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Today on Climate Beat . . .

. . . we talked vehicles, reporting that a new industry coalition supporting current fuel economy and greenhouse gas standards has released its current membership, including many electric utilities that would benefit from wider deployment of electric vehicles (EVs), as well as two automakers that only build EVs.

In court, EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt has signed a directive he says will end “sue and settle” agreements through which he says special interest groups such as environmental organizations have forced the agency into legal agreements that impose binding deadlines for issuing discretionary regulations.

Looking at the calendar, an American University professor plans to present her findings to EPA that there is “no evidence that more stringent local pollution regulation changes GHG emissions from manufacturing sectors,” a study that could add to the debate over the agency’s cost-benefit review justifying its plan to repeal the Clean Power Plan.

In personnel news, EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt appears poised to tap an Alaska official to lead EPA Region 10, moving the agency closer to filling a handful of remaining political slots and bringing in personnel needed to help Pruitt advance President Donald Trump’s broad deregulatory agenda at the agency.

And our daily news roundup looked at how some coal towns are not finding much relief from the Trump administration’s shifts on climate change policy.

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