

To: Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
From: Morning Energy
Sent: Fri 6/9/2017 2:04:51 PM
Subject: POLITICO's Morning Energy: Pruitt's approach to EPA panned by former chiefs — Zinke nears decision on Bears Ears — Carper floats separating consideration of NRC picks

By Anthony Adragna | 06/09/2017 10:00 AM EDT

With help from Eric Wolff, Sara Stefanini and Alex Guillén

WANT THAT OLD THING BACK? EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt has pressed the idea of taking the agency "back to basics," returning to its roots of cleaning up toxic waste sites under the Superfund program and providing safe drinking water, while rejecting the Obama administration's initiatives on issues like climate change. But as Pro's Alex Guillén [reports](#), previous EPA administrators from both parties say the agency's mission is far broader than the cramped version Pruitt's promoting. "I don't think it has to be an either-or, nor should it be," said Christine Todd Whitman, George W. Bush's first EPA administrator. "Superfund is not the only issue for human health. Water pollution is a huge issue and very important and you need to work on it, but it's not the only issue. Air is an issue too. Even if you don't want to believe in climate change, you've got to believe that carbon and mercury are not good for you."

It's not just old administrators though. Thomas Jorling, who co-authored the Clean Air Act in 1970 and the Clean Water Act in 1972 as a Senate Republican staffer, said that Pruitt's philosophy of "EPA originalism" is wrong. Continuing to stick to a limited set of cherry-picked priorities Pruitt has chosen to champion is "just disingenuous," he added. "It's all basically a smokescreen to their real intention, which is kind of a moral and ethical corruption, to ... restore the dependence of the United States energy system on fossil fuels." The agency did not make Pruitt available for an interview.

ME EXTRA - HISTORY LESSON: Lee Thomas, Reagan's second-term EPA administrator, said Pruitt's budget-slashing, anti-regulatory agenda has certain parallels to one of his predecessors: Anne Gorsuch Burford, Reagan's first EPA chief and the mother of Supreme Court Justice Neil Gorsuch. Burford, who died in 2004, had no previous relationship with agency staff, reduced EPA's budget by 22 percent and once boasted about cutting a book of water regulations from six inches thick to just half an inch. She ultimately resigned in 1983 after being cited for contempt of Congress in a management scandal regarding Superfund, at that time a new program. More than a dozen other agency officials quit in the surrounding months amid a turbulent atmosphere at the agency.

Thomas, at that time deputy director at the Federal Emergency Management Agency, came on as a top official to help right EPA, and two years later returned as administrator after Bill Ruckelshaus had stabilized the agency. "I've seen it go bad. And I've seen what it takes to go back on track," Thomas said. "The public does not want EPA to go through that kind of crisis."

G-7'S (TOTALLY AWKWARD) ENVIRONMENT MEETING: G-7 environment ministers meet in Bologna on Sunday and Monday, just 10 days after Trump announced he was ditching the Paris climate agreement (unless the rest of the world agrees to better terms, of course). Pruitt

will be there as the American representative. The biggest battle to watch for: Will the other six ministers and Pruitt come to any agreement on a communiqué that supports efforts to tackle climate change? (ME bets no.) Disagreements over climate already scuppered a joint statement at the G-7 energy ministers meeting, and Trump refused to back commitments made at the leaders summit last month.

Benvenuti! Pruitt [tweeted](#) a picture Thursday from Italy after "mtg w/ U.S. companies doing business in Europe." The agency told ME representatives from Whirlpool, DuPont, Chemours, First Solar and 3M attended, as well as a few Italian companies, but declined to provide any further details on Pruitt's schedule while in Europe.

TGIF MY FRIENDS! I'm your host Anthony Adragna, and Hunton & Williams' Joe Stanko was first to identify Sen. Lamar Alexander as the former Cabinet member (Education Secretary under President George H.W. Bush) now in the Senate. Your end-of-the-week fun: The spouse of which U.S. senator co-owns the legendary Strand Bookstore? Send your tips, energy gossip and comments to aadragna@politico.com, or follow us on Twitter [@AnthonyAdragna](#), [@Morning_Energy](#), and [@POLITICOPro](#).

ROUND, ROUND, GET AROUND: He's apparently still in discussions with the White House ahead of a final recommendation about whether to rescind or tweak the designation of the Bears Ears National Monument in Utah, but Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke is planning to keep chugging on his national tour. Zinke plans to visit Connecticut, New Hampshire, Maine, and Massachusetts during a four-day swing kicking off June 13. That trip will include a tour of the hotly contested Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument in Maine, another of the more than two dozen monument designations under the Antiquities Act currently under review by the Trump administration.

TRUMP HAILS NEW COAL MINE'S OPENING: Trump hailed the opening Thursday of Corsa Coal Corp. in Pennsylvania, a new mine digging coal used to make steel, as proof deregulation is helping bring jobs to the industry, ABC News [reports](#). "We have withdrawn the United States from the horrendous Paris climate accord, something that would have put our country back decades and decades, we would have never allowed ourselves to be great again," the president said in a video message. About 200 miners, business leaders, and politicians celebrated its opening under a tent amid mining headgear labeled "Make Coal Great Again."

RIDIN' SOLO? Sen. [Tom Carper](#), the top EPW Democrat, has asked Republicans to split off the reappointment of Kristine Svinicki to the NRC from other two Republican nominees in order to fast track the process, Pro's Darius Dixon [reports](#). "One of the things I've suggested to Chairman [\[John\] Barrasso](#) is to find a way to pair those two maybe with one Democrat, and there's a Democrat on the NRC whose term expires ... next year," Carper said. Svinicki, who has been an NRC commissioner for nine years, would have to step down, even temporarily, if the Senate fails to confirm her for another five-year term by June 30.

FOR YOUR WEEKEND RADAR: Activists will gather Saturday at city halls and statehouses [across the country](#) to protest Trump's decision to pull out of the Paris climate accord. "Our communities cannot and will not allow these reckless policies and decisions to wreck our

future," organizers, who include 350.org, the Sierra Club, The Climate Reality Project and many more, said in a statement.

Now here's a far away hearing: Senate Energy and Natural Resources plans to hold a field hearing at 10 a.m. local time Saturday in Cordova, Alaska - accessible only by boat or plane (book you tickets for Mudhole Smith Airport). Representatives from Sandia National Laboratory, Alaska Center for Energy and Power, Alaska Village Electric Cooperative and Alaskan Brewing Company will be examining microgrids and hybrid energy systems. Both Lisa Murkowski and Maria Cantwell, the top Republican and Democrat on the committee, are slated to participate.

WHITEHOUSE: CCS CREDITS BILL READY TO FOR REPRIS: A bill to expand tax credits for carbon capture projects should be ready for introduction soon, Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse told ME. "It's close enough that we're having conversations about when and final steps," he said. The bill, which will be co-sponsored with Sen. Heidi Heitkamp, would attempt to revive is one a trio of "orphaned" tax credits, along with credits for geothermal and for advanced nuclear plants - that were left out of the 2015 omnibus bill that extended solar and wind tax incentives.

Warns 'raiding party' has hit EPA: Republican "heads would be exploding" if a Democratic administration simply ignored requests for information as Pruitt's EPA has done to Democrats, Whitehouse told ME. "Basically, the fossil fuel industry has sent a raiding party into EPA and taken it over," the Rhode Island Democrat said. "I think he feels a kind of immunity from any kind of accountability because the fossil fuel industry so owns the Republican Party and so owns him."

JUDGE, IRKED BY DOJ, LETS KIDS CLIMATE CASE GO TO TRIAL: A federal judge on Thursday slammed the Justice Department for trying to force her hand on a legal matter in the lawsuit brought by children seeking to compel sweeping federal action on greenhouse gas emissions. The Trump administration had asked Judge Ann Aiken of the U.S. District Court in Oregon to let them appeal her decision not to dismiss the lawsuit before moving into the discovery phase. In a short order, Aiken criticized DOJ for threatening to go to the 9th Circuit anyway by today if she hadn't already ruled on the request, noting that the suit is already on an expedited schedule. She said the government's arguments were too weak to secure even faster consideration, and panned DOJ because it asked for a rapid decision after waiting four months to make its initial request. Aiken also gave the green light to move closer to the trial phase. The Trump administration could still try to get the 9th Circuit involved, but the appellate court is unlikely to intervene in an ongoing case.

BIPARTISAN BILL PASSES SENATE: Senators passed Wildlife Innovation and Longevity Driver Act (S. 826) by voice vote Thursday. The legislation, co-sponsored by Chairman John Barrasso and Carper, would reauthorize funding for the Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program in which the Interior partnerships with private landowners in fighting invasive species and offer rewards for innovative technologies to stop invasive species. The bill cleared committee in April.

TROLL SO HARD: French President Emmanuel Macron poked Trump again Thursday by

launching a website urging anyone concerned with climate change to move to France, POLITICO Europe's Nicholas Vinocur [reports](#). The website - www.MakeOurPlanetGreatAgain.fr - plays on Trump's campaign slogan and invites researchers, entrepreneurs and NGO workers from around the world to state their interest in climate change and their specialist field, then apply for positions and immigration documents to come to France.

ANOTHER BOLD PROMISE: Did everyone remember it's the White House's Infrastructure Week? Well, Vice President Mike Pence certainly did, and told a working luncheon Thursday that Trump intended to speed up the approval of new projects. "We'll revolutionize federal permitting and review with the goal of reducing wait times from 10 years to two years," he said.

ENERGY PRIORITIES OUTLINED FOR NAFTA: A bipartisan group of eight senators has outlined specific "principles" that the Trump administration should consider when it renegotiates NAFTA, Pro Trade's Adam Behsudi [reports](#). "NAFTA has played a key role in all North American energy markets including electricity, renewable, oil, and natural gas, as each market is highly integrated with and remains dependent on vital energy infrastructure and trade crossings that border the United States, Canada, and Mexico," they wrote in a [letter](#) organized by Sen. [John Cornyn](#).

EPA UNION DEMANDS GUVS FIGHT FOR GREAT LAKES: The union representing some 1,000 EPA employees has asked to meet with six Midwest governors - Mark Dayton of Minnesota, Eric Holcomb of Indiana, John Kasich of Ohio, Bruce Rauner of Illinois, Rick Snyder of Michigan and Scott Walker of Wisconsin - to strongly oppose proposed budget cuts to the agency that they warn would severely impact the Great Lakes. "Aside from the long term health and safety of the public in the Great Lakes region, the economic threats to the region must be recognized," Michael Mikulka, president of Local 704 of the American Federation of Government Employees, said in a statement.

THEY'RE FIRED UP: Green groups are burning up over the Forest Service's [proposal](#) this week to expand two coal leases inside Colorado national forests. Local and national green groups are bristling at the plan to bulldoze wilderness for several new miles of roads and build new drilling pads for methane vents in an area home to black bears, elk and lynx. "Giving away our western public lands to the coal industry isn't energy independence, it's a scheme to make executives and shareholders rich at our expense," said Shannon Hughes of WildEarth Guardians. A 45-day public comment period ends July 24; if approved, the next step is a second approval from the Bureau of Land Management.

SOMETHING SYMBOLIC HERE: California Gov. Jerry Brown and Energy Secretary (and former Texas governor) Rick Perry shaking hands while going opposite directions on an escalator during a trip to China. [Pic](#).

REPORT: EPA DIDN'T UPDATE POLICIES AS REQUIRED: The GAO released a report Thursday finding EPA failed to update the agency's policy statement for the Science Advisory Board as required under a congressional spending bill, Pro's Alex Guillén [reports](#). "EPA did not update its policies or requirements for the SAB as directed by the explanatory statement," it said.

REPORT: CLEAN ENERGY'S DIRTY SECRET: America Rising Squared is out with a [new white paper](#) arguing there are "great human and environmental costs" behind the production of clean energy technologies like solar panels, wind turbines, electric vehicles and EV batteries. "The inconvenient truth is that these 'clean' sources of energy are produced under the worst of labor and environmental rights violations," it says.

DEMOCRATIC REPORT: ENERGY EFFICIENCY EFFICIENTLY CREATES JOBS: Democrats on the Joint Economic Committee, a congressional economic advisory committee formed in 1946, are out with a [report](#) today arguing for the job-creating capacity of energy efficiency measures. The report notes that EE jobs bounced up to 2.2 million in 2016, 7 percent increase from the previous year. The report calls on Congress to fully fund the Energy Star program, scheduled to be eliminated under Trump's budget, and in additional research.

AD WATCH: 15 PERCENT ETHANOL ALERT: Growth energy is launching a seven-figure [TV and digital ad buy](#) in D.C. and other markets to promote Sen. [Deb Fischer's](#) bill to allow year-round sale of 15 percent ethanol fuel. The bill is set to get a hearing at EPW next week.

MOVER, SHAKER! Former House Speaker John Boehner has joined Arizona Mining Inc.'s board of directors (h/t POLITICO Influence).

QUICK HITS

- Digging the Graveyard of Oil's Past. [New York Times](#).
- Merkel in Argentina talks Trump, trade and climate change. [AP](#).
- Canada invites Chinese investment in oil sands: minister. [Reuters](#).
- As Oil Plumbs New Depths, Someone Sees \$80 a Barrel by December. [Bloomberg](#).
- As Trump's EPA delays smog rules, California vows to forge ahead. [Los Angeles Times](#).
- Qatar Gulf row roils LNG market, Shell tanker diverted. [Reuters](#).

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