

To: Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
From: Morning Energy
Sent: Mon 9/18/2017 2:04:32 PM
Subject: POLITICO's Morning Energy, presented by the Nuclear Energy Institute: Decoding Team Trump's murky signals on Paris deal — Climate VIPs gather on side of U.N. General Assembly — Seven monuments targeted in Zinke's review

By Anthony Adragna | 09/18/2017 10:00 AM EDT

With help from Eric Wolff and Emily Holden

PARIS POSITION AS CLEAR AS MUD: A weekend full of conflicting signals and mixed messages culminated with President Donald Trump's administration reiterating its intention to withdraw from the Paris climate agreement "unless we can re-enter on terms that are more favorable to our country." Confusion first emerged Saturday when Everett Eissenstat, the No. 2 official on the National Economic Council, made comments at a Montreal meeting that some diplomats interpreted as signaling the U.S. might remain in the international deal while revising Obama's climate pledge. But White House and international officials told POLITICO's Nancy Cook, Andrew Restuccia and Kalina Oroschakoff those comments were misconstrued. "This is being misreported. Unhelpfully so I think," a non-U.S. attendee of the meeting said of the comments.

Administration officials stressed that view Sunday. National Security Adviser H.R. McMaster called The Wall Street Journal's original report on Saturday that the U.S. was considering remaining in the Paris agreement a "false report" on "Fox News Sunday," POLITICO's Theodoric Meyer reports. But Secretary of State Rex Tillerson was less adamant on CBS' "Face the Nation," saying there was a possibility the Trump administration could stick with it if they can negotiate what they deem a better deal: "The president said he is open to finding those conditions where we can remain engaged with others on what we all agree is still a challenging issue," he said. "The plan is for [National Economic Council] Director [Gary] Cohn to consider other ways in which we can work with partners in the Paris climate accord. We want to be productive, we want to be helpful."

It's worth noting: Italy, France and Germany have said the underlying framework of the Paris agreement won't be renegotiated, but multiple experts have said the U.S. could weaken its voluntary emissions reduction pledge - nationally determined contribution in diplomatic parlance - whenever it wants. Or in the words of Democratic Connecticut Sen. Chris Murphy: "Dear White House, READ THE AGREEMENT. It already allows each country to set their own terms of compliance. So we good? Back in?"

Reminder: The U.S. cannot fully withdraw from the Paris agreement until Nov. 4, 2020, though the State Department announced last month it would continue participating in international climate change negotiations.

COHN TALKS CLIMATE TODAY: As world leaders and diplomats descend on New York this week for the United Nations General Assembly, Cohn meets today with international officials on a host of issues, including U.S. engagement on climate change. A readout from the

ministerial meeting on climate action held over the weekend in Montreal is available [here](#).

Environmental delegation cut: Tillerson won't send the State Department's bureau on oceans and the environment to participate in traditional meetings during the United Nations General Assembly, the New York Times [reports](#). That comes as he's reduced the overall number of officials participating in the sessions by about half from last year.

CLIMATE BIG SHOTS MEET ON THE SIDELINES: Former Secretary of State John Kerry convenes a [two-day climate change summit](#) at Yale beginning today with a host of VIPs. A session at 11 a.m. features former Energy Secretary Ernest Moniz, Obama climate czar Heather Zichal and chief climate negotiator Jonathan Pershing discussing the future of energy. Then, former George W. Bush Treasury Secretary Hank Paulson and GE's Jeff Immelt are among the panelists discussing the role of the private sector in addressing the problem at 2:30 p.m.

California Gov. Jerry Brown plans to spend the week highlighting opportunities for cities and states to curb emissions, regardless of the administration's stance. Today he'll speak alongside Tom Steyer and then with France's Minister of Ecology Nicholas Hulot and World Economic Forum head of industries Cheryl Martin. The 15 states that comprise the Climate Alliance, which was formed after Trump's decision to withdraw from the Paris deal, are expected announce the greenhouse gas levels they hope to achieve by 2025.

Brown also launched the America's Pledge initiative along with former New York mayor Michael Bloomberg. "We're not where we need to be, we're not moving as fast as we need to move, not changing as fast as we need to change," Bloomberg senior adviser Carl Pope said of overall U.S. action. "But we think we are accelerating at a rate that we can get there." He added America's Pledge has seen a doubling of participants in the past three months.

WELCOME TO MONDAY! I'm your host Anthony Adragna, and the Citizens' Climate Lobby's Brett Cease identified Oklahoma as the state with two senators with the same first name (James Inhofe and James Lankford). For today: What former EPA administrator ran for U.S. Senate back in 1994 but lost in a Democratic primary (and which state)? Send your tips, energy gossip and comments to aadragna@politico.com, or follow us on Twitter [@AnthonyAdragna](#), [@Morning_Energy](#), and [@POLITICOPro](#).

#CONCORDIA17: POLITICO is the official media partner of the 2017 Concordia Annual Summit taking place in conjunction with the UN General Assembly in NYC on Sept 18 and 19. Join us in the Big Apple as we host conversations with world leaders, industry experts, current and former heads of states, C-suite executives, and senior Congressional and Administration officials. Don't miss POLITICO reporters: **Bryan Bender**, Defense Editor, **Jack Blanchard**, Editor, Playbook London, **Helena Bottemiller Evich**, Senior Food and Agriculture Reporter, **Michael Crowley**, National Security Editor, **Susan Glasser**, Chief Foreign Affairs Correspondent & Global POLITICO Host, **Nick Juliano**, Deputy Energy Editor, **Matt Kaminski**, Executive Editor, POLITICO Europe, **Anna Palmer**, Senior Washington Correspondent and co-author of Playbook and **Ben White**, Chief Economic Correspondent. Register [here](#).

REPORT: SEVEN MONUMENTS IN CROSSHAIRS: Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke's unreleased report to Trump on national monuments recommends shrinking or changing the boundaries of seven national monuments, The Wall Street Journal [reports](#). Among the national monuments targeted are the Utah's Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante; Oregon's Cascade-Siskiyou; Nevada's Gold Butte; Maine's Katahdin; and New Mexico's Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks and Rio Grande Del Norte. Zinke's recommendations would also reopen Northeast Canyons and Seamounts off the Massachusetts coast and both Rose Atoll and the Pacific Remote Islands to commercial fishing.

Utah pushed drastic Bears Ears rollback: Utah Gov. Gary Herbert's office suggested to Zinke shrinking Bears Ears National Monument to one-tenth of its current 1.35 million acres, down to about 120,000 acres, The Salt Lake Tribune [reports](#), citing an open records request. Native American leaders bashed the state's proposal and said it disregards the wishes of the tribes who pushed for the monument designation in the first place.

REPORT: ADMINISTRATION INCHING TOWARD ANWR DRILLING: Interior has proposed in [an internal memo](#) to lift a ban on exploratory seismic studies in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, taking a first step toward opening up the wilderness to drilling, the Washington Post [reports](#). It's unclear how much interest energy companies would have in pouring significant investments into the region with oil prices remaining low, and Congress would ultimately have to authorize oil and gas drilling in the area. But U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Acting Director James W. Kurth requested in a memo that the agency update a 1980s regulation that allowed exploratory drilling as the agency pushes to remove legal obstacles to energy exploration in ANWR.

TRUMP MOCKS LONG GAS LINES IN NORTH KOREA: Trump [tweeted](#) Sunday (in addition to calling its leader Kim Jong Un "Rocket Man") that "Long gas lines forming in North Korea. Too bad!" It's unclear where Trump got his reports of long lines, but he appeared to be touting the effectiveness of new sanctions [cleared](#) by the U.N. Security Council last week. Though not as strong as the administration hoped, the sanctions capped North Korea's crude oil imports and barred the secluded nation from importing all natural gas liquids and condensates.

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PRUITT VISITS TEXAS SUPERFUND SITES: EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt on Friday visited the San Jacinto River waste pits, a Superfund site encompassing a group of impoundments holding 1960s-era paper mill waste that were affected by Hurricane Harvey. Following his visit, Pruitt promised the agency would make a final call on how to remediate the site before Oct. 14, The Baytown Sun [reports](#). "So as we look to answers here, they need to be permanent, they need to provide confidence with the people of this area that it's going to be for the long haul and we fix this situation, so that anxiety goes away," the administrator said in a local TV [interview](#).

EPA said Pruitt also received an aerial tour of other Superfund sites caught up in the storm, including Patrick Bayou, U.S. Oil Recovery, Highlands Acid Pits, French Unlimited, Brio Refining and Dixie Oil Processors.

More waivers granted: EPA announced it would extend waivers from certain Clean Air Act requirements through Sept. 22 for petroleum distribution facilities, gasoline storage facilities and bulk fuel terminals in Texas affected by Hurricane Harvey.

LET ME BE NU-CLEAR! Energy Secretary Rick Perry is in Vienna, Austria for the International Atomic Energy Agency's general conference. He posted pictures from a "wonderful dinner" with the group's Director General Yukiya Amano, a meeting with Chinese officials, discussions with Japanese representatives and a chance encounter with Austrian President Alexander Van der Bellen.

BIG WEEK FOR TRUMP NOMINEES! The House is out this week, so all eyes from congressional watchers will be on the Senate and the fate of ten energy and environmental nominees in committees. After a couple of false starts, the Energy and Natural Resources Committee is expected to clear five DOE, Interior and FERC nominees during a Tuesday business meeting at 9:30 a.m. without much drama.

It'll be a much different story the next day when the Environment and Public Works Committee holds a confirmation hearing for four EPA nominees. Expect vehement opposition from panel Democrats to the nominations of Michael Dourson to be the agency's chemical chief and William Wehrum to be the top air official. More on both sessions as we get closer.

MAIL CALL! ACTION SOUGHT ON BRAZILIAN TARIFF: A bipartisan group of 10 senators want U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer to talk Brazil out of its ethanol tariffs. "We are writing to ask that you directly engage the Brazilian government and quickly work to resolve this issue," the letter says. It doesn't call for any specific remedies other than asking Lighthizer to get Brazil to back down from its 20 percent tariff on ethanol imports above 600 million liters (158 million gallons). "We are writing to ask that you directly engage the Brazilian government and quickly work to resolve this issue," the senators say. The letter is signed by six Democrats and four Republicans, and includes Sens. Chuck Grassley and Debbie Stabenow, both of whom are on the Finance committee, which has oversight of the Trade Representative.

TAKE A GLANCE! WHAT WORKS IN OFFSHORE WIND: The Center for American Progress is out with a report today examining state policies that helped offshore wind projects in Rhode Island, Massachusetts and New York get off the ground. Among the items they recommend states consider for the policy toolkits: Strong renewable energy requirements, legislation guaranteeing demand for offshore wind power, comprehensive ocean planning, competitive and reasonable long-term power purchase agreements and infrastructure investments in areas like ports. CAP argues the lessons could be applied to states like New Jersey, North and South Carolina, Ohio, Maryland, Virginia and California.

THIS SEEMS LIKE A BIG DEAL: The House on Friday argued in legal filings federal

agencies should not release congressional records through Freedom of Information Act requests, POLITICO's Josh Gerstein [reports](#). In a federal district court [filing](#), House General Counsel Thomas Hungar said a House body known as the Bipartisan Legal Advisory Group voted unanimously in favor of the intervention to "protect the institutional interests of the House."

ME FIRST - CLEAN ENERGY WEEK KICKOFF IN STYLE: Perry and Zinke are teaming up to kick off National Clean Energy Week on Sept. 26 at the Reserve Officers Association on Capitol Hill in a discussion moderated by former New Hampshire Sen. Kelly Ayotte. Also expected to speak throughout the day are Rep. [Cathy McMorris Rodgers](#) and Sen. [Lindsey Graham](#).

WEEKEND PAPAL THOUGHT: "Global action is needed in order to reduce pollution and at the same time promote development in poorer countries," Pope Francis [tweeted](#) Saturday.

QUICK HITS

- Capitol Insider: Ohio coal officials join Trump administration. [Columbus Dispatch](#).
- British Press Watchdog Says Climate Change Article Was Faulty. [New York Times](#).
- \$10M coming to Colstrip in coal plant settlement, but future of facility darkens. [KPAX](#).
- IEA Sees Risk of Volatile Oil Prices on Weak Upstream Investment. [Bloomberg](#).
- Protesters set to rally against Australia's biggest coal project. [Reuters](#).
- Refinery, jobs threatened by EPA regulation. [Toledo Blade](#).

THAT'S ALL FOR ME!

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