

To: Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
From: Morning Energy
Sent: Mon 11/27/2017 3:03:32 PM
Subject: POLITICO's Morning Energy: U.S. backs Obama-era HFC deal — Scores descend on West Virginia for Clean Power Plan hearing — Upton vows to stay on Enbridge's case

By Anthony Adragna | 11/27/2017 10:00 AM EDT

U.S. BACKS HFC REDUCTION DEAL: While you were munching on turkey and mashed potatoes, the Trump administration pledged its support for an international accord aimed curbing emissions of hydrofluorocarbons, highly potent greenhouse gases. "The United States believes the Kigali Amendment represents a pragmatic and balanced approach to phasing down the production and consumption of HFCs, and therefore we support the goals and approach of the amendment," Judith Garber, the State Department official who led the delegation to Montreal Protocol conference, said in [remarks](#) on Thanksgiving Day. It's a big deal because the agreement, which enters into force in 2019, is expected to avoid a temperature increase of 0.5° C [0.9° F] by 2100.

And the U.S. ponied up, too: The U.S. [agreed](#) to pour \$36.67 million annually from 2018 through 2020 into the Multilateral Fund, through which rich nations help developing ones to phase out HFCs. That's part of a broader \$540 million countries agreed to contribute over the three-year period. Look for Congress to be a lot more willing to contribute for this than it has been for other international climate efforts given both industry and environmentalists strongly back the broader agreement.

Limping toward Senate consideration: Garber told diplomats the U.S. had "initiated the process" for putting the Kigali agreement to the Senate for its advice and consent, though she cautioned there was "no timeline currently determined" for formally sending it over to Congress. "There are a number of steps in our domestic process that we would need to complete before reaching a final decision," she noted.

WELCOME TO MONDAY! I'm your host Anthony Adragna, and NRDC's Ed Chen was first to identify the Saturday Evening Post as landing spot for Norman Rockwell's iconic Thanksgiving painting. For today: Within two percentage points, what percentage of Americans hold valid passports? Send your tips, energy gossip and comments to aadragna@politico.com, or follow us on Twitter [@AnthonyAdragna](#), [@Morning_Energy](#), and [@POLITICOPro](#).

WOMEN RULE WEEK! POLITICO is partnering with women-led businesses in the DC-metro area to offer a full week of exclusive perks in conjunction with the 5th annual Women Rule Summit! Join the fun at participating businesses during Women Rule Week (**Nov. 27 - Dec. 1**) for [exclusive deals](#) and tweet 5x using #WomenRule for a chance to win two free tickets to the Summit on Dec. 5!

HEADS TURN TO WEST VIRGINIA: Washington's attention will be trained on what will be a critical week in Congress for the GOP's tax package, but the eyes of the energy and environmental world turn to Charleston, W.Va. for the lone public hearing on EPA's proposed repeal of the Obama-era Clean Power Plan. Preliminary lists of witnesses on [Tuesday](#) and

Wednesday include numerous heavy-hitters: coal magnate Robert Murray, West Virginia Attorney General (and Senate candidate) Patrick Morrisey, Rep. Evan Jenkins, as well as dozens of environmental, health and public interest advocates vocally opposing the regulation's repeal. Remember EPA continues to accept comment on its proposed repeal through Jan. 16.

Oversight hearings from Appropriators: As they work to stave off a government shutdown, House Appropriators will check in with the U.S. Forest Service and Army Corps of Engineers on Wednesday before hearing from Deputy Interior Secretary David Bernhardt on Thursday. Bernhardt, who will be joined by officials from EPA and Energy, is also due to provide an update to the House Oversight Committee on their regulatory reform initiatives on Wednesday.

Taking stock: POLITICO's Seung Min Kim looks at the daunting remainder of the year for Congress.

EPW to move more nominees: The Senate Environment and Public Works Committee is scheduled to vote on the nominations of Kathleen Hartnett White to run the White House Council on Environmental Quality and Andrew Wheeler to be EPA deputy administrator on Wednesday at 10 a.m.

Brownfields bill hits the floor: The House is slated to vote Thursday on legislation H.R. 3017 (115) that reauthorizes and revamps EPA's Brownfields program, which helps promote the redevelopment of contaminated sites.

MAKING PROGRESS: TransCanada said it's removed 44,400 gallons of oil from the site of a spill from the Keystone pipeline in South Dakota in its most recent update on the situation. The company said it has 170 people "on-site, working around-the-clock" to clean up the spill and that "there have been no significant" environmental impacts from the incident. Preliminary inspections were supposed to be completed Sunday, and the company has not given any estimate of when the pipeline will begin operations again.

UPTON STAYING ON ENBRIDGE'S CASE: House Energy and Commerce Energy Subcommittee Chairman Fred Upton told Michigan radio on Sunday that he, along with Gov. Rick Snyder's office, met "at length" with representatives from Enbridge about its troubled Line 5 pipeline, and he vowed to continue seeking greater transparency from the company about the status inspections and repairs. "There is no room for an accident here," Upton said. "We're going to stay on their case."

More on why he passed on a Senate run. "I've never lost an election - didn't think that I would - but it's a tough sledding that's for sure, so at the end we just said, 'No, not gonna do it.'"

QUITE AN INTERESTING RECOMMENDATION: Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke has recommended the creation of a new national monument in Montana that would protect more than 200 square miles of federal land from any fossil fuel development, a move some see as politically shrewd given the former Montana congressman's whispered future ambitions, NPR reports. "I think the secretary has talked about wanting to come back to Montana after he's done being secretary and potentially run for governor," said Land Tawney, president of the Montana-

based sportsmen's group Backcountry Hunters and Anglers. During an April executive order signing, Trump described national monument designations made under prior administrations as "massive federal land grab[s]" and Zinke has suggested shrinking a handful of them.

DEFENDING GAETZ IN CLIMATE CAUCUS: Rep. [Matt Gaetz](#) 's joining the Climate Solutions Caucus raised more than a few eyebrows in Washington given his legislation earlier this year to abolish the EPA, but the Citizens Climate Lobby actually sees it as a major sign of progress. "We think his joining (which happened at the invitation of a fellow freshman Congressman from across the aisle) signals a big shift in the way climate change is being approached in Congress," Flannery Winchester, a spokeswoman for the group, wrote in an email. "Gaetz's membership on the caucus shows that the issue is becoming less politicized, and his exposure to the other Republicans in the group will likely bring him closer to bipartisan climate legislation that's actually viable."

BACK ON THE JOB: In a Thanksgiving [statement](#), Whitefish Energy said it resumed efforts to repair Puerto Rico's electric grid after receiving enough of a payment to indicate a "good faith intent" from the island's beleaguered utility to pay the Montana-based company. The amount of the payment was not specified. Government [figures](#) Sunday showed more than 42 percent of the island remains without electricity.

DON'T DO IT! Eleven state attorneys general sent a [letter](#) last week to the National Park Service voicing strong opposition to proposed fee increases at high-profile parks around the country. "The Service has not offered a reasoned explanation for its proposed fee increases and its actions are inconsistent with the laws that govern our national park system," the letter, led by California's Xavier Becerra, says.

NOW LOBBYING: Former Sen. Byron Dorgan has been hired by the Wilderness Society to lobby on "conservation issues relating to the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge," according to records [posted](#) last week.

OBSTACLES AHEAD: Keeping energy consumption in check is crucial if the European Union intends to meet 2020 targets for renewables and energy efficiency, POLITICO Europe's Kalina Oroschakoff [reports](#), citing an European Environment Agency [warning](#). The agency also urged countries to speed up cutting fossil fuel use in their energy systems to meet the 2030 renewable and energy efficiency targets.

QUICK HITS

- Growing Gas Glut Threatens West Texas Oil Boom. [Wall Street Journal](#).
- Scott Pruitt on a mission to change the culture of the EPA. [USA Today](#).
- Meredith to buy U.S. publisher Time in Koch-backed deal. [Reuters](#).
- Kansas: Feds Say All Its Counties Meet Air Quality Standards. [AP](#).

- Aramco Sees Oil Market Balanced as U.A.E. Dismisses Shale Threat. [Bloomberg](#).
- Behind Buffett's support of Keystone XL pipeline project. [Omaha World-Herald](#).
- US appeals court orders halt on natural gas pipeline in Ohio. [AP](#).

THAT'S ALL FOR ME!

To view online:

<https://www.politico.com/newsletters/morning-energy/2017/11/27/us-backs-obama-era-hfc-deal-031954>

To change your alert settings, please go to <https://secure.politico.com/settings>

This email was sent to jackson.ryan@epa.gov by: POLITICO, LLC 1000 Wilson Blvd.
Arlington, VA, 22209, USA

Please click [here](#) and follow the steps to unsubscribe.
