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Subject: State Dept's Shannon to lead U.S. delegation to climate talks

By Andrew Restuccia

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Thomas Shannon, the State Department's undersecretary for political affairs, will lead the U.S. delegation to a major international climate change summit next month in Bonn, Germany, according to an administration official.

The news comes amid swirling rumors that Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Scott Pruitt was angling to lead the delegation, a move that would have made a skeptic of established climate science the face of the United States at the talks.

In previous years, the State Department's climate envoy led the U.S. delegation to the annual gathering. But the Trump administration has declined to fill that position.

The Bonn negotiations are aimed at implementing the 2015 Paris climate change agreement, from which President Donald Trump has said he intends to withdraw.

Neither the White House nor the State Department responded to requests for comment.

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