

**To:** Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]  
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**Subject:** First Move: Ocean Summit in Canada • Pruitt Off to Iowa • More Clean Power Hearings?

What you need to know to start your day.

## Ocean Summit in Canada • Pruitt Off to Iowa • More Clean Power Hearings?

By [Chuck McCutcheon](#)

Depleted fish stocks, plastic pollution, melting glaciers, and rising sea levels are just a few of the issues confronting Earth's oceans. And, depending on one's point of view, the solutions range from solvable to daunting.

The World Ocean Council's Sustainable Ocean Summit is taking place this week in Halifax, Nova Scotia, to discuss some of the potential solutions. [Adam Allington](#) is reporting from the conference, which follows up on the United Nations' first-ever Ocean Conference earlier this year.

Ocean waves break off Sunset Beach, Calif.  
Photographer: David McNew/Getty Images

The council functions as sort of an international chamber for ocean commerce. It seeks to bring together such industries as shipping, oil and gas, fisheries, aquaculture, tourism, and renewable energy, along with maritime legal, financial, and insurance companies.

One of the summit's panels will focus on climate change and ocean acidification and look at how businesses can ensure that ports and coastal infrastructure can be made more resilient against extreme weather. Another session on marine pollution will explore how industries collaborate to halt the introduction of invasive species.

**The EPA today** is scheduled to finalize 2018 ethanol volumes under the Renewable Fuel Standard. The RFS is the 2005 law that requires U.S. oil refineries to blend increasing amounts of ethanol and biodiesel into the nation's fuel supply.

Corn-state lawmakers have pushed EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt to jettison plans to revamp the standard mandating the use of ethanol and other biofuels. Their concerns help to explain why [Pruitt plans](#) to visit the city of Nevada, Iowa, on Friday to meet with farmers and biofuel groups.

That meeting signals that Pruitt plans to stick to his October pledge to the

lawmakers and issue a requirement for 15 billion gallons of conventional biofuel—mostly corn-based ethanol.

**Now that the official** hearings on repealing the Clean Power Plan are over, proponents of the Obama-era initiative are demanding more sessions.

Abby Smith, who reported from the public hearings in Charleston, W.Va., explains that New York already is planning to host a forum in mid-December—with or without the EPA’s participation.

“If EPA will not bring these important hearings to our residents, we will bring the hearings to them,” Mike Myers, an assistant attorney general for New York state, testified at the Charleston hearing.

A hearing in New York—or in another large city—would almost certainly draw larger numbers of low-income people and minorities who back the Clean Power Plan. Some of them testified in Charleston that controlling climate and air pollution from coal-fired plants, as the Obama administration sought to do in its plan, is critical to environmental justice.

### **Other Stories We’re Covering**

- The Senate has begun voting to start debate of the Republican-backed tax overhaul, which includes provisions to open drilling in Alaska’s Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.
- Pennsylvania’s environment department is hosting a webinar today on final regulations for methane emissions from oil and gas wells. The final regulations—the first of their kind in the nation, the department says—are an update to draft regulations announced in January 2016 that seek to target methane leaks. Leslie A. Pappas is following.
- A House Natural Resources panel is holding a hearing on a bill that would streamline the Bureau of Reclamation’s process for approving water projects. David Schultz is covering.
- Donald Blankenship, former Massey Energy chief executive who went to prison in the wake of a 2010 mine explosion that killed 29, plans to run for the U.S. Senate from West Virginia.

### **Quote of the Day**

“This is not a standard vaccine. It’s proving to be an elusive little genie to get out of the bottle.”

—Peter Janssen, principal research scientist for a New Zealand program trying to develop a vaccine to make cows burp less, thus reducing their contribution to climate change.

### **Around the Web**

- Grants funded by the National Science Foundation have seen a steady drop this year in the use of the phrase “climate change.”
- Yale University has released a map breaking down opinions on climate change at the state and congressional district levels and sorted by political party; it finds 62 percent of New York Republicans believe global warming is happening, while only 48 percent of Republicans in Nebraska and Kansas concur.
- General Motors Co. will demonstrate its battery-powered, computer-operated Chevrolet Bolt prototype today in San Francisco, hoping to establish itself as a leader in the race to bring driverless cars to market.

### Today's Events

- **9:30 a.m. • Interior** • Deputy Secretary David Bernhardt will testify before a House Appropriations panel.
- **12:30 p.m. • FERC** • Chairman Neil Chatterjee will speak at the Natural Gas Roundtable luncheon.
- **12:45 p.m. • Energy Security** • Resources for the Future hosts webcasted event on energy security with speakers including MIT's Howard Gruenspecht, who recently stepped down as the Energy Information Administration's acting administrator.
- **All Day • Energy and Climate** • Texas Public Policy Foundation and the Heritage Foundation host the At the Crossroads IV: Energy and Climate Policy Summit. Speakers include Republican Sens. Jim Inhofe of Oklahoma and Mike Lee of Utah.

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