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From: POLITICO Pro Energy Whiteboard
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Subject: Protesters disrupt FERC, DOE nominees' hearing

By Darius Dixon

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A handful of climate change and anti-natural gas protesters took turns interrupting the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee nomination hearing of President Donald Trump's two FERC appointees and an Energy Department deputy this morning.

The disruptions at the hearing for FERC nominees Neil Chatterjee and Robert Powelson and deputy Energy secretary candidate Dan Brouillette started about 45 minutes into the meeting, with one protester screaming "FERC hurts families. Shut FERC down!"

Three other protesters interrupted the hearing in the next 15 minutes.

"I am compelled to interrupt this because I have seen the destruction that climate change [causes]," one woman said, as Sen. [Joe Manchin](#) peppered the nominees with questions.

As the woman and another protester were escorted out, and Manchin was assured by Chairwoman [Lisa Murkowski](#) that he had not lost any of his time questioning the nominees, he looked at the nominees and said "God bless America," drawing laughs from the audience.

Several organizations have signed onto a [pledge](#) to oppose any of Trump's appointments to FERC, and anti-gas protesters have regularly interrupted meetings at the agency's headquarters for more than two years.

The number of seats available to the public were limited at the hearing because the nominees brought more than 30 family members and friends.

WHAT'S NEXT: Murkowski told committee members today that they should expect to vote on the three nominees, along with Deputy Interior Secretary David Bernhardt, shortly after the upcoming week-long Memorial Day recess.

To view online:

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