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From: POLITICO Pro Energy Whiteboard
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Subject: FERC, DOE picks clear Senate energy committee

By Darius Dixon

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The Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee gave its blessing to President Donald Trump's nominees for FERC and the Energy Department this morning.

FERC nominee Neil Chatterjee, an energy policy aide to Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, was approved by the panel on a 20-3 vote to become a FERC commissioner. Republican Pennsylvania utility regulator Robert Powelson's nomination to FERC advanced on the same margin. Democratic Sens. Ron Wyden, Mazie Hirono and Independent Bernie Sanders voted against the nominees.

Meanwhile, deputy Energy secretary nominee Dan Brouillette won a 17-6 vote from lawmakers on the committee. Democratic Sens. Al Franken, Tammy Duckworth, and Catherine Cortez Masto joined Wyden, Hirono and Sanders in voting no.

The FERC leadership board has been operating without a quorum to approve most major business since early February, when Norman Bay resigned after Trump elevated another sitting Democrat, Cheryl LaFleur, to be acting chairman.

WHAT'S NEXT: The nominees now await confirmation from the full Senate. The FERC nominees are widely expected to be confirmed before the July 4 congressional recess at the end of the month.

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