

**To:** Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]  
**From:** Morning Energy  
**Sent:** Fri 6/16/2017 2:05:20 PM  
**Subject:** POLITICO's Morning Energy: Unpacking Pruitt's early days as administrator — DOE defends closing climate office — Carper pushing for quick Svinicki vote

By Anthony Adragna | 06/16/2017 10:00 AM EDT

*With help from Anca Gurzu and Alex Guillén*

**PRUITT'S EARLY SCHEDULES RELEASED:** After months of requesting them, EPA released Administrator Scott Pruitt's schedules for his first five weeks in office to E&E News late Thursday. They show a host of previously-known meetings with governors and industry figures, but also detail undisclosed private meetings with senior energy industry VIPs - and virtually no interactions with environmentalists.

**Wading into the White House:** Before he helped convince President Donald Trump to ditch the Paris climate deal, Pruitt lunched separately with members of the dueling ideological camps inside the White House. On March 13, Pruitt sat down with the president's daughter Ivanka Trump, who ultimately failed to convince her father to stick with the accord. A few days later, he discussed climate change with Stephen Miller, one of the president's more populist conservative advisers.

**Congress calls:** Sen. Todd Young (R-Ind.) scored an early win when a when a March 8 call to raise the USS Lead Superfund site in East Chicago led to a personal visit by Pruitt on April 19. Indiana's other senator, Democrat Joe Donnelly, also scored a phone call with Pruitt. And Pruitt met once with Sen. Luther Strange (R-Ala.), a longtime collaborator on environmental lawsuits when both were AGs. The topic, according to Pruitt's schedule, was the "Alabama sweep," which ME is guessing is a sports thing.

**Industry invites:** Pruitt spoke at a dinner gathering of the American Petroleum Institute's executive committee and board of directors - held at the Trump Hotel, across the street from EPA headquarters. Pruitt also discussed regulatory reform and "Chevron's perspective on global oil and gas developments" with Chevron chief John Watson. Steve Pastor, a petroleum executive with BHP Billiton, asked for a meeting to "thank [Pruitt] for leadership."

**More industry meetings with:** Coal CEO Bob Murray; Andrew Liveris, Dow Chemical; Lynn Good, Duke Energy; Sean Trauschke, Paul Renfrow and George Baker of OGE Energy; National Rural Electric Cooperative Association CEO Jim Matheson; BMW Global Chairman CEO Harald Krüger; A.J. Ferate, vice president of regulatory affairs at Oklahoma Independent Petroleum Association.

**Odds and ends:** Pruitt on several occasions blocked out time for CIA Director Mike Pompeo, but no other details were included. At Pruitt's request, former Virginia attorney general Ken Cuccinelli stopped by to talk about an undisclosed topic. Cuccinelli is now general counsel for FreedomWorks, the Koch-connected group. Pruitt met in his office on March 22 with Kevin Hern, a Tulsa businessman planning to run for the seat of Rep. Jim Bridenstine, who said he

would limit himself to three terms. Pruitt also met with: German Environment State Secretary Jochen Flasbarth; Environmental Council of the States executive director Alexandra Dunn; Jason Grumet of the Bipartisan Policy Council; James T. Conway and others from Securing America's Future Energy; San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District executive director Seyed Sadredin.

**An ear for ethanol:** Pruitt's calendar is light on details in terms of what was discussed, with a few exceptions. On several occasions Pruitt discussed the federal biofuels mandate, including a wonky dispute over which companies are responsible for complying with the law. Pruitt has the final call on a petition the Obama administration proposed rejecting that would move the so-called point of obligation from oil refiners to fuel blenders. The point of obligation was a topic of discussion when Pruitt met with Greg Love of Love's Travel Stops, which belongs to a trade association representing truck stop owners that has come out against shifting the obligation. Pruitt also discussed the topic with George Damiris, the CEO of HollyFrontier, an independent refiner that supports the shift. And he discussed the Renewable Fuel Standard with BP America CEO John Minge, whose company is part of a coalition pushing to keep the point of obligation where it is. Pruitt also met separately with National Corn Growers Association CEO Chris Novak and Corn Refiners Association CEO John Bode alongside other agriculture industry representatives, although his calendar did not list the topics they discussed.

**Did we miss anyone?:** No meetings with environmentalists were listed on Pruitt's calendar, which covered Feb. 21 to March 31. Pruitt's first public meeting with greens was a few weeks later, when he met with members of the Nature Conservancy and Audubon Society.

**Meanwhile, more Oklahoma emails:** More than 4,000 of newly-released emails from Pruitt's time as Oklahoma attorney general provide further evidence of how closely he coordinated with fossil fuel companies, The Associated Press reports. The records, which contain schedules and lists of speaking engagements, detail dozens of meetings between Pruitt, members of his staff, and executives and lobbyists from the coal, oil and gas industries.

**TGIF EVERYONE!** I'm your host Anthony Adragna, and Covington & Burling's Bud Earley was first to identify future President Gerald Ford as the first to hit a grand slam in the Congressional Baseball Game. For today: In what city did the First Continental Congress meet back in 1774? Send your tips, energy gossip and comments to [aadragna@politico.com](mailto:aadragna@politico.com), or follow us on Twitter [@AnthonyAdragna](https://twitter.com/AnthonyAdragna), [@Morning\\_Energy](https://twitter.com/Morning_Energy), and [@POLITICOPro](https://twitter.com/POLITICOPro).

**HOW A STREET IN BROOKLYN IS CHANGING THE ENERGY GRID:** The shared economy is flourishing, with companies like Airbnb and Lyft capitalizing on the growing popularity of shared services. Can their success be replicated in the energy industry? In the latest installment of **POLITICO Magazine's "What Works"** series, we look at Brooklyn-based LO3 that devised a micro grid system that uses a phone app and smart meters to enable neighbors with solar panels to strike deals amongst themselves on the amount of electricity they buy from each other and at what price. We also look at the revitalization of Tampa, Florida - a broken down deep water port revitalized after 40 years of public and private investment. Read more: [Tampa Revitalization](#) | [Brooklyn's Energy Grid](#) | [Photo Gallery](#)

**CAN I CONSOLIDATE?** The Energy Department confirmed that it is shuttering the Office of International Climate and Technology - calling it "one example of many" efforts to "consolidate the many duplicative programs that currently exist" within the agency in light of anticipated budget cuts. The shift is part of a larger realignment toward basic scientific research as opposed to technology deployment and follows a budget request that would eliminate programs like ARPA-E while slashing spending on fossil, nuclear and renewable energy offices.

**But DOE disputed the idea** that getting rid of the climate office would impede the type of work that it did. "The premise of the New York Times article claiming that the Administration is retreating on its efforts to promote clean energy is entirely false," DOE spokesman Shaylyn Hynes said in a statement, referring to the initial [report](#) that the office's 11 employees had been told their positions were being eliminated. Secretary Rick Perry "has a proven record of managing under tight budgets and looks forward to working with whatever resources Congress appropriates." Perry just returned from a trip to China for the annual Clean Energy Ministerial, which was organized with help from the international climate office. DOE said it would continue to do some preparation for future such meetings but would disperse the work among regional offices.

**REJECTION OF REVOCATION:** The Trump administration appears unlikely to try to rescind a series of national monument designations under the Antiquities Act made by former President Barack Obama and his predecessors. Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke offered good news to supporters of Maine's Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument during a two-day tour by car, foot and canoe of the area when he said federal ownership of the area is "settled" and that he was unlikely to recommend shrinking it, according to [multiple reports](#).

**Zinke suggested he might actually go further** and ask Congress to designate the area as a national park. And he appeared to reject an idea from Maine Gov. Paul LePage to transfer control of the monument back to the state: "We can look at management schemes, but I'm not a fan of sale or transfer of public lands," he told [Maine Public Radio](#). Zinke's New England comments come after he recommended earlier this week trimming back - but not revoking - the controversial 1.4 million-acre Bears Ears National Monument in Utah, which many in the state's congressional delegation were pushing. It's worth noting Zinke could still change his mind before issuing final recommendations to Trump and that any attempt to alter existing monuments is sure to face legal challenges.

**The man and the sea:** Zinke's New England swing takes him to Boston today where he'll gather input the Northeast Canyons and Seamounts National Marine Monument off the coast of New York and New England. He hosts a listening session with local fisherman at 11 a.m., some of whom have filed a [lawsuit](#) challenging the designation.

**CARPER PUSHING FOR SVINICKI VOTE:** Top Senate EPW Democrat [Tom Carper](#) told ME "I'll do everything I can to make sure we" vote on NRC Chairwoman Kristine Svinicki's renomination before her current term expires at the end of the month. EPW [cleared her renomination](#) by voice vote earlier Thursday, though a spokesman for Majority Leader [Mitch McConnell](#) declined to comment on vote timing. Svinicki would have to step down, at least temporarily, if the Senate fails to confirm her by June 30.

**Wait and see on oversight needs:** Carper said he "appreciated" assurances from Chairman John Barrasso that EPA should respond to oversight requests from members of both parties, but said "we need the heartfelt assurances" of the agency. The Delaware Democrat has been frustrated by what he says are inadequate responses to his letters seeking information on agency actions.

**THE LEGEND OF CHICAGO:** Lawmakers from both parties warned Pruitt on Thursday he'd have to swallow more funding for his agency than requested, but Pruitt also pushed back on the suggestion he planned to close any EPA regional offices. "There is no consideration presently with respect to any regional offices about moving them to one location or another," he told a House Appropriations subcommittee. "I'm not sure where that came from." Asked specifically about Chicago-based EPA Region 5, Pruitt said reports of its impending closure were "pure legend" and "not something that is under discussion presently."

**AGENCIES SEES PAPERWORK SLASHED:** OMB Director Mick Mulvaney issued a memorandum Thursday eliminating a host of things federal agencies previously had to report to his office. Among those mandates on the chopping block: Reporting governmental costs related to the 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico. "Too often, burdensome tasks have piled up without consideration of whether the requirements collectively make sense," the document notes.

**EPA FIGHTS TO KEEP METHANE STAY:** EPA asked a federal appeals court to reject environmentalists' request to reinstate key parts of the agency's rule limiting methane emissions from new oil and gas wells. As Pro's Alex Guillén notes, the agency further increased tension this week by proposing a two-year delay of those requirements. "There is no emergency," and the environmental groups cannot meet the requirements to obtain court action, EPA argued in a Thursday court filing. Those green groups must respond by June 20 and look for court action to follow shortly afterwards.

**BROOKLYN'S HOTTEST CRAZE:** Debra Bruno looks at the rise of microgrids in Brooklyn as part of POLITICO Magazine's What Works series. A novel system uses a phone app and smart meters to enable neighbors to strike deals for how much electricity they want to buy from one another and at what price. And it's powered by the same secure information exchange that makes bitcoin trading possible.

**MAIL CALL! SENATORS: BUT, SERIOUSLY, PRUITT:** Not holding back, six Senate EPW Democrats wrote Pruitt Thursday raising "serious questions" about whether he can "be trusted to inform Congress" about his activities as EPA administrator after revelations he used a third, previously undisclosed, email account while serving as Oklahoma attorney general. They asked Pruitt to immediately correct the record on his email habits and requested information about his use of secondary email accounts at EPA. The letter, spearheaded by Sheldon Whitehouse, goes on to ask if Pruitt has used "any other email addresses or other forms of electronic communication" for any purpose with entities with business pending before the agency.

**NO METHOD TO THE MADNESS?** The Manhattan Institute's Mark Mills is supporting a

revival of the U.S. manufacturing industry - a view he says is unpopular in parts of the gig-economy-obsessed tech world - and the biggest drag on the sector is the proliferation of regulations. His recent [paper](#) says myriad regulations cost manufacturers an average of \$20,000 per employee, but that burden is even higher on the small companies, where the cost reaches \$35,000 per employee. The No. 1 offender, Mills told ME, is the EPA. "Environmental regulations have been dominant. They've increased the most, and they cost the most." Much of the problem companies is trying to navigate the web of rules, many of which are in conflict with each other, he said. The argument, Mills says, is not to have no regulations, but to "de-conflict" them, like Germany and Canada do, which would ease the cost of compliance and help the sector.

**GREEN GROUP SLAMS DEMOCRATIC AD:** Friends of the Earth Action is decidedly not pleased with [an ad](#) released earlier this week boosting moderate Democratic Sen. [Joe Manchin](#) from a PAC allied with Minority Leader [Chuck Schumer](#). The spot from Majority Forward praises Manchin for his efforts to roll back Obama-era coal regulations, but the Friends of the Earth said it undercuts resistance to Trump's environmental agenda. "As the Trump administration continues its devastating war against public health and the environment, it is troubling to see Democratic leaders normalizing Trump and his extreme agenda," Erich Pica, president of Friends of the Earth Action, said in a statement.

**REPORT: TARGETING ENERGY EFFICIENCY MAKES NO SENSE:** Public Citizen is out with [a report](#) Thursday arguing Trump's efforts to impede energy efficiency efforts make no sense even if he considers climate change a hoax, because the programs save consumers trillions over the course of their lifespans. "The savings from these programs literally approach the scale of Trump's most lavish promises for infrastructure spending," David Arkush, managing director of Public Citizen's climate program, said in a statement.

**MOVER, SHAKER:** Chris Adamo joins the National Wildlife Federation as senior fellow for conservation innovation; he served as chief of staff for the White House Council on Environmental Quality during the Obama administration between 2015 and 2017. Prior to that, he worked on conservation issues in the Senate for more than a decade and served as staff director for the Senate Agriculture Committee.

**IT'S BEEN A TRIP!** An 18-stop, 4,825-mile, coast-to-coast road trip sponsored by the American Gas Association ends today in Washington. The event has showcased a variety of vehicles running on compressed natural gas, liquefied natural gas and renewable natural gas. More information [here](#).

## QUICK HITS

- The War on Coal States. [Slate](#).
- Dow-DuPont merger gets US antitrust approval. [Financial Times](#).
- Ruling on Dakota Access pipeline surprises oil industry. [AP](#).

- Big Oil needs to spend \$350 billion...on wind and solar. [CNN Money](#).
- Group says Georgia nuclear plant costs rise to \$29 billion. [Reuters](#).

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