

To: Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
From: Morning Energy
Sent: Thur 9/7/2017 2:05:32 PM
Subject: POLITICO's Morning Energy, presented by Chevron: Energy amendments ready for House debate — Little new energy talk from Trump in North Dakota — EPA preps as Hurricane Irma hits Caribbean

By Anthony Adragna | 09/07/2017 10:00 AM EDT

With help from Eric Wolff, Ben Lefebvre and Darius Dixon

TEED UP, READY TO GO: House Rules Committee lawmakers readied 80 EPA and Interior amendments for floor consideration as the chamber moves through its mammoth, 1,300-page spending package [H.R. 3354 \(115\)](#) starting today. Here are six worth watching as debate moves along:

1. An [amendment](#) from senior Natural Resources Committee Democrats restoring funding to EPA's environmental justice program by taking funds from the Interior secretary's office,
2. An [effort](#) by New York Republican Rep. [John Katko](#) to restore \$250 million in Clean Water State Revolving Funds, an infrastructure program that usually enjoys broad bipartisan support,
3. A [push](#) by Rep. [Gary Palmer](#) to eliminate funding for the Diesel Emissions Reduction Act, which helps convert diesel engines to more efficient ones. Several dozen groups sent a [letter](#) to House members opposing the move.
4. A bipartisan [amendment](#) from Republican [Frank LoBiondo](#) and Democrat [Don Beyer](#) to block offshore drilling in a host of Atlantic sites,
5. An [amendment](#) from Rep. [Scott Perry](#) blocking EPA from issuing any regulations under Section 115 of the Clean Air Act, feared by some conservatives as a hidden weapon to mandate carbon regulations,
6. A Republican [amendment](#) that would bar federal agencies from using funds to cover legal fees associated with Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act and Endangered Species Act settlements.

Other Democratic amendments expected to fail would block President Donald Trump's administration from [delaying ozone standards](#), being able to [unilaterally withdraw](#) the Waters of the U.S. rule and preparing a new [five-year offshore oil and gas leasing plan](#).

A **full list** of amendments is available [here](#).

NOT MUCH ENERGY CHATTER IN MANDAN: Trump's tax talk at Andeavor's refinery in Mandan, N.D., yielded little fresh energy news on Wednesday. Addressing a crowd at the plant that had expanded in 2012 to take in more Bakken crude, Trump warned of a tax code that caused businesses to be "regulated out of existence." Continental Resources CEO and Trump pal Harold Hamm made a brief cameo in sunglasses to say: "You find oil in North Dakota! And the

Bakken!"

Trump freestyled on energy regulations and pipelines: "The Dakota Access Pipeline is finally open for business. Now, what other politician, if elected President, would have done that one? They would have stayed so far away. And I did it immediately, and I didn't even do it in that case for jobs. It was the right thing to do. And that is flowing now beautifully." ME would note that any of the other 2016 GOP presidential candidates would have approved the pipeline if elected.

Memorable: Trump, who tried a softer touch to get centrist Sen. Heidi Heitkamp on board with tax reform that he used on Missouri Sen. Claire McCaskill, may have inadvertently written the Democrat's first reelection ad by calling her on stage and proclaiming her a "good woman." Heitkamp tweeted an (awkward) selfie with refinery workers, while potential challenger Rep. Kevin Cramer posted a selfie with Trump.

WELCOME TO THURSDAY! I'm your host Anthony Adragna, and NEI's Robert Powers was first up to identify Alaska as our least densely populated state. For today: In what state was the first ATM in the U.S. installed (back in 1969)? Send your tips, energy gossip and comments to 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).

**** A message from Chevron:** Advanced technology is helping us find safer ways to deliver energy. We're piloting a program that uses drones to monitor tanks and pipelines. Watch the video: <http://politi.co/2grzhE> **

U.S. TERRITORY BRACES FOR IRMA: There are already reports of massive damage from the massive Category 5 Hurricane Irma across the Caribbean, but Puerto Rico's electric company warned Wednesday the storm with 185 miles an hour winds could leave the island without power for four to six months, the Miami Herald reports. Meanwhile, EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt approved an emergency fuel waiver for Florida and the agency said it was securing 22 current or former Superfund sites in the 100 southernmost miles of the state.

In an all-staff email, Pruitt thanked employees for their response efforts to Hurricane Harvey in Texas and said the agency had already begun preparations for Irma's landfall. "While Harvey caused extreme flooding, our biggest health and environmental concerns in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands are potential oil spills and the potential impacts of power disruptions on drinking and waste water systems," he wrote. The agency is working with regions 2 and 4 to secure Superfund sites and drinking and waste water systems to prevent spills. And the Miami Herald looks at what two Florida nuclear plants are doing to get ready.

NEW ENERGY BUYERS GROUP FORMS: A collection of corporate giants - Microsoft, Walmart, Amazon, Salesforce, Lockheed Martin and Aligned Energy, among them - is today launching the Advanced Energy Buyers Group. The new entity, coordinated by Advanced Energy Economy, will push to expand the market for purchasing renewable and other advanced energy sources as large companies seek to hit their sustainability targets. "We've made good progress, but more work needs to be done to advance policies that make it easier and cheaper for more companies, schools, hospitals and families to buy clean energy," Rob Bernard, chief

environmental strategist at Microsoft, said in a statement.

ENERGY INDUSTRY HITS BACK AT EXXON STUDY: Energy in Depth argues in a [Wednesday post](#) that a [Harvard study](#) asserting that Exxon Mobil misled the public on climate change left out many of the company's public advertorials on the subject, an oversight that would have "severely weakened" the study's conclusions. They say some of the pieces included in the research came mainly from Mobil before it merged with Exxon, meaning the study "largely compared the climate research of one company with the advertorials of a different company." Neither author responded to requests for comment.

WILDFIRE FUNDING MAY HITCH A RIDE: Lawmakers are poised pass [an initial injection](#) of relief funding for Hurricane Harvey, but senior Republicans want a second bill to also address the dozens of wildfires throughout the West. "There will be more disaster relief coming up obviously and I would suspect that wildfire will be part of that," Rep. [Mike Simpson](#), a senior appropriator, told reporters. "There are other things than just hurricanes and right now they're burning in the west." House Natural Resources Chairman [Rob Bishop](#) said he could go along with that approach, but still hoped to pursue broader reforms to how the federal government responds to wildfires.

RUMOR QUASHED: Any idea that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke might mount a 2018 challenge to Democratic Sen. [Jon Tester](#) seemed to die Wednesday when his wife, Lola, [signed on](#) as campaign chair for Tester challenger Troy Downing. "I first met Troy on a fishing trip and his kindness, intelligence, youthful enthusiasm, business experience and amazing military history made me think that one day he must serve his state and country again," she said. "And right now is the perfect time."

NOMINEE TRAIN KEEPS ON ROLLING: The Senate will take a big step for FERC today when the Energy and Natural Resources Committee runs Trump's latest picks for the agency through the ringer - but don't expect all too much pulse-pounding excitement. Kevin McIntyre, Trump's FERC chairman-in-waiting, is likely to get peppered by Democrats about his long list of energy industry clients during his long stretch with Jones Day, and commitments to maintain FERC's independence. On the other hand, Rich Glick, general counsel for ENR Democrats, is generally well-liked on both sides of the aisle. But the reason FERC nominees, and members of other federal commissions, from different parties tend to move together is so everyone has something to gain and good reason to hold their fire. By all accounts, McIntyre and his record are boring - which will work in his favor. But much like earlier FERC nomination hearings, expect questions about the growth of renewables, the survival of coal and the threats of climate change.

Two Interior noms up too: Joseph Balash, Sen. [Dan Sullivan](#)'s chief-of-staff and a deputy commissioner of the Alaska Department of Natural Resources, gets his hearing on his bid to become Interior's assistant secretary for land and mineral management. And Ryan Nelson, general counsel for Idaho-based Melaleuca, an online "wellness shopping club" since 2009, gets his day in the hot seat as he vies to become Interior's solicitor. Take a look at his newly-obtained [ethics](#) and [financial](#) documents.

If you go: The [hearing](#) is slated to begin at 10:30 a.m. in Dirksen 366.

SVINICKI SAYS SUMMER SHUTDOWN HIT 35 AT NRC: Plans to scuttle the Summer nuclear project may cause about 35 NRC employees to find other jobs at the agency, NRC Chairwoman Kristine Svinicki said Wednesday. "Summer was in the neighborhood of 35 agency-wide positions impacted," she said at an agency all-hands meeting, amid a years' long effort to resize the NRC's staffing and mission as the nuclear industry declines. But, Svinicki said, in spite of the heartache for those employees, it doesn't represent a major shift for an agency with more than 3,200 employees. "The project has been canceled so efforts are ongoing to look at positions where those same skill sets of those individuals might align," she said.

Svinicki: DOE didn't ask us to help on grid study: An NRC staff meeting is its own kind of jargonfest, and one staffer took issue with nuclear-related language in DOE's recent grid study that seemed to confuse regulators. Among its recommendations, the study urged the NRC to revisit "nuclear safety rules under a risk-based approach," without giving the term much context. "I'm not certain if they recognized the distinction between risk-informed and risk-based," Svinicki said. The NRC leans more heavily on "risk-informed" regulation, which factors in safety elements that aren't purely calculations of issues that could lead to accidents. The NRC reached out to DOE to help with the report, Svinicki said, but "to my knowledge, they appreciated that but did not take us up on it. I think it's fair to say that the language DOE used was developed by them without really any kind of reaction from NRC or any of our experts."

DOE ELECTRICITY GROUP SHRUNK: Energy Secretary Rick Perry has decided to reduce the size of the Energy Department's Electricity Advisory Committee from 32 to 24 people, Pro's Darius Dixon [reports](#). But he's decided to install six new members even as he reduces the board's overall size. The electricity advisory committee will [meet](#) next Wednesday and Thursday in Arlington, Va.

MURKOWSKI LOOKING AT GRANTS ISSUE: Sen. [Lisa Murkowski](#), who oversees the Appropriations subcommittee in charge of EPA funding, told reporters she's looking into [reports](#) the agency halted all grants to Alaska for several weeks in the aftermath of her vote against the GOP health care bill. "I want to know, is this really so? Cause, if so, that's kind of upsetting," she said. An agency spokeswoman pushed back on the reports, [telling TPM](#) "a state was never was singled out in the grant review process; grants were never withheld."

STEEL GROUP BACKS SUNIVA SOLAR TRADE PETITION: The Steel Manufacturers Association, representing 30 North American producers, is backing [a bid](#) from Suniva and SolarWorld Americas to have the ITC impose steep tariffs on imported solar cells and modules. "The steel industry fought back in 2001 and was awarded temporary relief that gave the industry the chance to recover," Philip Bell, president of the group, wrote in [a letter](#). "The American solar industry deserves a similar chance."

NEW MEXICANS PUSH ZINKE ON LAND LEASING: Sens. [Tom Udall](#) and [Martin Heinrich](#), as well as Rep. [Ben Ray Lujan](#), asked Zinke to uphold a previous commitment to defer all leases on land near Chaco Culture National Historical Park as the federal government mulls how to manage the area. "We further appreciate your recent public support for the BLM

and BIA's cooperative approach, and respectfully request that you maintain the status quo and defer leasing" until the process is completed, they wrote in [a letter](#).

SCALING ON UP: The World Resources Institute, in [a report](#) out today, urges cities to accelerate the shift to cleaner cooking, work to scale up distributed renewable energy sources and prioritize expanding energy efficiency of buildings and appliances as they push to expand energy access amid rapid growth.

AN ELECTRON STORED IS AN ELECTRON EARNED: Utility customers installed a record number of behind-the-meter batteries and other power storage systems in the second quarter of 2017, GTM Research and the U.S. Energy Storage Association say in [a report](#) out this morning. Behind-the-meter systems are typically smaller than big utility-scale systems, and are usually installed by residential or commercial customers. The numbers are still tiny, as only 32 megawatt hours of capacity were installed, led by California, Hawaii and New York, all of which have incentive programs.

CONTOURING THE EVER-ELUSIVE CARBON TAX: The R St. Institute is out with [a new paper](#) this morning looking at how to structure a border-adjusted carbon tax "to deal with imports from and exports to other nations that do not have an equivalent carbon price."

MOVER, SHAKER: Elbert Lin has left his post as solicitor general for West Virginia to go to Hunton & Williams. Lin made his name when he helped persuade the U.S. Supreme Court to put a stay on the Clean Power Plan. Lin will be joined at Hunton by Virginia Solicitor General Stuart Raphael.

Dave Hoppe, Speaker [Paul Ryan's](#) chief of staff until January, has joined 38 North Solutions as a senior principal. The group advises groups primarily in the energy and tech sectors. "His vast experience in public policy and political strategy complements our team's expertise in clean energy and technology innovation," Katherine Hamilton, the firm's chair, said in a statement.

BROMIGOS? After "[horsing around](#)" during an earlier visit to New Mexico, Heinrich [tweeted](#) a picture of him getting back at Zinke with a headlock Wednesday.

QUICK HITS

- Federal Utility: Coal Ash Removal Would Take 24 Years. [AP](#).
- Oil Companies Leaking Benzene Lobbied Against Pollution Rules. [International Business Times](#).
- Hurricanes Irma, Harvey restart debate on climate change and warmer oceans. [Miami Herald](#).
- Putin Rejects Cutting Off Oil to North Korea. [New York Times](#).
- Large chunk of U.S. chemical production struggling to come back online after Harvey. [Houston Chronicle](#).

- Harvey Swept Hazardous Mercury Ashore. The Mystery: Its Source. New York Times.

THAT'S ALL FOR ME!

**** A message from Chevron:** Advanced technology is helping us find better and safer ways to deliver energy to America. We're piloting a program that uses drones, HD imaging, and thermal mapping capabilities to monitor Chevron wells, tanks, and miles of pipeline. Watch the video: <http://politi.co/2grzhhE> **

To view online:

<http://www.politico.com/tipsheets/morning-energy/2017/09/07/little-new-energy-talk-from-trump-in-north-dakota-222159>

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