

To: Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
From: Morning Energy
Sent: Mon 9/11/2017 2:08:56 PM
Subject: POLITICO's Morning Energy: Irma batters Florida with massive flooding, electric outages — EPA's climate adaptation work continues — Elliott tapped for PHMSA chief

By Anthony Adragna | 09/11/2017 10:00 AM EDT

IRMA WALLOPS FLORIDA: It may take days to fully understand the scale of the damage, but the catastrophic Hurricane Irma hammered Florida throughout Sunday just days after Texas bore the brunt of Hurricane Harvey. Millions of people were without power (latest [estimates](#) had around 3.5 million customers without electricity) and Acting Homeland Security Secretary Elaine Duke told [the Miami Herald](#) many could be without power for weeks in the storm's aftermath. Florida Power & Light CEO Eric Silagy said in [a statement](#) late Sunday that an "extensive rebuild" of Florida's west coast electric grid would leave customers without power for extended periods.

EPA said ahead of landfall it had completed rapid assessments of 90 Superfund sites in Florida and would ensure any impacted site would be inspected as soon as it's safe to do so. Sen. [Marco Rubio](#) told the [Associated Press](#) on Sunday agency officials were "generally positive" about the security of Superfund sites during the hurricane, but "they can't guarantee it 100 percent," he added. EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt also allowed three [Tampa Electric Company facilities](#) and [several Monroe County units](#) to operate without meeting all air pollution controls in an attempt to ensure a steady stream of electricity.

TIME TO DISCUSS CLIMATE CHANGE? Bucking prominent Trump administration officials like Energy Secretary Rick Perry and Pruitt, Miami's Republican mayor said Saturday it's "the time" to discuss climate change and what can be done about the problem, [The Miami Herald reports](#). "This is the time to talk about climate change," Mayor Tomás Regalado said. "If this isn't climate change, I don't know what is. This is a truly, truly poster child for what is to come."

McCain agrees: Speaking on CNN's "[State of the Union](#)" on Sunday, Sen. [John McCain](#) said it was time to sit down and discuss potential solutions. "There [are] things happening with the climate in the world that is unprecedented," he said. "We have to understand that the climate may be changing and we can take common sense measures which will not harm the American people."

Quotable: In response to Pruitt's comments that discussing climate change during hurricanes is "insensitive," climate hawk Sen. [Brian Schatz](#) [tweeted](#): "Every Senate R except for one voted for Pruitt. The Republican Party is refusing moral and political responsibility for the planet itself."

IT'S MONDAY EVERYONE! I'm your host Anthony Adragna, and 39 states (more than ME would've thought) have had a lawmaker serve as president pro tempore in the Senate. For today: Who is the longest-serving Speaker of the House in U.S. history? Send your tips, energy gossip and comments to aadragna@politico.com, or follow us on Twitter [@AnthonyAdragna](#), [@Morning_Energy](#) and [@POLITICOPro](#).

CLIMATE ADAPTATION WORK TRUDGES ON: Staffers working on climate adaptation at EPA continue those efforts even though the four people working on that matter were moved to different offices a few months ago, Pro's Emily Holden [reports](#). "Unequivocally, the Office of Policy continues to support work on climate adaptation," said Joel Scheraga, a veteran EPA employee and the agency's senior adviser for climate adaptation. "The bottom line is that climate adaptation work continues." Even though Pruitt has put many climate change initiatives on ice, Scheraga said EPA is still available to work with state and local leaders who want to prepare for the effects of climate change, including heavy rains, more intense hurricanes and sea-level rise.

An agency spokesman, Jahan Wilcox, said the reorganization "occurred in the spring and allowed these four employees to continue their work on climate change adaptation within the Office of Policy," which is run by Samantha Dravis, a top aide to Pruitt. The four work within the Office of Regulatory Planning and Management and the National Center of Environmental Economics.

MORE EPA AMENDMENTS COMING: Hurricane Irma prompted House Majority Leader [Kevin McCarthy](#) to scrap votes scheduled for today, but lawmakers will vote on lingering EPA and Interior amendments to an eight-title spending package [H.R. 3354 \(115\)](#) this week. Before breaking last week, votes were ordered on amendments [barring EPA from enforcing its methane rule](#), [prohibiting the use of the social cost of carbon in regulations](#), [blocking the closure of any EPA regional offices](#) and [slashing agency appropriation](#) by \$1.87 billion.

INVESTIGATIONS GALORE! Confirmation came late Friday that a bunch of Trump administration actions were under review by watchdogs. Among them:

1. **Zinke's call to Alaskans:** GAO said it would issue a legal opinion about Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke's calls to Alaska Sens. [Lisa Murkowski](#) and [Dan Sullivan](#) over their Obamacare repeal votes, Pro's Alex Guillén [reports](#), citing [letters](#) released Friday. Zinke allegedly told both lawmakers that Murkowski's vote against moving ahead on healthcare repeal efforts could negatively impact Alaskan energy goals in the Trump administration.

2. **Interior's staff reshuffle:** Interior's inspector general confirmed it would look into Zinke's June reassignment of a number of senior executive staff, Pro's Esther Whieldon [reports](#). Among of the dozens of staff moves under review is Zinke's decision to transfer Joel Clement from a managerial position involving climate change issues to a job collecting royalties from oil and gas companies.

3. **Hiring practices for political appointees:** GAO has also agreed to look into the hiring practices of various political appointees at EPA and the White House Council on Environmental Quality, as well as whether those officials are complying with ethics requirements, two senior Environment and Public Works Committee Democrats said Friday. "When an agency can just ignore those rules-and congressional oversight-the result often leads to corruption and scandal," Sens. [Tom Carper](#) and [Sheldon Whitehouse](#), who requested the probe, said in a statement. "We're grateful that GAO will let us know what EPA hasn't."

AT LONG LAST, PHMSA CHIEF PICKED: Late Friday night, the White House announced its selection of Howard "Skip" Elliott to run the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, Pro Transportation's Tanya Snyder [reports](#). He's a 40-year veteran of the U.S. freight rail industry and currently vice president of public safety, health, environment and security for CSX Transportation in Jacksonville, Fla. Elliott's portfolio includes hazardous materials transportation safety, crisis management, and environmental compliance. He received a lifetime achievement award from the Association of American Railroads for his work on hazardous materials transportation safety.

ICYMI: Fears are growing among the solar industry that a forthcoming trade commission ruling - and Trump's increasing frustration with advisers recommending a cautious approach to trade - could result in steep tariffs being set on shipments of solar equipment into the country that could stunt the industry's rapid growth, Pro's Esther Whieldon, Eric Wolff and Andrew Restuccia [report](#). The U.S. International Trade Commission rules later this month on the complaint from solar manufacturers Suniva and SolarWorld USA and, if it finds damage, would send the matter over to the White House for a final decision.

Key takeaway: A senior administration official said Trump is very likely to support tariffs against the solar imports if the ITC sends the complaint over to 1600 Pennsylvania.

Meanwhile, the sector boasted its largest second quarter ever with 2,387 megawatts of solar photovoltaic systems installed, according to the Solar Energy Industries Association's [latest report](#). That's more than quarter one of 2017 and represents a eight percent year-over-year increase.

MAIL CALL! REVERSE COURSE ON CLIMATE PREPAREDNESS: Carper, top EPW Democrat, sent [a letter](#) to Trump Friday urging him to reinstate several previously canceled Obama-era initiatives on climate preparedness. "While our country debates how to address climate change, rising sea levels and extreme weather events are no longer a matter of debate, becoming the new norm and placing extreme burdens on the American people and economy," Carper wrote. Among his requests: Reinstate the requirements that federally funded projects be required to take flood risks under consideration and hold a "red team-blue team" exercise on preparedness rather than climate science.

EYEING AN EXIT? Tucked away in a New York Times [report](#) on how Trump's rattling Republicans ahead of the midterms comes the tidbit that Rep. [Fred Upton](#), chairman of the House Energy and Commerce Energy Subcommittee, "may retire or run for the Senate." Upton has been one of the most visible faces on energy policy in the House. He later [emailed](#) Jonathan Martin, the Times reporter, to say he was eyeing the Senate seat now held by Sen. [Debbie Stabenow](#). ME can't wait for the Upton v. Kid Rock primary.

WATCH THIS SPACE: Wednesday marks the deadline for EPA and environmental challengers to suggest expedited briefing schedules in the lawsuit over Pruitt's delay of the chemical safety rule, Pro's Alex Guillén reports in [Energy Regulation Watch](#). That comes even as the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit declined to immediately reinstate the rule in the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey. And, ICYMI, Trump picked Gregory Katsas, currently a deputy

counsel at the White House, for the open slot of the D.C. Circuit left open recent retirement of Judge Janice Rogers Brown.

THIS SEEMS TIMELY: The National League of Cities and the Environmental and Energy Study Institute are holding a [briefing](#) today at 3 p.m. in Cannon 122 to hear what various cities around the U.S. are doing to invest in resiliency. Speakers include Pittsburgh Mayor Bill Peduto.

IT'S TIME TO RECTIFY: Germany's automobile industry must "rectify the mistakes" exposed in its Dieselgate emissions scandal but there's still a robust future for the sector, Chancellor Angela Merkel said in a [podcast](#) Saturday, POLITICO Europe's Kalina Oroschakoff [reports](#). "We've experienced a major loss of trust in the car industry," Merkel said. "But at the same time, we also know that the car industry is an important pillar of our economic success, as well as of our reputation as an export nation, and the quality label 'Made in Germany.'" With just two weeks to go until the German elections, Merkel is trying to walk the fine line of chastising the industry for its failure in the emissions cheating scandal without alienating the hundreds of the thousands of workers in the sector.

THIS SEEMS LIKE A BIG DEAL: China has begun the preliminary research into eventually banning the sale of all fossil fuel powered vehicles, the BBC [reports](#). "Those measures will certainly bring profound changes for our car industry's development," Xin Guobin, the country's vice minister of industry, said. China has not said when the ban might go into effect.

QUICK HITS

- Receding floodwaters expose long-term health risks after Harvey. [Bloomberg](#).
- Troubled Water: EPA, DEP don't require Florida schools to test for lead in drinking water. [Treasure Coast News](#).
- Doddridge case called a boost for surface owners in Marcellus gas region. [Charleston Gazette-Mail](#).
- Residents washed away by Harvey wait for answers about waste pit pollution. [Houston Chronicle](#).
- West Virginia Withdraws Approval of Mountain Valley Pipeline. [AP](#).
- Japan Backs U.S. Proposal to Target North Korea's Oil Supplies. [Bloomberg](#).

HAPPENING THIS WEEK

MONDAY

3:00 p.m. - The Environmental and Energy Study Institute holds a discussion on "How Can Cities Become More Resilient to Extreme Weather?" Cannon 122

TUESDAY

9:00 a.m. - "The New Geopolitics of Natural Gas," Atlantic Council, 1030 15th Street NW, 12th Floor

10:00 a.m. - "Powering America: Defining Reliability in a Transforming Electricity Industry," House Energy and Commerce Energy Subcommittee, Rayburn 2123

10:00 a.m. - "Resiliency: The Electric Grid's Only Hope," House Science, Space and Technology Committee, 2318 Rayburn

10:00 a.m. - The Center for Climate and Energy Solutions releases a new brief and hosts a webinar featuring business leaders on how and why companies are putting an internal price on carbon emissions, contact: press@c2es.org

2:30 p.m. - "Reauthorization of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act: Oversight of Fisheries Management Successes and Challenges," Senate Commerce Oceans, Atmosphere, Fisheries, and Coast Guard Subcommittee, Russell 253

2:30 p.m. - "Fostering Innovation: Contributions of the Department of Energy's National Laboratories," Senate Energy and Natural Resources Energy Subcommittee, Dirksen 366

4:00 p.m. - Full committee marks up various bills, House Natural Resources Committee, 1334 Longworth

WEDNESDAY

8:30 a.m. - API holds an event on the natural gas and oil industry's impact in all 50 states, G11 Dirksen

10:00 a.m. - "Big Relief for Small Business: Legislation Reducing Regulatory Burdens on Small Manufacturers and Other Job Creators," House Energy and Commerce Environment Subcommittee, Rayburn 2123

10:00 a.m. - The full House Natural Resources Committee holds a markup of pending calendar business, Longworth 1334

10:00 a.m. - "Expanding and Accelerating the Deployment and Use of Carbon Capture, Utilization, and Sequestration," Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, Dirksen 406

11:00 a.m. - National Biodiesel Board holds its BioFry event for congressional staff, 406 1st St. SE

12:00 p.m. - Save the U.S. EPA holds a press conference and march to the EPA, National Press Club, Zenger Room, 529 14th Street N.W., 13th floor

2:30 p.m. - "The Venezuela Crisis: The Malicious Influence of State and Criminal Actors," The House Foreign Affairs Committee Western Hemisphere Subcommittee, 2200 Rayburn

THURSDAY

8:30 a.m. - "State of the Art: Innovations in CO2 Capture and Use," Center for Climate and Energy Solutions, Hart 902

8:30 a.m. - POLITICO Pro policy summit, Omni Shoreham Hotel, 2500 Calvert Street, NW

10:00 a.m. - "EIA's International Energy Outlook 2017," Center for Strategic and International Studies, 1616 Rhode Island Avenue, NW

FRIDAY

12:00 p.m. - "Battery Storage and the Power Sector," National Capital Area Chapter of the United States Association for Energy Economics , Carmine's, 425 7th St NW,

THAT'S ALL FOR ME!

To view online:

<http://www.politico.com/tipsheets/morning-energy/2017/09/11/irma-batters-florida-with-massive-flooding-electric-outages-222207>

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