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Subject: Fwd: EPW postpones votes on EPA, NRC, FHWA picks

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By Anthony Adragna

10/17/2017 07:25 PM EDT

The Senate Environment and Public Works Committee has postponed votes that had been scheduled for Wednesday on the nominations of various EPA, NRC and federal highway picks.

No reason was provided and the committee didn't respond to requests for comment.

The uncertain fate of Bill Wehrum's selection to run EPA's air office may be partially to blame for the delay. Sen. Joni Ernst pointedly declined to state she'd vote in support of his nomination even after Administrator Scott Pruitt's efforts this afternoon to reassure corn-state senators about how he'd implement the Renewable Fuel Standard. With just an 11-10 majority on the panel, Republicans could afford no defections.

Other nominations now delayed: Michael Dourson's to be EPA chemicals chief; David Ross' to head the EPA water office; Matthew Leopold's to be EPA general counsel; Jeff Baran's re-nomination to the NRC and Paul Trombino's selection to be administrator of the FHWA.

WHAT'S NEXT: The committee said the hearing is postponed "until further notice."

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