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From: POLITICO Pro Energy Whiteboard
Sent: Wed 6/28/2017 7:48:08 PM
Subject: House energy committee approves slate of brownfield, ozone and pipeline bills

By Darius Dixon

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The House Energy and Commerce Committee today signed off on legislation that would reauthorize a brownfields cleanup program, delay ozone standards and give FERC power to approve cross-border oil pipelines.

The most contentious bill was the Ozone Standards Implementation Act, H.R. 806, which would delay implementation of the 2015 ozone standard through 2025 and stretch the regular air quality standard review period from five years to 10. It advanced on a 29-24 vote, mostly along party lines, after the committee voted down two Democratic amendments.

E&C also approved legislation to speed up decisions on energy projects crossing into Canada and Mexico on a partisan 31-20 vote. The bill, H.R. 2883, Promoting Cross-Border Energy Infrastructure Act, would scrap the presidential permitting process for electric, natural gas and oil projects, which became contentious by former President Barack Obama's decision to reject TransCanada's Keystone XL pipeline. Instead of the State Department, FERC would be authorized to review cross-border oil pipelines. A handful of Democratic amendments were voted down.

A separate bill aimed at streamlining approvals for interstate natural gas pipelines, H.R. 2910, was approved on a 30-23 vote.

On a bipartisan note, the committee approved a bill, H.R. 3017, to reauthorize a brownfields cleanup program with a voice vote amendment-free.

WHAT'S NEXT: The bills are expected to get votes in the full House before the August recess, but GOP leaders have not yet scheduled floor time.

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