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From: Morning Energy
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Subject: POLITICO's Morning Energy: World anxiously awaits Trump's final answer on Paris — One EPA vacancy with massive implications — Zinke staffs up

By Anthony Adragna | 05/30/2017 10:00 AM EDT

With help from Alex Guillén and Esther Whieldon

IT'S THE FINAL COUNTDOWN! President Donald Trump has built up the drama around whether the U.S. will stick with the landmark 2015 Paris climate change agreement as if it's an episode of "The Apprentice." He refused to endorse the pact at last weekend's G-7 gathering in Sicily, and tweeted that he would make a final call this week. Secretary of Defense Jim Mattis said on "Face the Nation" Sunday that the president remained "wide open" on the agreement, while Axios reported Trump has told confidants that he plans to withdraw from the pact, citing three people directly familiar with his thinking. Abandoning Paris would put the U.S. alone with Syria and Nicaragua as the only countries on Earth who did not officially join the deal.

Trump already sent a signal to the international community by refusing to join Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and the U.K. in affirming a "strong commitment" to the Paris agreement in the G-7 statement released Saturday. "The United States of America is in the process of reviewing its policies on climate change and on the Paris Agreement and thus is not in a position to join the consensus on these topics," the leaders wrote. "Understanding this process, the Heads of State and of Government of Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, and the United Kingdom and the Presidents of the European Council and of the European Commission reaffirm their strong commitment to swiftly implement the Paris Agreement, as previously stated at the Ise-Shima Summit."

Don't forget: Even if Trump decides to stay a part of the Paris agreement, he has made it abundantly clear that cutting greenhouse gas emissions will not be a priority for the federal government, as he seeks to revise or eliminate virtually every climate-motivated regulation former President Barack Obama put in place. And even the relative moderates within the White House have long acknowledged that the U.S. would only stick with the pact if they could get a better deal for U.S. coal and oil companies.

IMMINENT EPA SCIENCE VACANCY HAS HIGH SIGNIFICANCE: Amid the worries that EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt is sidelining independent scientific advisers, he apparently has done nothing to make sure that someone will be in charge of EPA's Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee after the term its current chair ends in September, Pro's Eric Wolff reports. Filling that CASAC post is a months-long process, and Pruitt already is getting heat for not reupping several members of the Board of Scientific Counselors, which advises the agency on research matters. Unlike that advisory board, which was established by an earlier administrator, Congress set strict requirements for the types of experts who must serve on CASAC, and charged the committee with evaluating the health risks of key air pollutants to guide EPA's regulations. Without Chair Ana Diez Roux of CASAC, who fills two roles required under the Clean Air Act, the panel "cannot function" in the words of one EPA source. "That process needs to have already

started," the source said.

EPA declined to offer details on the CASAC nomination process, but an agency spokeswoman told Eric "there will be a concerted effort to assure diverse scientific perspectives on advisory panels and to look for additional ways to strengthen scientific review at EPA."

It's not just CASAC: Reshaping the scientific advisory boards has long-been atop the wish list of congressional Republicans and industry groups. Many now see an opportunities to get more industry-friendly perspectives onto panels like the Science Advisory Board and BOSC. "Past advisory groups have had too much representation from individuals who are experts in very narrow fields of study, without experience in integrating across multiple lines of evidence," Michael Honeycutt, chief toxicologist for the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality who unsuccessfully pushed to get onto CASAC last year, told Eric.

WELCOME TO TUESDAY! Hope everyone had a safe and fun Memorial Day break! I'm your host Anthony Adragna, and I was honored to take part in [the marriage](#) of two dear friends in Birmingham, Ala.: Huddle host Heather Caygle and Pro Tax's Aaron Lorenzo. Montana state senator Pat Connell was first to identify that Adam Clayton Powell won a Supreme Court case to regain his congressional seat. For today: What congressman, colorfully nicknamed "Pork Barrel," was forced to resign for illegally selling alcohol during Prohibition? Send your tips, energy gossip and comments to aadragna@politico.com, or follow us on Twitter [@AnthonyAdragna](#), [@Morning_Energy](#), and [@POLITICOPro](#).

BEARS EARS COMMENTS ABOUND: More than 120,000 people weighed in on the Trump administration's review of recent monument designations by Friday's deadline to comment on the future of the Bears Ears National Monument in Utah. Most of the comments were from individuals, although a number of industry and environmental groups, native tribes and lawmakers sounded off as well. Zinke has until June 10 to make a recommendation on Bears Ears. Comments on the review of other monuments designated since 1996 will be open through July 10.

Utah's Republican congressional [delegation](#) reiterated its call for Trump to rescind the Bears Ears monument, saying the state "has repeatedly fallen victim to overreaching use of the Antiquities Act -- a law that has become a tool of political advocacy rather than public interest." The Utah Mining Association [said](#) any protections applied to Bears Ears "should be kept to the smallest area possible" to allow BLM to "to fulfill their statutory mandate to manage federal public lands for multiple use."

Several tribes that initially proposed creating the monument, including the Hopi, Navajo and Ute, defended the need for the designation. "It would be a travesty to leave this landscape vulnerable to uranium and fossil-fuel mining, and excessive off-road vehicle use. Additionally, there has been ghastly looting and grave robbing that continues to this day," they [said](#). The Sierra Club [argued](#) Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke's review "appears designed to reach a predetermined outcome, namely the reduction or elimination of the Bears Ears National Monument designation." Zinke has insisted he is keeping an open mind in the process.

ZINKE'S IN ALASKA! Zinke is in the midst of a nearly week-long trip around the Arctic Circle and he's in Anchorage today for a slew of events. They include a BBQ meet and greet with agency employees (followed by an all-hands meeting) and an Alaska Federation of Natives meeting. He visited Denali National Park on Memorial Day and also participated in a Byers Lake event on Sunday with Senate Energy Chairman Lisa Murkowski ([pic](#)).

And that comes after previous stops on the trip included Norway and Greenland. Senators participating in that delegation included Sens. [John Cornyn](#), [John Barrasso](#), [Steve Daines](#) and [Heidi Heitkamp](#). Some pics of the crew in Alaska checking out pipelines [here](#).

INTERIOR STAFFS UP! Zinke formally announced the addition of 19 new staffers to Interior on Friday, Pro's Esther Whieldon [reports](#). Newly announced hires include Zinke's chief of staff, Scott Hommel, who served the same job in Zinke's congressional office; Natalie Davis, who will be special assistant to the secretary; Timothy Williams, Interior's new deputy director of external affairs; and Jason Funes, an assistant in the office of external affairs. A full list of the new people is available [here](#).

MANCHIN VOWS TO 'EDUCATE' COHN ON COAL: Sen. [Joe Manchin](#) said he didn't know "what the hell happened" with Trump's top economic adviser Gary Cohn amid skeptical comments about the future of coal from Cohn in Europe last week. "Coal is much needed and it's going to continue to be," Manchin told [Breitbart News](#).

MEETING SOUGHT OVER PASSAIC CLEANUP: Democratic Sens. [Robert Menendez](#), [Cory Booker](#) and [Chris Coons](#) are [questioning](#) whether Maxus Energy Corporation, a wholly owned subsidiary of Argentina's state-owned oil company YPF, filed bankruptcy as part of a strategy to avoid cleaning up the Passaic River. "After enduring decades of contamination, the community surrounding the Passaic River deserves full and comprehensive remediation and each responsible party should be held accountable to pay for it without further delay," they wrote. The senators sought a meeting to further discuss the issue.

GREENS REVIVE COAL LEASING LAWSUIT: Environmental groups on Friday [revived a lawsuit](#) in the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals over the Interior Department's coal leasing program. The Western Organization of Resource Councils and Friends of the Earth in 2015 sued in an attempt to force Interior to update its environmental review of the program to include climate change-related effects. The suit was paused more than a year ago when the Obama administration issued its leasing moratorium, but the groups say the Trump administration's lifting of the moratorium means the lawsuit can now continue. Interior does not object to restarting the case, according to the green groups' filing. Zinke has continued with rest of the Obama-era review, but the suit could help pressure Interior to go further in its climate-related analysis than it might otherwise.

HALF-A-BENJAMIN FOR A TON OF CARBON: A team of leading economists has [concluded](#) that meeting the world's goals for curbing global warming requires a carbon dioxide price of \$40-80 per ton by 2020 and \$50-100 by 2030, POLITICO Europe's Sara Stefanini [reports](#). The High-Level Commission on Carbon Prices was created at the United Nations' climate summit in Marrakech last year, and is made up of 13 economists from nine developed

and developing countries.

SCHUMER HITS DEFENSE OVER CLEANUP LAG: Senate Minority Leader [Chuck Schumer](#) hit the Defense Department for delaying cleaning up waste at Stewart Air National Guard base, POLITICO New York's Marie J. French [reports](#). That base contaminated the water supply of Newburgh, New York, forcing the city of 30,000 switch water sources and residents to get blood tests for PFOS.

THIS IS A FUN RECESS TRIP! Rep. [Mike Quigley](#), vice chairman of the Sustainable Energy & Environment Coalition, heads to Rocky Mountain National Park today through Thursday where he'll meet with climate change researchers and National Park Service officials for a firsthand look at impacts. Your hashtag to follow along: #RepInTheRockies.

QUICK HITS

- Tucson Electric Power halts energy-efficiency rebate for businesses. [Tucson.com](#).
- EPA's Pruitt: Agency is 'doing what it's supposed to do' at Osage pollution site. [Tulsa World](#).
- From coal to solar, India's energy landscape is almost too hard to keep up with. [Quartz](#).
- Standing Rock film festival centers around pipeline protest. [AP](#).
- Coal trains fewer as Appalachian railroads keep rolling. [Denver Post](#).
- U.S. may put emergency tariffs on solar imports. [Reuters](#).
- U.S. aid agency under scrutiny for loans in Chile. [Reuters](#).

THAT'S ALL FOR ME!

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