

To: Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
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Subject: First Move: Trump's Monumental Changes • Rare Earth Minerals Research • Pruitt Heads to Hill

What you need to know to start your day.

Trump's Monumental Changes • Rare Earth Minerals Research • Pruitt Heads to Hill

By [Chuck McCutcheon](#)

President Trump is expected to head to Utah this week to announce changes to national monuments that will include significant downsizing of that state's Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante monuments.

Sandstone formations are shown in the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument outside Boulder, Utah.
Photographer: George Frey/Getty Images

Backers of the [monument changes](#), including the Utah congressional delegation and state government, argue that vastly more acreage has been designated than needed. But environmental advocacy groups and a coalition of five Native American groups are vowing to file quick lawsuits in response to Trump's move.

The president also could shrink the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument, in southern Oregon and a small patch of northern California, and restore commercial fishing rights to some Atlantic and Pacific offshore national monuments. [Alan Kovski](#) is covering.

The coal industry has a new best friend: minerals known as rare earth elements, which are used to make everything from mobile phones to wind turbines and have been found in small amounts in the nation's coal deposits.

Rare earth minerals—which Energy Secretary Rick Perry [has talked up](#) as a means of reviving the coal industry—have been found not only in Appalachia but also in Illinois and Wyoming. No commercial means of pulling them out of coal has been developed, but West Virginia Democratic Sen. Joe Manchin has a bill that would fund research into those technologies to the tune of \$20 million annually.

A Senate energy committee panel will start moving that bill forward at a Tuesday hearing. It also will discuss other energy bills, including three aimed at developing energy storage pilot projects and grants and another aimed at lowering the cost of battery technologies. [Stephen Lee](#) and [Rebecca Kern](#) are tracking.

One year to the day after he was selected to serve as EPA administrator, Scott Pruitt will go to Capitol Hill on Thursday to discuss his agency's mission with a House Energy and Commerce panel.

"We're looking forward to receiving a much-needed update from Mr. Pruitt on his priorities for the agency, including his stated policy of getting EPA 'back to the basics' and its impact on the agency's activity going forward," said Republicans Greg Walden of Oregon, the Energy and Commerce chairman, and John Shimkus of Illinois, who chairs Energy and Commerce's environment subcommittee. [Abby Smith](#) is covering.

Other Stories We're Covering

- Registering pesticides for marijuana cultivation will be among the contentious topics surrounding pesticide use that state regulators will discuss in Arlington, Va., on Monday and Tuesday with EPA officials. Yvette Hopkins, federal-state liaison for the EPA's Office of Pesticide Programs, will speak at the event. [Tiffany Stecker](#) is covering.
- The National Brownfields Training Conference will take place Tuesday through Thursday in Pittsburgh, focusing on innovation, liability, and other topics related to cleaning up and reusing formerly utilized commercial and industrial properties. [Sylvia Carignan](#) will attend.
- California Attorney General Xavier Becerra, a leader among Democratic state law enforcement officials in challenging Trump administration environmental actions in court, will speak at a National Press Club news conference on Wednesday. [Jennifer Lu](#) is covering.
- The third U.N. Environment Assembly will take place Monday through Wednesday in Nairobi with the theme, "Towards a Pollution-Free Planet." Wachira Kigotho will track.

Quote of the Day

"Mining batteries is much more profitable than mining the ground."

—Larry Reaugh, president of American Manganese, which is patenting a method to draw out all of the metals in rechargeable batteries.

This Week's Events

On the Hill:

- **Tuesday, 9:30 a.m. • Flooding • Sustainable Water Partnership** hosts The Challenge of Too Much Water, featuring officials sharing experiences managing floods and mitigating their impacts.
- **Tuesday, 10:00 a.m. • Nominations • Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee** considers nominations of Timothy Petty to be assistant Interior secretary for water and science and Linda Capuano to be Energy Information

- Administration Administrator.
- **Wednesday, 2:30 p.m. • Superfund** • Senate environment committee's Superfund panel holds hearing on challenges facing Superfund and waste cleanup efforts after natural disasters.
 - **Thursday, 10:00 a.m. • Interior** • House Natural Resources' oversight panel holds hearing on the Interior Department's transformation.

Elsewhere:

- **Monday-Tuesday, All Day • Clean Water Act** • The American Law Institute-Continuing Legal Education and the Environmental Law Institute are co-sponsoring a webcasted Clean Water Act seminar at the Hunton & Williams LLP offices in Washington.
- **Tuesday-Wednesday, All Day • Electricity** • gridCONNEXT conference brings together business, utility, and policymakers to explore topics affecting the electricity grid at the national, regional, state, and local levels. Scheduled speakers include Alaska Sen. Lisa Murkowski, chairman of the Senate's energy committee, and Bruce Walker, assistant secretary for the Energy Department's Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability.
- **Wednesday, 12:30 p.m. • Agriculture/Environment** • American Enterprise Institute sponsors talk with agricultural economists on conservation programs, Renewable Fuel Standard, and Clean Water Rule.
- **Friday, 6 p.m. • Climate** • Institute of Current World Affairs dinner features KC Golden, board chairman of environmental group 350.org and senior policy adviser at Climate Solutions, describing efforts to build a global grass-roots movement to tackle climate change.

Around the Web

- **New York Democratic Gov. Andrew Cuomo** has signed into law a bill making New York the fourth state to adopt an energy storage target, following Massachusetts, California, and Oregon.
- Trump's regulatory agenda puts at risk an estimated \$2 trillion in consumer savings relating to energy and fuel efficiency standards, the Consumer Federation of America says in a report.
- Tennessee's environment department boasts the state has its cleanest air since the Industrial Revolution.

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