disagree."

Editorial Wrap-Up

New York Times.

"Mr. Trump Nails Shut The Coffin In Climate Relief." A [New York Times](#) (10/10) editorial calls the Administration's move to repeal the Clean Power Plan "deeply disheartening," and argues that if EPA Administrator Pruitt offers a substitute plan, "it won't amount to much, surely not the closing of any coal-fired plants."

Washington Post.

"Erdogan Is Bullying America. Trump Should Do Something." A [Washington Post](#) (10/10) editorial says President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's Turkey "appears well on its way to becoming an outlaw state," and argues that there's "no question" that the

Administration, "which has persisted in describing Mr. Erdogan as a close ally, must now stand up to his bullying." The Post writes that while the "long-standing US alliance with Turkey should be preserved, to the extent that is possible with Mr. Erdogan in power," it "cannot come at the expense of tolerating hostage-taking and assaults on the US rule of law. Mr. Erdogan should be made to understand that he is risking a rupture of relations that will do far more harm to his regime than to the United States."

"Trump's Moves On NAFTA Risk Massive Damage." A [Washington Post](#) (10/10) editorial says that "the future of the U.S. economy" will be at stake Wednesday when "representatives of the United States, Canada and Mexico will begin a fourth and possibly pivotal round of negotiations on overhauling" NAFTA. The Post argues that if President Trump, who it describes as "a demagogic NAFTA critic," makes "an unwise move on NAFTA, he could seriously hurt workers on all sides, and he would be directly responsible. And so far, he seems to be sticking to dangerous positions on the trade agreement."

"DC Is Right To Stand Down On Its Concealed-Carry Law." In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (10/10) writes that DC city officials were right when they decided last week not to appeal a July court ruling that struck down the city's requirement that people have a "good reason" to obtain a concealed-carry permit. The Post argues that given the makeup of the Supreme Court and its decision to expand the individual right to bear arms in the city under *District of Columbia v. Heller*, "the District's caution in not wanting to be the prod for further loosening of gun laws is understandable." The Post adds that there are still appropriate checks on carrying a concealed firearm in the city, such as 16 hours of training and an extensive background check.

Wall Street Journal.

"Tax Reform And Deficits." A [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/10) editorial cites the CBO's reports Friday that the fiscal 2017 budget deficit grew for the second consecutive year to \$668 billion and argues that unless economic growth accelerates the federal budget will never be balanced.

"An Outrageous Prosecution." A [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/10) editorial decries reporter Ayla Albayrak's conviction by a Turkish court, which it says is the consequence of the repressive environment President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has created in Turkey since a failed coup in 2016.

"Alien Torts Unlimited." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/10) editorializes that in a case the Supreme Court will hear today, foreign citizens are claiming the right to sue foreign corporations for injuries that occur on foreign soil in US courts. The Journal argues that such a right would unduly expand corporate liability for torts, as well as the jurisdiction of US courts. In *Jesner v. Arab Bank*, 6,000 foreign plaintiffs sued the Jordanian Arab Bank for injuries caused by Hamas and other terrorist groups in Israel, arguing that

Arab Bank approved automatic electronic wire transfers through the US-based CHIPS system for foreign terrorists. Plaintiffs invoked the 1789 Alien Tort Statute. The Journal argues that in 1980 the Supreme Court erred in holding that US courts could review cases involving foreigners for violations of international norms, and that the court should not allow the claims in *Jesner*.

Big Picture

Headlines From Today's Front Pages.

Wall Street Journal:

[P&G Says Peltz Has Lost Bid For Board Seat: He Presses On](#)
[The Reason Investors Love Spinoffs: Juicier Returns](#)
[Deadly California Wildfires Rip Through Once-Safe Areas](#)
[Family Ties, Leaks And A Wedding: Inside The Political Scandal](#)
[Rocking South Africa](#)

New York Times:

[Wildfires Burn Out Of Control Across Northern California: 17 Are Dead](#)
[Kobe Steel's Falsified Data Is Another Blow To Japan's Reputation](#)
[Gwyneth Paltrow, Angelina Jolie And Others Say Weinstein Harassed Them](#)
[Puerto Rico's Healthcare Is In Dire Condition, Three Weeks After Maria](#)
[He Excelled As A Detective, Until Prosecutors Stopped Believing Him](#)

Washington Post:

[Black Man Beaten At Va. Rally Now Faces Charges](#)
[Lebanese Turn Against Refugees After Brutal Killing](#)
[3 Women Accuse Weinstein Of Rape](#)
[Thousands Flee As California Wildfires Rage On](#)
[How Sean Hannity Learned To Channel Red-State Rage](#)

Financial Times:

[Catalan Leader Steps Back From Immediate Independence Declaration](#)
[P&G Says Nelson Peltz Has Lost Battle For Board Seat](#)
[Theresa May Silent On How She Would Vote In Second Brexit Poll](#)
[Global Childhood Obesity Rises 10-Fold In 40 Years](#)

Washington Times:

[Trump Unsettles Allies By Picking Fights With Republicans](#)
[Trump Threatens To Kill Tax Breaks For NFL Stadiums: Goodell Tells Teams To Stand For Anthem](#)
['Baffling' Gun-Free Zones In D.C. Thwart Concealed-Carry Permit Holders](#)
[Trump Will Try To Sell Tax Plan In Pennsylvania, But Political Base](#)

[Begins To Fray](#)
[Weinstein's Sexual Harassment Scandal Tarnishes Hollywood.](#)
[Democratic Party](#)
[Catalonia's President Proposes Cooling-Off Period Before Secession Talks With Spain](#)

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:

ABC: West Coast Wildfires-Northern California; West Coast Wildfires-Impacted Family; West Coast Wildfires-Southern California; West Coast Wildfires-Tracking; Weinstein-Sexual Harassment Scandal; Trump-Republicans Relations; Las Vegas Shooting-Security Guard; North Carolina-Airport Bombing Attempt; Texas Tech-Officer Shot; NFL-National Anthem Standing Rule; West Coast Wildfires-Recovery.

CBS: West Coast Wildfires-Northern California; West Coast Wildfires-Southern California; Weinstein-Sexual Harassment Scandal; Las Vegas Shooting-Security Guard; Trump-Republicans Relations; Syria-Raqqa Assault; Puerto Rico Hurricane Recovery; North Carolina-Airport Bombing Attempt; Texas Tech-Officer Shot; West Coast Wildfires-Impacted Family.

NBC: West Coast Wildfires; Weinstein-Sexual Harassment Scandal; Trump-Republicans Relations; North Korea-Cyber Attacks; Opioid Epidemic; NFL-National Anthem Standing Rule; WHO-Child Obesity; UK Royal Family-Baby Number Three; Charitable Marathon Runner.

Network TV At A Glance:

West Coast Wildfires – 18 minutes, 15 seconds

Weinstein-Sexual Harassment Scandal – 8 minutes, 40 seconds

Trump-Republicans Relations – 6 minutes, 5 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: West Coast Wildfires; Las Vegas Shooting Investigation; Weinstein-Sexual Harassment Scandal; Navy-Destroyer Collision Investigation.

CBS: West Coast Wildfires; Weinstein-Sexual Harassment Scandal; North Korea Threats; Magazine Companies-Lacking Sales; Baseball News.

FOX: West Coast Wildfires; Weinstein-Sexual Harassment Scandal; US Team-World Cup.

NPR: West Coast Wildfires; Las Vegas Shooting Investigation; North Korea Threats; Wall Street News.

Washington Schedule

Today's Events In Washington.

White House:

PRESIDENT TRUMP — Leads an expanded bilateral meeting with Prime Minister Trudeau of Canada; gives remarks on tax reform in Harrisburg, PA.

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE — No public schedule announced.

US Senate: 3:30 PM Congressional briefing on 'The Intersection of Trademarks and Brands' – U.S. Chamber of Commerce Global Intellectual Property Center, in collaboration with INTA and the Congressional Trademark Caucus, hosts Congressional briefing on 'The Intersection of Trademarks and Brands: A Dialogue with Famous Brands and Law Enforcement'. Bipartisan Sens. Chris Coons and Chuck Grassley and Reps. John Ratcliffe and Ted Deutch lead the discussion, with other speakers including National Intellectual Property Rights Coordination Center Deputy Director William Ross, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office Commissioner for Trademarks Mary Boney Denison, and NBA Properties Executive Vice President and Deputy General Counsel Ayala Deutch Location: U.S. Capitol Visitor Center, Congressional Meeting Room South, Washington, DC www.uschamber.com
<https://twitter.com/USChamber>

On recess until 16 October.

US House: 10:00 AM House Commerce subcommittee hearing on 'how covered entities utilize the 340B Drug Pricing Program' – Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee hearing on 'Examining How Covered Entities Utilize the 340B Drug Pricing Program', with testimony from Northside Hospital Director of Finance and System Controller Shannon Banna; AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin President and CEO Mike Gifford; Mission Health Systems President and CEO Dr Ronald Paulus; Johns Hopkins Hospital Executive Vice President and COO Charles Reuland; and Carolina Health Centers President and CEO Sue Veer Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2123, Washington, DC
<http://energycommerce.house.gov/>
<https://twitter.com/HouseCommerce>

10:00 AM House Financial Services Committee markup hearing – Markup hearing on legislation including 'H.R. 1645, the Fostering Innovation Act of 2017', 'H.R. 1699, the Preserving Access to Manufactured Housing Act of 2017', 'H.R. 2148, the Clarifying Commercial Real Estate Loans', 'H.R. 2201, the Micro Offering Safe Harbor Act', 'H.R. 3072, the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection Examination and Reporting Threshold Act of 2017', 'H.R. 3299, the Protecting Consumers' Access to Credit Act of 2017', 'H.R. 3312, the Systemic Risk Designation Improvement Act of 2017', 'H.R. 3758, the Senior Safe Act of 2017', 'H.R. 3857, the Protecting Advice for Small Savers Act of 2017', 'H.R. 3903, the Encouraging Public Offerings Act of 2017', 'H.R. 3911, the Risk-Based Credit Examination Act', 'H.R. 3948, the Protection of Source Code Act', 'H.R. 3971, the Community Institution Mortgage Relief Act of 2017', 'H.R. 3972, the Family Office Technical Correction Act of 2017', and 'H.R. 3973, the Market Data Protection Act of 2017' Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2128, Washington, DC
<http://financialservices.house.gov>
<https://twitter.com/FinancialCmte>

10:00 AM House Oversight subcommittee hearing on U.S.

Govt role in protecting international religious freedom – National Security Subcommittee hearing on 'Review of the U.S.

Government's Role in Protecting International Religious Freedom'

Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2154, Washington, DC

<http://oversight.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/GOPoversight>

10:00 AM House Natural Resources subcommittee legislative hearing – Federal Lands Subcommittee legislative hearing on 'H.R. 219, Swan Lake Hydroelectric Project Boundary Correction Act', 'H.R. 2630, La Paz County Land Conveyance Act', 'H.R. 3373, To amend the District of Columbia Stadium Act of 1957 to extend for an additional 50 years the lease under which the government of the District of Columbia uses the ground under and the parking facilities associated with Robert F. Kennedy Memorial Stadium', 'H.R. 3607, To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to establish fees for medical services provided in units of the National Park System, and for other purposes', with testimony from Republican Rep. Paul Gosar; Southeast Alaska Power Agency CEO Trey Acteson; Events DC President and CEO Gregory O'Dell; National Park Service Acting Deputy Director for Operations Bob Vogel; and La Paz County, AZ, Chairman of the Board of Supervisors D.L. Wilson Location: Longworth House Office Building, Rm 1334, Washington, DC

<http://naturalresources.house.gov>

<https://twitter.com/NatResources>

10:00 AM House Foreign Affairs Committee hearing on Iran – Hearing on 'Confronting the Full Range of Iranian Threats', with testimony from The Washington Institute for Near East Policy Distinguished Visiting Fellow (and former U.S. Ambassador to Iraq, to Turkey, and to Albania) James Jeffrey; Jewish Institute for National Security of America Gemunder Center Iran Task Force Co-Chair (and former U.S. European Command Deputy Commander) Gen. (Ret.) Charles Wald; and Carnegie Endowment for International Peace Goeconomics and Strategy Program Senior Fellow (and former Vice President's National Security Adviser / former State Department Director of Policy Planning) Jake Sullivan Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2172, Washington, DC

<http://www.hcfa.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/HouseForeign>

10:00 AM House Infrastructure subcommittee hearing on highways and transit stakeholders' perspectives – Highways and Transit Subcommittee hearing on 'Building a 21st Century Infrastructure for America: Highways and Transit Stakeholders' Perspectives', with testimony from Missouri Department of Transportation Director Patrick McKenna (on behalf of American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials); Granite Construction President and CEO James Roberts (on behalf of Transportation Construction Coalition); North America's Building Trades Unions Secretary-Treasurer Brent Booker; Associated Industries of Missouri President and CEO Ray McCarty (on behalf of National Association of Manufacturers); and Sound Transit CEO Peter Rogoff Location: Rm 2167, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://transportation.house.gov/>

<https://twitter.com/Transport>

10:00 AM CFTC Chairman Giancarlo testifies to House Agriculture Committee on 2017 agenda – Hearing on ‘Examining the 2017 Agenda for the Commodity Futures Trading Commission’, with testimony from CFTC Chairman J. Christopher Giancarlo
Location: Longworth House Office Building, Rm 1300, Washington, DC <http://agriculture.house.gov/>

10:00 AM House Technology subcommittees joint hearing on undercover GAO review of NIST security vulnerabilities – Oversight Subcommittee and Research and Technology Subcommittee joint hearing on ‘NIST’s Physical Security Vulnerabilities: A GAO Undercover Review’, with testimony from Deputy Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Administration Lisa Casias; National Institute of Standards and Technology Acting Director Dr Kent Rochford; and Government Accountability Office Forensic Audits & Investigative Service Director of Audit Services Seto Bagdoyan
Location: Rm 2318, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://science.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/HouseScience>

10:15 AM House Dems call for removal of ‘job outsourcing provisions’ within NAFTA – Democratic Reps. Rosa DeLauro, Marcy Kaptur, Keith Ellison, and Debbie Dingell call for Investor-State Dispute Settlement rules be eliminated from the North American Free Trade Agreement during renegotiation, via press conference. The lawmakers say ISDS ‘makes it less risky for big corporations to outsource good paying American jobs’
Location: House Triangle, Washington, DC <http://www.house.gov/delauro/>
<https://twitter.com/rosadelauro>

10:30 AM Hearing on ‘Transforming GPO for the 21st Century and Beyond: Part 4’
Location: Rm 1310, Longworth House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://cha.house.gov/>
<https://twitter.com/HouseAdmnGOP>

11:00 AM House Small Business Committee latest hearing on the Paperwork Reduction Act – Hearing on ‘Evaluating the Paperwork Reduction Act Part II: Are Burdens Being Reduced?’, with testimony from Environmental Protection Agency Acting Assistant Administrator and Acting CIO Dr Steven Fine; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Deputy Director for Policy Stephen Guertin; Department of Labor CIO Gundee Ahluwalia; and Food and Drug Administration CIO Todd Simpson
Location: Rm 2360, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://smallbusiness.house.gov/>
<https://twitter.com/SmallBizGOP>

12:00 PM House expected to begin debate on whistleblower protection bill – House of Representatives meets for legislative business, with agenda expected to include beginning consideration of ‘S. 585 – Dr. Chris Kirkpatrick Whistleblower Protection Act of 2017’, plus consideration of ‘H.R. 2105 – NIST Small Business Cybersecurity Act of 2017’, as amended, ‘H.R. 2763 – The Small Business Innovation Research and Small Business Technology Transfer Improvements Act of 2017’, as amended, ‘S. 190 – Power And Security Systems (PASS) Act’, ‘S. 920 – National Clinical Care

Commission Act', 'H.R. 378 – Bonuses for Cost-Cutters Act of 2017', as amended, 'H.R. 2196 – To amend title 5, United States Code, to allow whistleblowers to disclose information to certain recipients', 'H.R. 2229 – All Circuit Review Act', 'H.R. 2989 – Frederick Douglass Bicentennial Commission Act', as amended, 'H.R. 3031 – TSP Modernization Act of 2017', as amended, and 'H.R. 3243 – FITARA Enhancement Act of 2017' under suspension of the rules Location: Washington, DC <http://www.house.gov/>

2:00 PM House Veterans' Affairs subcommittee legislative hearing – Economic Opportunity Subcommittee legislative hearing, on legislation including a draft bill entitled 'To amend title 38, United States Code, to eliminate the applicability of certain provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act to housing and business loan programs of the Department of Veterans Affairs', a draft bill entitled 'To amend title 38, United States Code, to make certain improvements to the use of educational assistance provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs for flight training programs', a draft bill entitled 'To authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to make grants to eligible organization for the provision of transition assistance to members of the Armed Forces recently separated from active duty service', and a draft bill entitled 'To amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for the designation of State approving agencies for multi-State apprenticeship programs for purposes of the educational assistance programs of the Department of Veterans Affairs' Location: Cannon House Office Building, Rm 334, Washington, DC <http://veterans.house.gov/>
<https://twitter.com/HouseVetAffairs>

2:00 PM House Natural Resources subcommittee legislative hearing – Energy and Mineral Resources Subcommittee legislative hearing on a discussion draft of 'H.R. XXXX, Accessing Strategic Resources Offshore Act' ('ASTRO Act'), with testimony from Van Ness Feldman Senior Policy Advisor Mary Landrieu; South Carolina State Sen. Stephen Goldfinch; American Petroleum Institute Director of Upstream and Industry Operations Erik Milito; and The Bromwich Group founder and Managing Principal Michael Bromwich Location: Longworth House Office Building, Rm 1334, Washington, DC http://naturalresources.house.gov
<https://twitter.com/NatResources>

2:00 PM Trade Subcommittee hearing on 'Opportunities to Expand U.S. Trade Relationships in the Asia-Pacific Region' Location: Longworth House Office Building, Rm 1100, Washington, DC <http://waysandmeans.house.gov/>
<https://twitter.com/WaysandMeansGOP>

2:00 PM House Foreign Affairs subcommittee hearing on Lebanon – Middle East and North Africa Subcommittee hearing on 'U.S. Policy Toward Lebanon', with testimony from Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs Michael Ratney; and USAID Acting Deputy Assistant Administrator for the Middle East Jeanne Pryor Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2172, Washington, DC <http://www.hcfa.house.gov>

<https://twitter.com/HouseForeign>

2:00 PM House Foreign Affairs subcommittee hearing on State Department / USAID budget for Africa – Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations Subcommittee hearing on 'The State Department and USAID FY 2018 Africa Budget', with testimony from Acting Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs Donald Yamamoto; and USAID Acting Assistant Administrator for Africa Cheryl Anderson Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2200, Washington, DC
<http://www.hcfa.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/HFACrepublicans>

2:00 PM Government Operations Subcommittee hearing on 'Security Clearance Investigation Challenges and Reforms' Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2154, Washington, DC
<http://oversight.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/GOPoversight>

2:00 PM House Commerce subcommittee markup hearing – Communications and Technology Subcommittee markup hearing on 'H.R.XXX, a bill to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to reauthorize appropriations for the Federal Communications Commission, to provide for certain procedural changes to the rules of the Commission to maximize opportunities for public participation and efficient decisionmaking, and for other purposes' Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2123, Washington, DC
<http://energycommerce.house.gov/>
<https://twitter.com/HouseCommerce>

3:30 PM Congressional briefing on 'The Intersection of Trademarks and Brands' – U.S. Chamber of Commerce Global Intellectual Property Center, in collaboration with INTA and the Congressional Trademark Caucus, hosts Congressional briefing on 'The Intersection of Trademarks and Brands: A Dialogue with Famous Brands and Law Enforcement'. Bipartisan Sens. Chris Coons and Chuck Grassley and Reps. John Ratcliffe and Ted Deutch lead the discussion, with other speakers including National Intellectual Property Rights Coordination Center Deputy Director William Ross, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office Commissioner for Trademarks Mary Boney Denison, and NBA Properties Executive Vice President and Deputy General Counsel Ayala Deutch Location: U.S. Capitol Visitor Center, Congressional Meeting Room South, Washington, DC www.uschamber.com
<https://twitter.com/USChamber>

4:00 PM House Natural Resources Committee markup hearing – Markup hearing on 'H.R. 3990, National Monument Creation and Protection Act' and 'H. Res. 555, Of inquiry requesting the President and directing the Secretary of the Interior to transmit, respectively, certain documents and other information to the House of Representatives relating to the executive order on the review of designations under the Antiquities Act' Location: Longworth House Office Building, Rm 1334, Washington, DC
<http://naturalresources.house.gov>
<https://twitter.com/NatResources>

Other: 8:15 AM The Hill forum on prospects for tax reform – The

Hill hosts 'Cracking the Tax Code: Prospects for Reform' forum, on the latest tax overhaul proposals and their potential impact on taxpayers, the economy, and beyond, with speakers including Council of Economic Advisers Chairman Kevin Hassett, Democratic Rep. Richard Neal, Republican Rep. Peter Roskam, U.S. Chamber of Commerce Vice President for Tax Policy and Chief Tax Counsel Caroline Harris, Small Business & Entrepreneurship Council President and CEO Karen Kerrigan, EY Americas Tax Policy Leader and partner Cathy Koch, and Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget President Maya MacGuineas Location: Newseum, 555 Pennsylvania Ave NW, Washington, DC thehill.com
<https://twitter.com/TheHillEvents> #TaxRateTalk

8:30 AM G24 Deputies Meeting – G24 Deputies Meeting, ahead of tomorrow's G24 Ministerial Meeting Location: Washington, DC <http://www.g24.org>

8:30 AM Bipartisan Reps. Don Bacon and Rick Larsen speak on U.S. defense needs – Republican Rep. Don Bacon and Democratic Rep. Rick Larsen speak at Brookings Institution Foreign Policy program discussion on U.S. defense needs and priorities Location: Johns Hopkins University SAIS, 1740 Massachusetts Ave NW, Washington, DC <http://www.brookings.edu>
<https://twitter.com/BrookingsInst>

9:00 AM CSIS and the Canadian Govt host symposium on the Multilateral Development Bank systems – 'Towards a Shareholder Consensus on the MDB System' Center for Strategic and International Studies symposium, hosted with the Canadian Govt, with panel discussions on optimizing the financials of the Multilateral Development Bank systems and improving development outcomes as a system. Speakers include Canadian Finance Minister Bill Morneau, African Development Bank Chief Risk Officer Tim Turner, Center for Global Development Senior Fellow and President Emeritus Nancy Birdsall, former U.S. Executive Director to the World Bank Sara Aviel, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development Chief Evaluator Joe Eichenburger, Canadian Deputy International Development Minister Diane Jacovella, and World Bank Vice President for Operations Policy and Country Services Manuela Ferro Location: Center for Strategic and International Studies, 1616 Rhode Island Ave NW, Washington, DC
<http://www.csis.org> <https://twitter.com/CSIS>

10:00 AM Dem Rep. Richard Neal keynotes BPC discussion on retirement policy – 'An Issue for All Ages: Retirement in America' Bipartisan Policy Center discussion, on where retirement policy stands and where it is headed, with keynote from Democratic Rep. Richard Neal and panel discussion with former Public Trustees of the Social Security and Medicare Trust Funds Charles Blahous III and Robert Resichauer, State Street Global Advisors President and CEO Ronald O'Hanley, Young Invincibles Director of Regional Strategy Eve Rips, and UnidosUS Office of Research, Advocacy and Legislation Vice President Eric Rodriguez Location: Bipartisan Policy Center, 1225 I St NW, Washington, DC www.bipartisanpolicy.org

https://twitter.com/BPC_Bipartisan

10:30 AM Pakistani interior minister speaks at SAIS – Pakistani Federal Minister for Interior Ahsan Iqbal speaks on ‘Pakistan’s Efforts in Internal and Regional Security’ at SAIS Dean’s Forum Location: SAIS, 1619 Massachusetts Ave NW, Washington, DC <http://www.sais-jhu.edu> <https://twitter.com/SAISHopkins>

11:30 AM GOP Rep. Patrick McHenry speaks at FSR roundtable on tax reform – Financial Services Roundtable hosts ‘America’s Tax Reform Opportunity – A CEO Conversation on Igniting the Economy’, with Republican Rep. Patrick McHenry, American Action Forum President Doug Holtz-Eakin, Business Roundtable President and CEO Joshua Bolten, and Financial Services Roundtable President and CEO Tim Pawlenty Location: Financial Services Roundtable, 600 13th St NW, Washington, DC www.fsround.org <https://twitter.com/fsroundtable>

1:30 PM Dem Rep. Bill Pascrell discusses impact of GOP tax plan on small businesses – Democratic Rep. Bill Pascrell discusses how the Republican tax plan does ‘very little for the vast majority of small businesses’, via press call with Main Street Alliance Legislative Policy Director Sapna Mehta, Center for American Progress Action Fund Senior Director of Tax Policy Alexandra Thornton and Foley-Waite Associates Owner (Bloomfield, NJ) Kelly Conklin Location: TBD www.americanprogressaction.org <https://twitter.com/CApaction>

5:30 PM World Bank President Kim and IMF Managing Director Lagarde speak at Civil Society Townhall – World Bank President Jim Yong Kim and International Monetary Fund Managing Director Christine Lagarde speak at a Civil Society Townhall meeting ahead of this weekend’s IMF / World Bank Annual Meetings Location: The World Bank, 1818 H St NW, Washington, DC www.worldbank.org <https://twitter.com/WorldBank>

7:00 PM Congressional Football Game – Congressional Football Game, with members of Congress and NFL legends facing the U.S. Capitol Police, with proceeds benefiting the United States Capitol Police Memorial Fund, Our Military Kids and A Advantage 4 Kids. Participating lawmakers including bipartisan Reps. Pete Aguilar, Don Bacon, Nanette Barragan, Jack Bergman, Mike Bishop, Mike Bost, James Comer, Rick Crawford, Carlos Curbelo, Rodney Davis, Jeff Denham, Chuck Fleischmann, Richard Hudson, Evan Jenkins, Joe Kennedy, Roger Marshall, Martha McSally, Alex Mooney, Markwayne Mullin, Jimmy Panetta, Tom Reed, Cedric Richmond, Pete Sessions, David Valadao, Marc Veasey, Mark Walker, Tim Walz and Bruce Westerman * Prior to the game, the NFL host a Play Football Clinic for area youth, including the Boys and Girls Club of Greater Washington, the DC Department of Parks and Recreation and students who attend Gallaudet University’s elementary and middle schools (5:45 PM EDT) Location: Gallaudet University, Hotchkiss Field, 800 Florida Ave NE, Washington, DC congressionalfootballgame.com <https://twitter.com/nfl>

Fortune Most Powerful Women Summit concludes – Fortune

Most Powerful Women Summit – ‘premiere gathering of women leaders in business, govt, academia, philanthropy, and the arts’. Speakers today include White House Counselor to the President Kellyanne Conway Location: Mandarin Oriental, Washington DC, 1330 Maryland Avenue Southwest, Washington, DC

<http://www.fortuneconferences.com/>

<https://twitter.com/FortuneMPW>

Last Laughs

Late Night Political Humor.

Jimmy Kimmel: [Referring to President Trump’s comment that he would compare his IQ with Secretary of State Rex Tillerson] “No intelligent person would get into an IQ contest with his own Secretary of State, right? Just that rules you out right there. ... I guarantee the next day, Kellyanne Conway would be saying that the lower the number, the better the score.”

Stephen Colbert: [Referring to Sen. Bob Corker’s interview with New York Times] “All this time, we’ve been worried the next war would be caused by artificial intelligence. Turns out the real danger is natural stupidity.”

James Corden: [Referring to President Trump’s tweet calling Sen. Bob Corker ‘Little Bob’] “So Donny made fun of little Bobby for being short. If you’re just joining us, no, I’m not reporting things my six-year-old saw on the playground today. I’m sharing news from the White House.”

James Corden: “Let’s face it, once a grown man challenges another grown man to a head-to-head IQ test, we don’t really need to see the results of the IQ test. They’re both idiots.”

Jimmy Fallon: “President Trump is back to golfing. And he played with Lindsey Graham yesterday and said that it was wet and windy. Luckily, some people from Puerto Rico came and threw their paper towels at him.”

Jimmy Fallon: “Meanwhile, I read that the US is suspending visa applications from Turkey. Trump was like, ‘Don’t worry, we’ll have them back for Thanksgiving.’”

Seth Meyers: “The New Yorker today released an audio of fired Hollywood movie producer Harvey Weinstein begging a model to come into his room to watch him shower. And by the looks of him, I’m guessing that shower never happened. I mean, the rest of us need one.”

Seth Meyers: “House Speaker Paul Ryan will visit Puerto Rico this

Friday. Wow. First Trump gave them paper towels, now he's giving them a wet blanket."

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From: Lillie, Juliette
 To: Mashburn, Lori; Scott, Hommel; Magallanes, Downey; Daniel, Jorjani
 Subject: Fwd: Updated November 14, 2017 Federal Register
 Date: Wednesday, November 15, 2017 10:12:20 AM

Good morning: Apologies, the two additional documents are highlighted in yellow

Julie
 Juliette Lillie
 Director Executive Secretariat and Regulatory Affairs
 Department of the Interior
 1849 C St NW
 Washington DC 20240

Email: juliette_lillie@ios.doi.gov
 Ph: 202-219-7724

Cleared for Federal Register Publication

Date:
 11/14/2017
 Records: 11

DCN	Bureau	Title	Synopsis	Type	Approved
REG0007556	BLM	Proposed Supplementary Rules for Public Lands Managed by the Eastern Interior Field Office at the Fairbanks District Office Administrative Site, Fairbanks, Alaska	These proposed supplementary rules would apply to approximately 11.41 acres of public lands within the BLM Fairbanks District Office (DO) administrative site. The DO is in an urban setting, and the proposed rules would prohibit acts that compromise public health and safety, such as open fires in proximity to office buildings, overnight/long-term occupancy, unattended domestic animals, unattended vehicles, skateboarding, hunting and trapping. Drones would also be prohibited because of the DO's proximity to an airport.	Proposed Rule	11/14/2017
REG0007564	BLM	Notice of Availability of the Record of Decision for the Boardman to Hemingway Transmission Line Project and Approved Land-use Plan Amendments, Oregon	The BLM announces the availability of the Record of Decision (ROD) for the Boardman to Hemingway Transmission Line Project (B2H Project) and Approved Land-use Plan Amendments of the BLM Baker and Southeastern Oregon Resource Management Plans (RMPs). The decision is effective immediately.	Notice	11/14/2017
REG0007513	BOR	Draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement, Pure Water San Diego Program, North City Project	Reclamation announces a 45-day public comment period.	Notice	11/14/2017
REG0007631	FWS	Availability of Proposed Low-Effect Habit Conservation Plan for the Florida Scrub-Jay, Volusia, County, FL	Orange Dale Venture, LLC has requested a permit for "take" of the federally threatened Florida scrub-jay associated with the planned construction of residential and commercial development in Volusia County, Florida.	Notice	11/14/2017
REG0007417	NPS	Notice of Availability of the Final Fire Island Wilderness Breach Management Plan / Environmental Impact Statement, Fire Island National Seashore, NY	The National Park Service (NPS) is announcing the availability of the Final Fire Island Wilderness Breach Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for Fire Island National Seashore in New York. The NPS will issue a Record of Decision (ROD) no sooner than 30 days after EPA publishes a Notice of Availability of the Final Breach Plan/EIS in the Federal Register.	Notice	11/14/2017
REG0007617	OSM	Agency Information Collection Activities: Requirements for Permits for Special Categories of Mining	This Notice, under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA), announces that OSMRE will ask the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to renew its approval of the collection of information for Requirements for Permits for Special Categories of Mining (30 CFR part 785). OSMRE is requesting public comments on the renewal for 60 days.	Notice	11/14/2017
REG0007618	OSM	Agency Information Collection Activities: Requirements for Coal Exploration	This Notice, under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA), announces that OSMRE will ask the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to renew its approval of the collection of information for Requirements for Coal Exploration (30 CFR part 772). OSMRE is requesting public comments on the renewal for 60 days.	Notice	11/14/2017
REG0007619	OSM	Agency Information Collection Activities: Surface Mining Permit Applications - Minimum Requirements for Reclamation and Operation Plans	This Notice, under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA), announces that OSMRE will ask the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to renew its approval of the collection of information for Surface Mining Permit Applications - Minimum Requirements for Reclamation and Operation Plans (30 CFR part 780). OSMRE is requesting public comments on the renewal for 60 days.	Notice	11/14/2017
		Agency Information Collection Activities: International Organization for	This Notice, under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA), announces that the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) will ask the Office of Management and		

REG0007628	USGS	Standardization (ISO) Geospatial Metadata Editors Registry	Budget (OMB) to renew its approval of the collection of information for the ISO Geospatial Metadata Editors Registry The USGS is requesting public comments on the renewal for 60 days This Notice, under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA), announces that the U S Geological Survey (USGS) will ask the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to renew its approval of the collection of information regarding The National Map Corps (TNMCorps) The USGS is requesting public comments on the renewal for 60 days This Notice, under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA), announces that the U S Geological Survey (USGS) will ask the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to renew its approval of the collection of information regarding the application and nomination process for the William T Pecora Award The USGS is requesting public comments on the renewal for 60 days	Notice	11/14/2017
REG0007629	USGS	Agency Information Collection Activities: The National Map Corps (TNMCorps) - Volunteered Geographic Information Project	Budget (OMB) to renew its approval of the collection of information regarding The National Map Corps (TNMCorps) The USGS is requesting public comments on the renewal for 60 days This Notice, under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA), announces that the U S Geological Survey (USGS) will ask the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to renew its approval of the collection of information regarding the application and nomination process for the William T Pecora Award The USGS is requesting public comments on the renewal for 60 days	Notice	11/14/2017
REG0007630	USGS	Agency Information Collection Activities: The William T Pecora Award; Application and Nomination Process	Budget (OMB) to renew its approval of the collection of information regarding the application and nomination process for the William T Pecora Award The USGS is requesting public comments on the renewal for 60 days	Notice	11/14/2017

From: Davis, Natalie
To: [Lori Mashburn](mailto:Lori.Mashburn)
Subject: Fwd: USGS National Geospatial Program 3D Elevation Program FY17 Public Webinars
Date: Wednesday, July 12, 2017 1:57:16 PM

What do you think? No?

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Triebisch, Margaret** <margaret_triebisch@ios.doi.gov>
Date: Wed, Jul 12, 2017 at 12:58 PM
Subject: USGS National Geospatial Program 3D Elevation Program FY17 Public Webinars
To: Lori Mashburn <lori_mashburn@ios.doi.gov>, "Davis, Natalie"
<natalie_davis@ios.doi.gov>

Would this require a meeting waiver? The Webinars are scheduled for August 10th and August 17th. My initial thought is no, but wanted to check with you.

The 3D Elevation Program (3DEP) initiative is being developed to respond to needs for high-quality topographic data and for a wide range of other three-dimensional representations of the Nation's natural and constructed features.

The primary goal of 3DEP is to systematically collect enhanced elevation data in the form of high-quality light detection and ranging (lidar) data over the conterminous United States, Hawaii, and the U.S. territories, as well as interferometric synthetic aperture radar (ifsar) data over Alaska.

The 3DEP initiative is based on the results of the National Enhanced Elevation Assessment (NEEA), which indicated an optimal benefit to cost ratio for Quality Level 2 (QL2) data collected over 8-years to complete national coverage. The implementation model for 3DEP is based on multi-agency partnership funding for acquisition, with the USGS acting in a lead program management role to facilitate planning and acquisition for the broader community, through the use of government contracts and partnership agreements.

The annual Broad Agency Announcement (BAA) is a competitive solicitation issued to facilitate the collection of lidar and derived elevation data for the 3D Elevation Program (3DEP).

Federal agencies, state and local governments, tribes, academic institutions and the private sector are eligible to submit proposals.

The 3DEP public webinars will introduce this opportunity to the broadest stakeholder community possible and provide a summary of the BAA application procedures.

<https://nationalmap.gov/3DEP/>

Thanks,
Margaret

--

Margaret Triebisch
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW - Room 7313
Washington, DC 20240
(202) 208-4524
(202) 219-2100 - FAX
(202) 674-2067 - Cell
<https://www.doi.gov/execsec/faca>

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Natalie Davis, Special Assistant
Immediate Office of the Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
202.208.4928

From: Davis, Natalie
To: [Margaret Triebsch](mailto:Margaret.Triebsch@ios.doi.gov)
Cc: [Lori Mashburn](mailto:Lori.Mashburn@ios.doi.gov)
Subject: Fwd: VETTING: Northwest Arctic Subsistence Regional Advisory Council
Date: Thursday, January 25, 2018 11:28:03 AM

Louis Willis Commack, Jr. is approved.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Wackowski, Stephen** <stephen_wackowski@ios.doi.gov>
Date: Wed, Jan 17, 2018 at 7:16 PM
Subject: Re: VETTING: Northwest Arctic Subsistence Regional Advisory Council
To: "Davis, Natalie" <natalie_davis@ios.doi.gov>

Ok with this.

Steve Wackowski
Senior Adviser for Alaskan Affairs
Department of the Interior
[4230 University Drive, Suite 300](mailto:4230.University.Drive.Suite.300@ios.doi.gov)
[Anchorage, AK 99508](mailto:Anchorage.AK.99508@ios.doi.gov)
[907-271-5485](tel:907-271-5485)

On Wed, Jan 17, 2018 at 9:41 AM, Davis, Natalie <natalie_davis@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

Can you look at this person. I will do political vet- just need your opinion.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Triebsch, Margaret** <margaret_triebsch@ios.doi.gov>
Date: Fri, Dec 1, 2017 at 9:22 AM
Subject: VETTING: Northwest Arctic Subsistence Regional Advisory Council
To: Lori Mashburn <lori_mashburn@ios.doi.gov>, "Davis, Natalie" <natalie_davis@ios.doi.gov>

Louie Willis Commack, Jr. (Reappointment) {Alternate}

(b) (6)

Representing Subsistence Users

Appointed December 3, 2015 with a term end date of December 2, 2017

Louie Willis Commack, Jr. of Ambler applied to serve as a subsistence use representative. Mr. Commack has lived in the region his whole life (is 65 years old), has lived a subsistence way of life, and hunts and fishes for moose, bear, caribou, waterfowl, and sheefish. Mr. Commack is very knowledgeable of fish and game rules and regulations on the statewide level and the Federal level.

Mr. Commack fishes for salmon, whitefish, and sheefish with nets, and also sheefish through the ice on Kobuk Lake in the spring. He hunted bear and moose all his life, but has not done so in the last few years due to health reasons. Mr. Commack hunts and fishes mostly along the Kobuk River, but also occasionally hunts inland, on National Park Service lands, for moose and caribou. He indicates there is not much commercial or sport hunting activity in the Ambler area, but mentions commercial salmon fishing occurs in Kotzebue Sound and hunting guides operate out of Kotzebue as well.

Mr. Commack has been involved with the Kobuk Valley Subsistence Resource Commission for over 30 years (and has been the chair), served on the Gates of the Arctic Subsistence Resource Commission for 3-4 years, and was appointed to the Northwest Arctic Subsistence Regional Advisory Council in 2015. He has also served on the Upper Kobuk Advisory Council for the past 27 years. Mr. Commack talks with hunters and fishers at local fish and game advisory committee meetings and the Subsistence Regional Advisory Council meetings. He is knowledgeable about changes to the hunting regulations in the region and shares this information with his community.

--

Margaret Triebisch
U.S. Department of the Interior
[1849 C Street, NW - Room 7313](mailto:Margaret.Triebisch@doj.gov)
[Washington, DC 20240](mailto:Margaret.Triebisch@doj.gov)
(202) 208-4524
(202) 219-2100 - FAX
(202) 674-2067 - Cell
<https://www.doi.gov/execsec/faca>

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Natalie Davis
Special Assistant to the Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
202.208.4928

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Natalie Davis
Special Assistant to the Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior

202.208.4928

From: Davis, Natalie
To: [Margaret Triebsch](mailto:Margaret.Triebsch@ios.doi.gov)
Cc: [Lori Mashburn](mailto:Lori.Mashburn@ios.doi.gov)
Subject: Fwd: VETTING: Northwest Arctic Subsistence Regional Advisory Council
Date: Thursday, January 25, 2018 11:29:09 AM

No on this individual.

Thanks,
Nat

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Davis, Natalie** <natalie_davis@ios.doi.gov>
Date: Thu, Jan 18, 2018 at 9:41 AM
Subject: Re: VETTING: Northwest Arctic Subsistence Regional Advisory Council
To: "Wackowski, Stephen" <stephen_wackowski@ios.doi.gov>

Agreed. Thanks

On Wed, Jan 17, 2018 at 7:16 PM, Wackowski, Stephen <stephen_wackowski@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

Hard no on this one (criminal history and application answers)

Steve Wackowski
Senior Adviser for Alaskan Affairs
Department of the Interior
[4230 University Drive, Suite 300](mailto:4230.University.Drive.Suite.300@ak.doe.gov)
[Anchorage, AK 99508](mailto:Anchorage.AK.99508@ak.doe.gov)
[907-271-5485](tel:907-271-5485)

On Wed, Jan 17, 2018 at 9:43 AM, Davis, Natalie <natalie_davis@ios.doi.gov> wrote:
Hi Steve,

Here is another name for the same board that I sent over earlier. Can you take a look?

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Triebsch, Margaret** <margaret_triebsch@ios.doi.gov>
Date: Thu, Dec 7, 2017 at 7:51 AM
Subject: VETTING: Northwest Arctic Subsistence Regional Advisory Council
To: Lori Mashburn <lori_mashburn@ios.doi.gov>, "Davis, Natalie" <natalie_davis@ios.doi.gov>

(b) (6)



(b) (6) applied to serve as a subsistence use representative. Mr.

(b) (6)



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Margaret Triebisch
U.S. Department of the Interior
[1849 C Street, NW - Room 7313](#)
[Washington, DC 20240](#)
(202) 208-4524
(202) 219-2100 - FAX
(202) 674-2067 - Cell
<https://www.doi.gov/execsec/faca>

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Natalie Davis
Special Assistant to the Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
202.208.4928



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Natalie Davis
Special Assistant to the Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
202.208.4928

--

Natalie Davis
Special Assistant to the Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
202.208.4928

From: Davis, Natalie
To: Lori Mashburn
Subject: Fwd: VETTING: U.S.-Russia Polar Bear Commission - Alternate Commissioners
Date: Tuesday, November 14, 2017 5:35:28 PM

FYI: Steve is good with these candidates for Polar Bear Commission.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Davis, Natalie <natalie_davis@ios.doi.gov>
Date: Tue, Nov 14, 2017 at 5:34 PM
Subject: Re: VETTING: U.S.-Russia Polar Bear Commission - Alternate Commissioners
To: "Wackowski, Stephen" <stephen_wackowski@ios.doi.gov>

Great thanks!

On Tue, Nov 14, 2017 at 5:12 PM, Wackowski, Stephen <stephen_wackowski@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

Good with both candidates--also vetted them with the AK congressional delegation staff and they gave a thumbs up.

Steve Wackowski
Senior Adviser for Alaskan Affairs
Department of the Interior
4230 University Drive, Suite 300
Anchorage, AK 99508
907-271-5485

On Tue, Nov 14, 2017 at 12:46 PM, Davis, Natalie <natalie_davis@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

> Hey, do you know any of these people?

>

> Thanks!

>

> ----- Forwarded message -----

> **From:** Triebisch, Margaret <margaret_triebisch@ios.doi.gov>

> **Date:** Tue, Nov 14, 2017 at 4:09 PM

> **Subject:** VETTING: U.S.-Russia Polar Bear Commission - Alternate Commissioners

> **To:** "Davis, Natalie" <natalie_davis@ios.doi.gov>, Lori Mashburn

> <lori_mashburn@ios.doi.gov>

>

>

> Raynita Bridgette "Taqlik" Hepa (Appointment)

> (b) (6)

[REDACTED]

- > Native people of Alaska
- >
- > Mary Alice Colligan (Appointment) [FWS Employee]
- > (b) (6)
- >
- > Federal Government Official
- >
- > § 1423d. Commission appointments; compensation, travel expenses, and claims
- > (a) Appointment of United States commissioners
- > (1) Appointment
- > The United States commissioners on the Commission shall be appointed by the
- > President, in accordance with paragraph 2 of article 8 of the Agreement,
- > after taking into consideration the recommendations of— (A) the
- > Secretary; (B) the Secretary of State; and (C) the Alaska Nanuuq Commission.
- > (2) Qualifications
- > With respect to the United States commissioners appointed under this
- > subsection, in accordance with paragraph 2 of article 8 of the Agreement—
- > (A) 1 United States commissioner shall be an official of the Federal
- > Government;
- > (B) 1 United States commissioner shall be a representative of the Native
- > people of Alaska, and, in particular, the Native people for whom polar bears
- > are an integral part of their culture; and (C) both commissioners shall be
- > knowledgeable of, or have expertise in, polar bears.
- > (3) Service and term
- > Each United States commissioner shall serve—
- > (A) at the pleasure of the President; and
- > (B) for an initial 4-year term and such additional terms as the President
- > shall determine.
- > (4) Vacancies
- > (A) In general
- > Any individual appointed to fill a vacancy occurring before the expiration
- > of any term of office of a United States commissioner shall be appointed for
- > the remainder of that term.
- > (B) Manner
- > Any vacancy on the Commission shall be filled in the same manner as the
- > original appointment.
- > (b) Alternate commissioners
- > (1) In general
- > The Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of State and the Alaska
- > Nanuuq Commission, shall designate an alternate commissioner for each member
- > of the United States section.
- > (2) Duties
- > In the absence of a United States commissioner, an alternate commissioner
- > may exercise all functions of the United States commissioner at any meetings
- > of the Commission or of the United States section.
- > (3) Reappointment
- > An alternate commissioner—
- > (A) shall be eligible for reappointment by the President; and

- > (B) may attend all meetings of the United States section.
- > (c) Duties
 - > The members of the United States section may carry out the functions and responsibilities described in article 8 of the Agreement in accordance with this subchapter and the Agreement.
- > (d) Compensation and expenses
 - > (1) Compensation
 - > A member of the United States section shall serve without compensation.
 - > (2) Travel expenses
 - > A member of the United States section shall be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, at rates authorized for an employee of an agency under subchapter I of chapter 57 of title 5 while away from the home or regular place of business of the member in the performance of the duties of the United States-Russia Polar Bear Commission.
- > (e) Agency designation The United States section shall, for the purpose of title 28 relating to claims against the United States and tort claims procedure, be considered to be a Federal agency.
 - > (Pub. L. 92-522, title V, §505, as added Pub. L. 109-479, title IX, §902(a), Jan. 12, 2007, 120 Stat. 3663.)
- >
- > --
 - > Margaret Triebsch
 - > U.S. Department of the Interior
 - > 1849 C Street, NW - Room 7313
 - > Washington, DC 20240
 - > (202) 208-4524
 - > (202) 219-2100 - FAX
 - > (202) 674-2067 - Cell
 - > <https://www.doi.gov/execsec/faca>
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 - > Natalie Davis
 - > Special Assistant to the Secretary
 - > U.S. Department of the Interior
 - > 202.208.4928
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Natalie Davis
Special Assistant to the Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior

202.208.4928

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Natalie Davis
Special Assistant to the Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
202.208.4928

From: Davis, Natalie
To: [Lori Mashburn](mailto:Lori.Mashburn)
Subject: Fwd: Wetland Conservation Council/Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Advisory Group
Date: Monday, July 10, 2017 2:29:38 PM

With your approval, I will give Margaret the OK for board appointment?

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Greg Sheehan** <greg_j_sheehan@fws.gov>
Date: Mon, Jul 10, 2017 at 2:07 PM
Subject: Re: Wetland Conservation Council/Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Advisory Group
To: "Davis, Natalie" <natalie_davis@ios.doi.gov>

Hi Natalie.

These three names will be fine. All good for this administration. There is a fourth who you didn't mention above, (b) (6) Department of Wildlife. His resume was below. He would also be excellent to have on the council. Can you clarify if he is a fourth nominee?

Thanks
Greg

Greg Sheehan, Acting Director
Principal Deputy Director
US Fish and Wildlife Service
202-208-4545 office
202-676-7675 cell

On Jul 10, 2017, at 11:06 AM, Davis, Natalie <natalie_davis@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

Here are their resumes- see attached.

On Mon, Jul 10, 2017 at 1:04 PM, Davis, Natalie <natalie_davis@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

Hi Greg,

We are about to appoint some individuals to the Wetland Conservation Council and the Neotropical Bird Conservation Advisory Group. If you wouldn't mind, can you take a quick look at the names and see if you know any of them or see any issues? We have done a background check as well as a political background check and did not see anything questionable, but would still like your opinion.

They are having their meeting on Friday, so I would like to approve them today or tomorrow if possible.

I attached the charter of the boards they would be serving on. As you can see, some are reappointments.

I included the organization they represent with their info.

The names presented to us are the following:

Thomas Edward Moorman (Appointment) **{Primary}**

(b) (6)
[Redacted]

Ducks Unlimited



Gerald Anthony Wasley **(Reappointment)**

(b) (6)
[Redacted]

Nevada Dept of Wildlife

Appointed January 10, 2017 with a term end date of March 31, 2017

David Eric Nomsen **(Reappointment)**

(b) (6)
[Redacted]

Pheasants Forever, Inc.

Appointed June 20, 2017 with a term end date of March 31, 2017

James Thomas Leach **(Appointment)**

(b) (6)
[Redacted]

Minnesota Dept of Natural Resources

Thank you!

Natalie

--

Natalie Davis, Special Assistant
Immediate Office of the Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
202.208.4928

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Natalie Davis, Special Assistant
Immediate Office of the Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
202.208.4928

<2017 David Nomsen Resume.pdf>

<2017 James Leach resume.pdf>

<2017 Tony Wasley Resume.pdf>

<2017 BIO - Thomas Moorman.pdf>

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Natalie Davis, Special Assistant
Immediate Office of the Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
202.208.4928

From: Swift, Heather
To: [Laura Rigas](#); [Russell Newell](#); [Magallanes, Downey](#); [Willens, Todd](#); [Daniel Jorjani](#); [Scott Hommel](#); [David Bernhardt](#); [Wackowski, Stephen](#); [Micah Chambers](#); [Lori Mashburn](#); [Davis, Natalie](#); [James Cason](#); [John Tahsuda](#); [Gavin Clarkson](#)
Subject: Fwd: What They Are Saying: President Trump and Secretary Zinke's Nomination of Tara Sweeney: TEST
Date: Wednesday, October 18, 2017 2:42:39 PM

Plan to send this around 3:30PM EST

-
Heather Swift
Department of the Interior
@DOIPressSec
Heather_Swift@ios.doi.gov | Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

news release



Date: October 18, 2017
Contact: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

What They Are Saying: President Trump and Secretary Zinke's Nomination of Tara Sweeney

Alaska Daily News: ["The White House announced the pick Monday. The reaction on Tuesday bordered on ecstatic"](#)

[Alaska Dispatch News:](#) Alaska Native leaders say Tara Sweeney is well suited for Trump's top Indian affairs job. "Sweeney is tough and smart with the political savvy and instincts to negotiate bureaucracy, said Gloria O'Neill, who has long worked with Sweeney on boards and projects."

[KTUU-Alaska:](#) Steady praise for the Alaskan chosen by President Trump for top Indian Affairs job. "Alaskan politicians commented on the nomination following the news, which was announced late Monday afternoon. The nomination was met with near-universal approval from the Alaskan lawmakers."

[Alaska Public Media:](#) Applause sounds for Alaskan selected for Indian Affairs post at Interior. "Her nomination has Alaska's U.S. senators literally cheering. Sen. Lisa Murkowski:

‘What a fabulous, fabulous nomination.’ Sen. Dan Sullivan: ‘Historic. Super-well qualified.’”

Indianz: National Congress of American Indians looks forward to Tara Sweeney confirmation. “The Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs is charged with the federal responsibility to protect tribal sovereignty, treaty rights, and the trust relationship,” NCAI President Brian Cladoosby said on Tuesday. “This nomination is an important step by the administration, and we look forward a swift confirmation by the United States Senate...We appreciate the administration’s commitment to efficiently staffing important positions within governmental departments directly affecting Indian Country, and we look forward to hearing from Ms. Sweeney about her goals and plans for working with tribal leaders to ensure the government-to-government relationship is upheld.”

ELECTED OFFICIALS

Governor Bill Walker praises the nomination of Tara Sweeney: "Tara's selection for this position is cause for celebration in Alaska. In each of my conversations with Secretary Zinke, I have encouraged him to include Alaskans for significant roles in his department. Tara's leadership in seeking self-determination and economic development for the people of the Arctic has been exemplary. As an Inupiaq tribal and corporate leader, she has sought the necessary balance between economic development and sustaining the ways of life and cultures of Alaska's First People. While many will be sad to see her leave ASRC, Tara's expertise will serve our state and nation well in this new role."

Senator Lisa Murkowski said Sweeney has her full support: “Tara has a very strong record of professionalism and accomplishment in Alaska, across the country, and internationally, especially with the indigenous people of the circumpolar north. She has significant experience on Arctic issues and chaired the Arctic Economic Council. She is an expert on energy, infrastructure, broadband, economic development, Native self-determination, and a wide range of policy issues that will come before her. Secretary Zinke could not have chosen a better leader to help him fulfill the federal government’s trust responsibility, and I know Tara has the heart and drive to excel in this position.”

Sen. Dan Sullivan said it was a historic appointment for Alaskans: “I’ve worked with Tara Sweeney for years and I have witnessed first-hand her integrity, her strong leadership skills and her devotion to public service. Tara has a deep love for our state and people, and is relentless in her commitment to securing a better future for Alaska and the nation. With her long history of advocating for Alaska Native cultural values, rights, and economic opportunity, I can’t think of anyone better to have as our nation’s next Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs.”

Congressman Don Young said Sweeney was an outstanding choice: “Tara’s knowledge, experience and leadership will go a long way in straightening out the BIA, allowing it to run more efficiently for the good of all First Americans. She has extensive experience not only in business, but also within Alaska Native groups and organizations. Tara knows first-hand the fight for Native empowerment and self-determination because she’s been on the front lines for years. There’s long been a problem with Native issues not receiving the priority they deserve but with Tara Sweeney at the helm, I have no doubt the Department of Interior will be paying close attention and the voices of our Native communities will be heard. Tara follows in great Alaskan footsteps, those of my dear friend Morris Thompson, and will do a fantastic job working on behalf of American Indians and Alaska Natives across the country.”

NATIVE LEADERS

Jackie Johnson Pata with the National Congress of American Indians: "I commend the Secretary for his choice of Tara Sweeney for the Position of Assistant Secretary. Tara's diverse experience in the areas of energy, natural resources, and tribal governance will be a welcome addition to the Department of Interior and NCAI looks forward to working with Tara in her new capacity."

John Berrey, Chairman of the Quapaw Tribe in Oklahoma. "Since March when he was sworn in, Secretary Zinke has been assembling a top-notch team of professionals to help him lead the Interior Department. With Tara Sweeney's nomination, the Secretary is showing he means business when it comes to reforming the BIA and improving the delivery of services to Indian people. Tara's long and dedicated service to the Alaska Federation of Natives, the Arctic Slope Regional Corporation and, most recently, the Arctic Economic Council, will be what is needed in the BIA's top official. I thank the secretary for this nomination and pledge to help Tara achieve success for Native people any way I can."

Cherokee Principal Chief Bill John Baker: "The Cherokee Nation is certainly proud of our citizen, Bryan Rice, and his accomplished career stemming in natural resources and now in Washington, D.C., overseeing the agency that most directly works with all federally recognized Indian tribes."

Leonard Smith, Executive Director of the Native American Development Corporation: "Ms. Sweeney's background consists of the right elements to assist our economic development efforts with the tribes we serve in Montana, Wyoming, North and South Dakota towards economic sustainability. Her experience in energy, capital, government contracting and economic development give her the depth of knowledge to develop legislative solutions to federal policies that hinder economic development with tribal nations. We feel confident she will be able to promote stronger federal support through collaboration with other federal, state and private resources for implementation of the infrastructure necessary for economic growth and sustainability."

Julie Kitka, President of the Alaska Federation of Natives: "In these critical times, Ms. Tara Sweeney will serve as a strong Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs. Her experience with empowering Native Americans is unparalleled and she will help all tribes achieve great self-determination. There is not a Tribe or Alaska Native corporation that she would not help. I have had the opportunity to work alongside Ms. Sweeney for over a decade, I've seen her in action and she is driven by results."

David Solomon, a Gwich'in activist from Fort Yukon: "Oh it's awesome! It's good to see our Native leader be in the front line now. We've been recognized." Solomon was in Washington, D.C. to rally opposition in the Senate to drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. ASRC owns subsurface rights in the refuge and Sweeney has been a lead advocate in favor of drilling there. But Solomon takes a broader view and says Sweeney's selection is "good for Alaska Natives."

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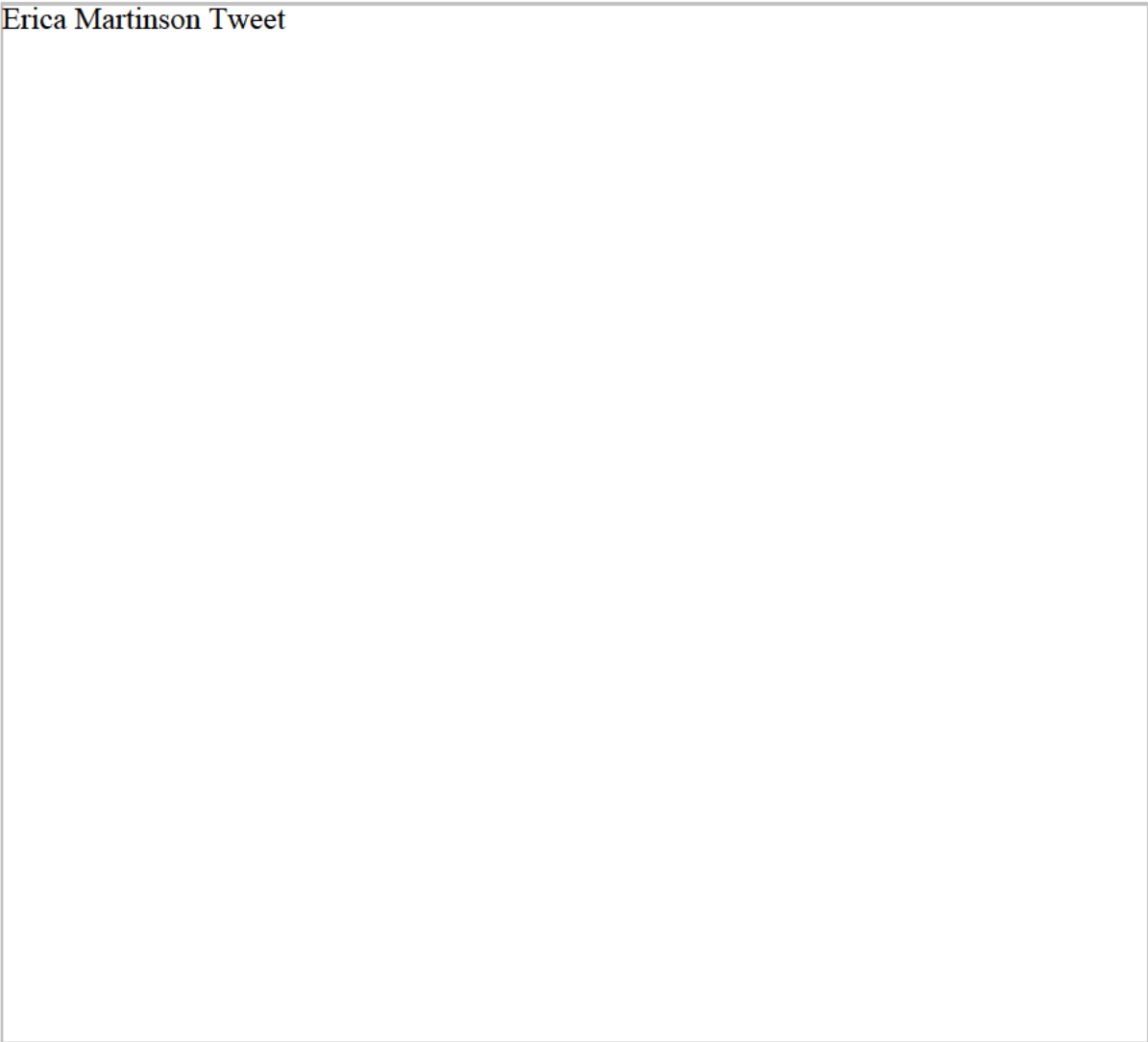


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