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**From:** John Hall  
**Sent:** Thur 11/2/2017 4:35:12 PM  
**Subject:** [SPAM] FW: Pruitt's Grant Ban Stokes Concerns About EPA's Integrity

Dear Sarah

As you know, Scott is taking heat for the recent peer review process decision (Attached article) – which I might add was long overdue. As discussed previously, we have multiple examples where the prior Administration conducted what can only be considered sham peer reviews to justify regulatory actions (often excluding the public) and, when it received an adverse peer review, simply ignored the results. We would be pleased to provide a report documenting those actions by EPA's Office of Water. We would also look forward to testifying at any Congressional hearing on the use of good scientific methods and the peer review process.

In addition, we plan on submitting an IG investigation request regarding the repeated refusal of EPA Region I (assisted by prior Administration officials) to ignore new scientific information that confirmed decision making error and refusal to conduct a peer review of obviously flawed procedures. We hope that such an independent assessment by the IG will provide further confirmation of the need to reform EPA's "scientific" practices.

Please let me know if the report, discussed above, would be of assistance.

Thanks,

**John**

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**From:** Environmental Law360 [mailto:[news-alt@law360.com](mailto:news-alt@law360.com)]  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 02, 2017 3:28 AM  
**To:** John Hall  
**Subject:** Pruitt's Grant Ban Stokes Concerns About EPA's Integrity

ENVIRONMENTAL

Thursday, November 2, 2017

TOP NEWS

Analysis

**Pruitt's Grant Ban Stokes Concerns About EPA's Integrity**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency head Scott Pruitt said his recent decision to prohibit members of the agency's scientific advisory committees from receiving EPA grants will reduce

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conflicts of interest, but experts say the move could exclude many of the nation's best environmental scientists and damage the agency's scientific integrity. [Read more »](#)

### **DC Circ. Nixes Challenges To DOE Gas Export Approvals**

The D.C. Circuit on Wednesday rejected The Sierra Club's challenges to the U.S. Department of Energy's approval of liquefied natural gas exports from three projects, relying heavily on an earlier rejection of the green group's challenge of another DOE approval of an LNG project. [Read more »](#)

### **GOP Leader Floats Plan To Loosen Energy Development Regs**

The head of the U.S. House Committee on Natural Resources on Tuesday floated draft legislation that would dramatically revamp federal oversight of energy development, including allowing states to issue drilling permits on public lands and taking away the president's authority to indefinitely block offshore drilling in certain areas. [Read more »](#)

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### **Signal Peak Gets OK For Limited Coal Mining At Mont. Site**

A Montana federal judge on Tuesday allowed Signal Peak Energy LLC to conduct limited coal mining at a site in the state but forbade the coal from being shipped, amending an August order that halted some activity on an expanded section of the mine so the government could take another look at the company's mining plan. [Read more »](#)

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### **POLICY & REGULATION**

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### **House OKs Slimmed-Down Review Rules For Federal Forests**

The House of Representatives passed a series of bills Wednesday intended to change policy on federal forests and certain tribal lands, over Democratic objections that one of the measures would gut environmental protections. [Read more »](#)

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### **ENFORCEMENT**

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### **'Codfather' Fine Was No Math Error, Judge Tells Feds**

A Massachusetts federal judge on Tuesday clarified his order forcing a New England fishing industry giant known as the "Codfather" to forfeit four boats and 34 fishing licenses to the United States, slapping down federal prosecutors' argument that he was wrong to think \$200,000 was the maximum fine allowable under sentencing guidelines. [Read more »](#)

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### **LITIGATION**

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### **Feds Escape \$6M Claim For Pipeline Accident**

A Texas federal court ruled the federal government is not responsible for paying a government contractor's share of a \$13.9 million judgment from a dredging accident resulting from the Army Corps of Engineers' failure to identify a pipeline at the site of a contract, saying the company was

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negligent in failing to consult other updated sources of information. [Read more »](#)

### **Purple Line Seeks To Escape Enviro Study Order In DC Circ.**

The state of Maryland urged a D.C. Circuit panel Wednesday to overturn a lower court's order for a new environmental study on a \$5.6 billion light rail project intended to link with Washington's troubled Metrorail system, saying the project would be beneficial regardless of potential declines in D.C. Metro ridership. [Read more »](#)

### **Attys Jockey For Lead Counsel Roles In Harvey Flooding Row**

About a dozen attorneys presented competing proposals in federal court on Wednesday on who should be appointed as lead counsel and how best to move forward with the massive amount of property damage litigation stemming from the release of water from two reservoirs in Houston after Hurricane Harvey dropped historic amounts of rainfall on the city. [Read more »](#)

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### **FWS Looks To Dodge Suit Over Endangered Texas Bird**

The federal government, on behalf of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, is looking to trim a Texas state agency's lawsuit seeking to delist the golden-cheeked warbler as an endangered species, claiming in Texas federal court Tuesday that the suit is untimely. [Read more »](#)

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### **USCIS Sued Over EB-5 Delay On \$747M Calif. Solar Project**

A California EB-5 regional center filed suit against U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services in D.C. federal court Tuesday, saying the agency has unreasonably delayed processing its application seeking to include a \$747 million solar energy plant project in the immigrant investor program. [Read more »](#)

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### **EXPERT ANALYSIS**

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### **DOE Proposal Offers Blatant Subsidies For Coal Industry**

The U.S. Department of Energy recently proposed that the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission effectively allow coal-fired power plants to charge higher prices based on their contribution to grid "resilience." It is remarkable to see oil and gas associations, utilities, consumer groups and renewable energy associations united in opposition to the proposal's accelerated timeline, say Emma Hand and Adam Brown of Dentons. [Read more »](#)

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### **Make Way For The 'Unicorns'**

By "unicorn" I don't mean the next great tech startup with a valuation of \$1 billion. I mean the new breed of lawyers realizing that there are better ways to get their day jobs done, says Lucy Endel Bassli, assistant general counsel leading the legal operations and contracting functions at Microsoft Corp. [Read more »](#)

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### **LEGAL INDUSTRY**

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## **How To Know It's Time To Leave BigLaw**

BigLaw often means big pay, big benefits and a big workload, but the weighty cachet of a large law firm career is not for everyone, and for those thinking of exiting, timing is key. Here, how to know whether now is the right time to jump ship. [Read more »](#)

## **Foley & Lardner Mulls Merger With Texas' Gardere**

Foley & Lardner LLP and Dallas-based Gardere Wynne Sewell LLP are in merger talks, the firms confirmed on Wednesday, a tie-up that would create a law firm with a combined revenue of more than \$820 million. [Read more »](#)

## **Law360 Names Attys Who Moved Up The Firm Ranks In Q3**

A promotion to partner or election to practice group chair means lots of well-deserved recognition within a firm and in the larger legal community. Law360 reveals the list of attorneys whose commitment to excellence earned them highly coveted spots in the law firm leadership ranks. Find out if your old legal friends — or rivals — moved up in the first quarter of the year. [Read more »](#)

## **GOP Sens. Deride 'Not Qualified' Rating For 8th Circ. Pick**

Republican senators at a confirmation hearing for President Donald Trump's pick for an Eighth Circuit vacancy on Wednesday denigrated an American Bar Association report that labeled the nominee "not qualified," with one lawmaker calling it a "political character assassination" for his social views. [Read more »](#)

## **Senate Approves Trump's 6th Circ. Nominee**

The Senate confirmed President Donald Trump's pick for a vacancy on the Sixth Circuit on Wednesday, sending Michigan Supreme Court Justice Joan Larsen to the federal bench as part of a series of appellate nominee votes this week. [Read more »](#)

## **Ex-MoFo Chair To Join Major Lindsey As San Francisco Chief**

Former Morrison & Foerster LLP chair Keith Wetmore, who oversaw the firm's expansion into Asia and key financial and technology sectors during his tenure, is leaving to become managing director of legal search firm Major Lindsey & Africa LLC's San Francisco office, the recruiter announced Wednesday. [Read more »](#)

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Ingersoll

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Love

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& Scully

Cozen  
O'Conno

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Dunlevy

Curtis  
Mallet-  
Prevost

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Dentons

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Nolen

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Lardner

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Pepper

Fragome  
Del Rey

Fried  
Frank

Gardere  
Wynne  
Sewell

Gibson  
Dunn

Gordon  
& Rees

Hare  
Wynn

Harris  
Beach

Hartline  
Dacus

Hinshaw  
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Culbertson

Hogan  
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Holland  
& Hart

Hunton  
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& Elkins

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