

To: Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
From: Morning Energy
Sent: Thur 8/17/2017 2:04:40 PM
Subject: POLITICO's Morning Energy: Desperately seeking Zinke's attention — Wyoming v. West Virginia in coal feud — More time for comments on WOTUS repeal

By Anthony Adragna | 08/17/2017 10:00 AM EDT

With help from Alex Guillén and Adam Behsudi

EVERYONE WANTS ZINKE'S EAR: It may be August recess for much of Washington, but Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke has a bunch of deadlines coming up in the next couple of weeks and lots of people looking to grab his attention. Today's the last day for public comments on BOEM's push to write a new five-year offshore drilling plan (submit yours [here](#)). Nearly 51,000 comments have already poured in as President Donald Trump's administration is expected to begin the two-to-three year process of writing a plan that would open parts of the Gulf of Mexico and Atlantic Ocean as well as Alaska's Chukchi Sea, Beaufort Sea and Cook Inlet areas to drilling opportunities.

A group of 69 House Democrats, led by Rep. [Jared Huffman](#), urged Zinke in a [letter](#) Wednesday not to expand drilling opportunities in the Arctic and Atlantic saying "the risks are simply too high, and the consequences too severe." But more than 110 other House lawmakers, led by Natural Resources Chairman [Rob Bishop](#), said in their [own letter](#) it was "imperative" to open as much of the Outer Continental Shelf as possible "to ensure opportunities are not missed" to expand U.S. energy independence. Meanwhile, the administration of Trump ally Gov. Chris Christie voiced opposition to including any of the area off the coast of New Jersey in the new plan in its own [comments](#). And a coalition of environmental organizations [warned](#) opening Atlantic waters to drilling posed "a direct threat to the fragile and unique ecosystems of the southeast coast and to the millions of people whose livelihoods depend on our clean coastal resources."

Separately, Zinke is nearing the end of his national monument review, and more than 400 executives from the outdoor apparel, footwear and equipment sectors are urging him not to make any changes to nearly two dozen designations under the Antiquities Act currently being examined. "As business leaders, we simply ask that your final report remain true to the Teddy Roosevelt values we share with you - to maintain the national treasures Presidents of both parties have protected, to defend the integrity of the monument-making process and to assure these majestic places remain accessible for all Americans, sustaining healthy communities and a healthy economy," they wrote. Among those signing [the letter](#) are Adidas Outdoors, Burton, L.L. Bean, Orvis, The North Face, REI and YETI.

Monument backers got some good news Wednesday when Zinke announced he would recommend no changes to California's existing Sand to Snow National Monument. "The land of Sand to Snow National Monument is some of the most diverse terrain in the West, and the monument is home to incredible geographic, biologic, and archaeological history of our nation," he said in a statement. Former President Barack Obama created it back in February 2016.

MORE TIME GIVEN ON WOTUS REPEAL: Interested parties now have until Sept. 27 to comment on the EPA's efforts to repeal the previous administration's Waters of the U.S. regulation after the agency extended the public comment period by a month, Pro's Annie Snider reports. Administrator Scott Pruitt wants to author his own version of the rule defining which marshes, bogs and creeks are subject to regulation under the Clean Water Act, though backers of the Obama rule have criticized the length of time the Trump administration gave for public comment.

Speaking of WOTUS, Pruitt appeared in a video released Wednesday for the National Cattlemen's Beef Association urging farmers and ranchers to make sure they formally submitted comments before the deadline. "This record being made is so important because it helps us make informed decisions," Pruitt said, being careful not to specify what the comment should sound like.

IT'S THURSDAY! I'm your host Anthony Adragna, and Faegre Baker Daniels' Andrew Wheeler was first up to identify Wednesday as the 40th anniversary of Elvis' death. For today: What's the only country located in all four hemispheres? Send your tips, energy gossip and comments to aadragna@politico.com, or follow us on Twitter [@AnthonyAdragna](https://twitter.com/AnthonyAdragna), [@Morning_Energy](https://twitter.com/Morning_Energy), and [@POLITICOPro](https://twitter.com/POLITICOPro).

WELCOME TO THE GOP, GOV. JUSTICE! Wyoming's all-Republican congressional delegation is decidedly not a fan of West Virginia Gov. Jim Justice's proposed \$15-per-ton subsidy for utilities to buy coal from Appalachian mines instead of those in Western states. "We strongly urge you not to take actions, such as adopting the subsidy policy proposed by Governor Justice, that would repeat the mistakes of the last eight years," Sens. John Barrasso and Mike Enzi, as well as Rep. Liz Cheney, wrote in a letter to Trump. "Now is the time to remove distortions in our energy markets. We should not be imposing new ones." Justice's proposal would have to go through Congress, where Barrasso chairs the Environment and Public Works Committee, and Enzi holds the Budget Committee gavel, and where the Freedom Caucus, which tends to oppose any overt energy subsidies, holds substantial sway in the House.

GREENS CONDEMN CHARLOTTESVILLE RALLY: A coalition of more than 110 environmental and public interest groups issued a statement Wednesday condemning the white nationalist rally and associated violence from last weekend in Charlottesville, Va. "President Trump and all political leaders, no matter their party affiliation, have an obligation to stand up against such hate groups immediately and unequivocally," they said. "Their voices and words - and lack thereof - matter." Among those signing the statement are Citizens Climate Lobby, Earthjustice, Natural Resources Defense Council, Sierra Club and Physicians for Social Responsibility.

HEITKAMP LANDS A CHALLENGER: Wealthy potato farmer and Republican state Sen. Tom Campbell threw his hat into the ring to face Democratic Sen. Heidi Heitkamp Wednesday, Campaign Pro's Kevin Robillard reports. He's given enough personal money to launch an advertising blitz, which heavily focuses on his potato farming business that employs hundreds of people in the state. His first ad includes this pretty witty line: "It's time for a leader who knows how to grow something besides government."

ADVISER NO MORE: A spokesman said Wednesday Daniel Yergin, vice chairman of consulting agency [IHS Markit](#), "fully supports" the decision to disband Trump's Strategic and Policy Forum that he sat on, Pro's Ben Lefebvre [reports](#). Yergin, who advises many of the country's largest energy companies and helps organize the industry's largest annual conference, sat on the White House [forum](#) with the heads of GM, JPMorgan Chase and other major companies. Dow Chemical's Andrew Liveris also voiced support for the decision to disband the Manufacturing Council. "In discussions I had with the White House earlier today, I indicated that in the current environment it was no longer possible to conduct productive discussions under the auspices of the Initiative," he said in a statement. "And so, as proud as I am of the efforts we were taking on behalf of the American worker, disbanding the Manufacturing Jobs Initiative was the right decision." More from POLITICO's Dan Diamond on the corporate revolt [here](#).

Meanwhile, the American Technology Council, a government committee with advisers from the tech industry, will keep going, Pro Tech's Steven Overly and Nancy Scola [report](#), citing a White House official. The group was distinct from the other business groups that disbanded in that it was designed to convene government officials such as the secretary of Defense and head of OMB, rather than business executives. But it convened a summit in June that included heavy-hitters like Apple's Tim Cook, Amazon's Jeff Bezos and venture capitalist John Doerr, a major greentech backer.

MAIL CALL! PROTECT CLEAN ENERGY IN NAFTA TALKS: The Business Council for Sustainable Energy sent a [letter](#) to U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer urging the protection of clean energy technologies as the Trump administration begins to renegotiate the North American Free Trade Agreement. "Giving attention to items such as a zero tariff for goods produced in North America, promoting U.S. codes and standards, and updating language to reflect the growing impact of information technology on all sectors, will ensure that NAFTA supports the continued growth of clean energy and the benefits it provides to the U.S. economy," Lisa Jacobson, the group's president, wrote. That comes as multiple environmental groups slammed the administration for kicking off negotiations in private.

BATHROOM BILLS OPPOSED BY ENERGY SECTOR KILLED: Texas lawmakers failed to pass several bills by the end of a special session that would have limited transgender individuals' access to bathrooms in public places and schools, BuzzFeed [reports](#). The bills, which divided state Republicans and the business community, were [opposed](#) by leaders of major energy companies, including BP America, Chevron, Dow Chemical Co., Exxon Mobil and Halliburton.

TRADE REMEDY CORNER: BIODIESEL INDUSTRY SAYS AD EXTENSION NOT A BIG DEAL: The Commerce Department this week [announced](#) a delay in its preliminary antidumping duty determination on imports of biodiesel from Argentina and Indonesia. The U.S. industry which is seeking relief says it's no big deal. The National Biodiesel Board, which is petitioning for the duties, requested an extension to the anti-dumping probe last month. The Commerce [investigation](#) is expected to issue preliminary countervailing duties by Aug. 22, which is also an extended deadline.

"It is evident from market reaction that some in the industry are not familiar with this legal

process and the fact that nearly every trade case, from steel to cased pencils, includes these routine extensions," said Doug Whitehead, chief operating officer of the National Biodiesel Board. "This in no way impacts the schedule or the fact that unfairly traded imports are hurting American companies and the employees who serve this industry. We remain confident that both the DOC and ITC will find in American biodiesel producers' favor."

SEND IN REINFORCEMENTS: NYU School of Law is launching the State Energy and Environmental Impact Center, backed by a \$6 million grant from Bloomberg Philanthropies, to help state attorneys general fight Trump administration efforts to roll back environmental regulations or climate change policies, the Washington Post [reports](#). David J. Hayes, deputy Interior secretary under President Obama, will be executive director for the nascent group.

PARK BOTTLE BAN AXED: Amid news it [removed](#) a Bikeshare station installed during the Obama administration from White House grounds, the Trump administration on Wednesday also [killed off](#) its predecessors effort to stop the sale of disposable water bottles on National Park Service grounds. "While we will continue to encourage the use of free water bottle filling stations as appropriate, ultimately it should be up to our visitors to decide how best to keep themselves and their families hydrated during a visit to a national park," Acting National Park Service Director Michael T. Reynolds said. The change in policy, which axes a 2011 Interior memorandum, takes effect immediately.

NEW ENERGY INFRASTRUCTURE COALITION LAUNCHED: The Energy Equipment and Infrastructure Alliance launched a [new campaign](#) Wednesday to tout "the importance and benefits of energy infrastructure and its ongoing development." Entitled Energy Builders, the effort comes in response to expanding pipeline protest movement and aims to highlight local economic benefits and jobs that come from infrastructure projects. "The extremists pushing to 'keep it in the ground' don't appreciate what these projects mean to wage earners and their families, not to mention the power they provide for America's homes and businesses now and in the future," Terry O'Sullivan, general president of the Laborers' International Union of North America, said in a statement.

REPORT: YES WE CAN (LIMIT TEMPERATURE INCREASES): The Rocky Mountain Institute released a [report](#) Wednesday arguing limiting temperature increases to 2 degrees Celsius is both practical and possible. "Today, many experts doubt that energy systems can decarbonize fast enough to prevent this scenario," the report says. "But this belief is both dangerous and wrong." Among the shifts needed are rapid and economic scaling of clean energy technologies; foundational changes to emissions within agriculture, forestry and other land-use behaviors and coordinated market and policy incentives globally.

HOW TO TAKE AN AX TO EPA: Former Trump EPA transition leader Myron Ebell issued a [report](#) Wednesday offering suggestions for how to radically reduce the size of the agency. Among his recommendations: Eliminate the enforcement office; abolish the 10 regional offices and push their emergency response functions to FEMA; stop the environmental justice programs; and overhaul how the agency approaches its scientific work. Ebell also calls for greater disclosure from the agency on its discretionary spending on functions not formally designated by Congress.

BIG SALE! Exxon Mobil, Chevron, Total and two dozen other companies bid on 76 million Gulf of Mexico acres, drawing more than \$121 million in winning bids Wednesday from oil and gas companies, Pro's Ben Lefebvre [reports](#). The bidding comes up short of the \$247 million generated from a Gulf of Mexico lease sale last March.

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE TOOL UPDATED: EPA issued an annual update Wednesday to [EJSCREEN](#), its geographic tool for exploring environmental justice issues. According to EPA, the update includes new data on public schools and housing; a new way to view surface water pollution; and the ability to view cities as distinct areas, like with states. EPA will host three training webinars in the coming weeks. Click [here](#) for a blog post on the update from Matthew Tejada, director of EPA's Office of Environmental Justice. The Trump administration's proposed 2018 budget sought to zero out EPA spending on environmental justice, though Hill appropriators have not taken that route.

QUICK HITS

- 'You can't hoodwink the EPA': Drinking-water protection a problem for cash-strapped Pa. [Penn Live](#).
- Millions consumed potentially unsafe water in the past 10 years. [Texas Tribune](#).
- Western Officials Support Possible BLM, Federal Agency Relocation To Denver. [Western Wire](#).
- Missouri Utility Regulators Reject Proposed Massive Wind Power Line. [AP](#).
- Oil dips despite steep draw in U.S. crude stocks. [Reuters](#).

THAT'S ALL FOR ME!

To view online:

<http://www.politico.com/tipsheets/morning-energy/2017/08/17/desperately-seeking-zinkes-attention-221923>

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.
