

**To:** Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]  
**From:** InsideEPA/climate  
**Sent:** Mon 5/22/2017 10:55:48 PM  
**Subject:** Today on Climate Beat

May 22, 2017

## Today on Climate Beat . . .

. . . we went to Virginia, where state senator and GOP gubernatorial candidate Frank Wagner is convening a legislative committee meeting on Gov. Terry McAuliffe's (D) plan to regulate carbon emissions from the state's power plants, in which he intends to confront administration officials with a "barrage" of questions.

Back in Washington, the Trump White House is taking steps to block the release of ethics waivers EPA and other agencies have granted that allow former industry lobbyists to work at those agencies, despite an executive order President Donald Trump signed earlier this year generally barring such work.

In Congress, Sen. Tom Carper (D-DE) has some questions for EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt on enforcement, after it came to light that oil and gas producer Devon Energy walked back its position in settlement talks with the agency shortly after Pruitt was confirmed.

Our daily news roundup featured the *New York Times* story that broke the Devon Energy news, as part of a broader look at how Pruitt's deregulatory agenda is already reverberating throughout the oil and gas industry.

And out in coal country, a National Academy of Sciences (NAS) panel will hold its second meeting aimed to resolve contradictory findings on whether surface coal mining in Central Appalachia harms human health, a study that could ultimately aid Trump administration efforts to roll back rules that discourage coal production.

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**Mailing address:** 1919 South Eads Street, Suite 201, Arlington VA 22202

**Telephone:** 703-416-8500 or 1-800-424-9068

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