To: Bohan, Suzanne[bohan.suzanne@epa.gov]
From: Morning Consult
Sent: Mon 1/30/2017 1:13:44 PM
Subject: Morning Consult Energy: Auto Deals Want Trump to Ease Emissions Regulations

By Jack Fitzpatrick

Washington Brief

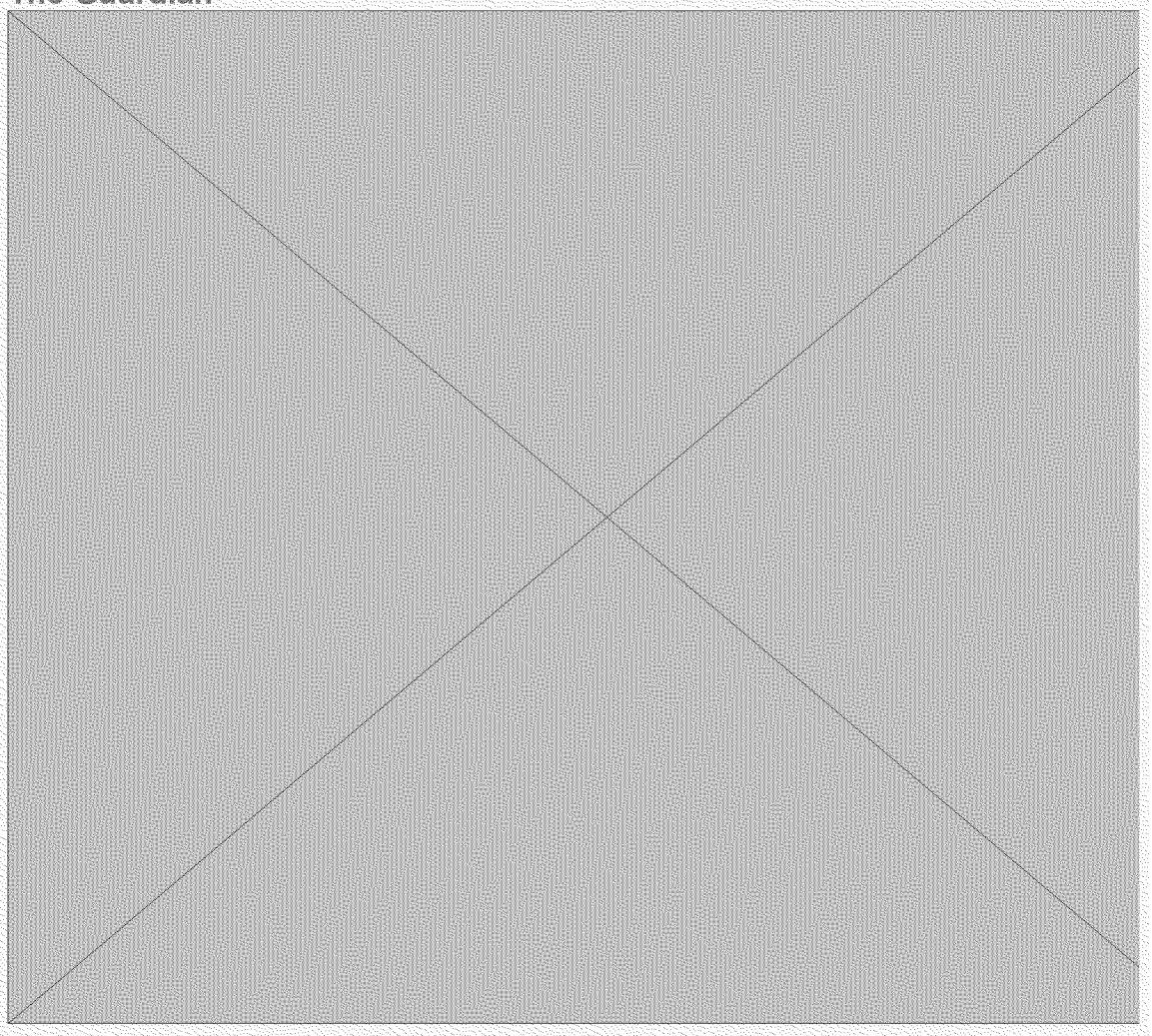
- President Donald Trump is reluctant to meet with Prince Charles during an eventual visit to London out of concern he will receive a "lecture" on climate change. (The Times of London)
- When asked if he expected coal jobs to increase during Trump's time in office, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) responded, "Who knows?" (Morning Consult)
- The Senate Environment and Public Works Committee will vote on Scott Pruitt's nomination to lead the Environmental Protection Agency on Wednesday, amid complaints from Democrats that his answers to their questions were inadequate. The Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee will vote Tuesday on Rep. Ryan Zinke's and Rick Perry's nominations. (Washington Examiner)

Business Brief

- Auto dealers gathered at their annual convention said they want Trump to ease vehicle-emission standards. (Reuters)
- Saudi Aramco, the Saudi Arabian state-owned oil company, is considering investing up to $5 billion in renewable energy as part of plans to diversify from crude oil. (Bloomberg News)
- Chevron posted its second consecutive quarterly profit, 22 cents per share, but badly missed expectations of about 64 cents per share. (CNBC)

Chart Review

Australia's state renewable energy targets 'will be vital to meet emissions goals'
The Guardian



Events Calendar (All Times Local)

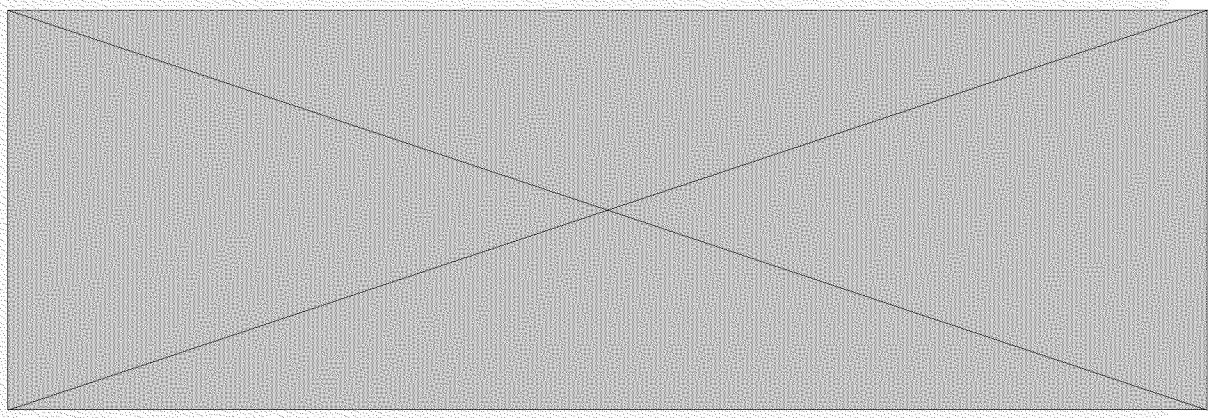
Monday

No events scheduled

Tuesday

Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee votes on Zinke, Perry nominations	9:30 a.m.
House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee organizational meeting	10 a.m.

Atlantic Council discussion on Transatlantic energy cooperation	
CSIS discussion on deep decarbonization efforts	10 a.m.
Wednesday Association State of the Energy Industry Forum	10:30 a.m.
BP energy outlook	9:30 a.m.
House Energy and Commerce subcommittee hearing on grid security	10:15 a.m.
Senate Environment and Public Works Committee votes on Pruitt confirmation	10:45 a.m.
Thursday	
No events scheduled	
Friday	
Journalists' guide to energy and environment	3 p.m.



General

Vote set for Trump's EPA nominee amid Democratic opposition
John Siciliano, Washington Examiner

President Trump's nominee to lead the Environmental Protection Agency will face his first confirmation vote next week amid heightened Democratic opposition. Senate Environment and Public Works Committee Chairman John Barrasso, R-Wyo., announced Friday that the vote on the nomination of Oklahoma Attorney General Scott Pruitt will be held Feb. 1.

GOP lines up resolutions to undo coal, methane rules
Devin Henry, The Hill

House Republicans are preparing to vote next week on two resolutions undoing pollution rules issued in the closing months of the Obama administration. Two Interior Department rules - one protecting streams from coal mining waste and another to cut methane emissions at oil and natural gas drilling sites - are the targets of Congressional Review Act resolutions due up in the House next week.

Trump is eager to undo sacred t ment, says Orrin Hatch
Juliet Eilperin, The Washington

President Trump is "eager to work with" Republican lawmakers on undoing new federal protections for Bears Ears, a sacred tribal site in Utah, according to Sen. Orrin Hatch (R-Utah.). Former president Barack Obama designated the 1.35 million-acre area, which includes artifacts and rock drawings from ancestral Pueblos, as a national monument in late December.

Tom Steyer seeks to counter Tr ating mirror EPA website
John Siciliano, Washington Exa

Billionaire environmental activist Tom Steyer is looking to save the Environmental Protection Agency's climate change data before President Trump erases it, Steyer's group NextGen Climate announced Friday. The group announced the launch of a mirror website called SaveOurEPA.com that looks to preserve the EPA's "public-facing climate change website, which the Trump administration threatens to erase," NextGen said.

Malia Obama joins Dakota Acce protest at Sundance
Tony Hicks, San Jose Mercury N

Malia Obama joined a protest against the Dakota Access Pipeline on Monday. The 18-year-old daughter of recent President Obama was praised by fellow protester, Shailene Woodley, who also attended the event at the Sundance Film Festival in Park City, Utah.

Shell to install chargers for elec European forecourts
Andrew Ward, Financial Times

Royal Dutch Shell is preparing to introduce battery charging points at some European petrol stations and Total is working on a similar move as the region's biggest oil groups react to rising sales of electric vehicles. A selection of Shell's filling stations in Britain and the Netherlands - the Anglo-Dutch group's home markets - will be the first to offer the service later this year, according to John Abbott, its director of downstream business.

European Bonds Hit by Inflation Retreat
Eddie Van Der Walt and Natasha mberg News

European bonds fell on signs inflation was quickening in Germany and equities retreated. The dollar weakened earlier as Donald Trump's order halting some immigration reverberated around the world.

Oil and Natural Gas

Chevron shares drop as oil gian ses profit forecasts
Tom DiChristopher, CNBC

Shares of Chevron gave up about 2 percent of their value in pre-market trading Friday as the oil giant turned in quarterly results that badly missed estimates. Chevron executives pointed to lower margins in its refining business and tax charges as drags on earnings during a conference call.

US rig count increases 18 this w Texas up 9
The Associated Press

The number of rigs exploring for oil and natural gas in the U.S. increased by 18 this week to 712. A year ago, 619 rigs were active.

Shell set to sell $3 billion North to Chrysaor
Ron Bousso and Clara Denina,

Royal Dutch Shell is nearing the sale of a large part of its North Sea oil and gas assets to private equity-backed Chrysaor for $3 billion, banking sources said, marking a milestone in its drive to reduce debt after buying BG Group. Chrysaor, a North Sea-focused oil company backed by private equity fund EIG Partners, will acquire from Shell a mix of older fields, new developments and infrastructure in a move analysts say could breathe new life into one of the world's oldest offshore basins where production has been in a steady decline since the late 1990s.

U.S. Shale Won't Pilfer OPEC, R kets, Former Energy Minister Says
Dan Molinski, The Wall Street Jo

A former Russian energy minister on Friday dismissed concerns U.S. shale oil companies may try to use production cuts by Russia and nations in the Middle East to swoop in and steal market share, saying the Americans know there are some no-go zones. Igor Yusufov, Russia's energy minister from 2001 to 2004, said U.S. shale producers wouldn't attempt to enter core OPEC and Russia markets where prices are too low for them to compete.

Utilities and Infrastructure

Murkowski: Nation's grid watch s
John Siciliano, Washington Exa

Sen. Lisa Murkowski, the Republican chairwoman of the energy committee, warned Friday of a crisis at the nation's energy watchdog, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. The problem is the five-member commission will be rendered ineffective by the end of next week after former President Barack Obama's agency chairman, Norman Bay, decided to jump ship instead of staying on as commissioner through the 2018 end of his five-year term.

Energy auction blamed for surv power plants
Nathalie Thomas, Financial Tim

One of the UK's main energy policies has been criticised for enabling old and polluting coal-fired power stations to stay open. On Tuesday the government will hold its latest subsidy auction, which is designed to ensure Britain has enough energy over the winter of 2017-18.

Renewables

Saudi Aramco Said to Weigh Up n Renewable Deals
Matthew Martin, Bloomberg Nev

Saudi Aramco, the world's largest oil company, is considering as much as $5 billion of investments in renewable energy firms as part of plans to diversify from crude production, according to people with knowledge of the matter. Banks including HSBC Holdings Plc, JPMorgan Chase & Co. and Credit Suisse Group AG have been invited to pitch for a role helping Aramco identify potential acquisition targets and advising on deals, the people said, asking not to be identified as the information is private.

Why a red state is the No. 1 win oducer in America
Charlie Wood, Christian Scienc

Wind capacity in America has swung sharply upward since 2000, and the latest boost came this Wednesday: New York continued the wind bonanza with Gov. Andrew Cuomo's announcement that Long Island will soon host America's

biggest offshore wind farm. But despite the governor's ambitious plans for the blue state to get half of its energy from renewables by 2030, it still lags, at least in wind, far behind America's unexpected leader. Everything's bigger in Texas.

Australia's state renewable ener will be vital to meet emissions goals'
Michael Slezak, The Guardian

State-based renewable energy targets are becoming essential drivers of Australia's carbon reduction framework and, based on current policy settings, will be vital for Australia to meet its 2030 emissions targets, according to a report by the energy consultancy RepuTex. The finding comes amid attacks on state-based renewable energy targets by the prime minister, Malcolm Turnbull, and his ministers, who have called for them to be scrapped.

Coal

McConnell: No Guarantee on 'Im eturn' of Coal Jobs
Cameron Easley et al., Morning

Asked whether jobs in the coal industry would increase or decrease during Trump's presidency, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell said: "Who knows?" "I can't guarantee you have an immediate return of coal jobs," he said.

Peabody to Put Restructuring P tor Vote
Jacqueline Palank, The Wall Str

Coal miner Peabody Energy Corp. won bankruptcy-court approval to put its restructuring plan to a creditor vote in hopes of exiting chapter 11 protection in the coming months.

The dangers of writing coal's ob
Neil Hume, Financial Times

Unfashionable, unloved and unpopular, but still one of the best performing commodities of the past 12 months. Thermal coal, used to generate electricity in power stations, roared back to life last year after the Chinese government imposed production curbs in an attempt to lift the profitability of heavily-indebted domestic miners.

Nuclear

Toshiba pulling out of overseas [illegible]ctor construction
Asahi Shimbun

Toshiba Corp. has decided to withdraw from the business of constructing nuclear reactors overseas after forecasting a huge deficit for its U.S. subsidiary in the business year ending in March. The Tokyo-based electronics appliance maker said Jan. 27 the decision was taken to prevent business deficits from rising sharply again in the future.

Climate

Trump and Charles in climate ro[illegible]
Tim Shipman and Roya Nikkhah[illegible]s of London

Donald Trump is engaged in an extraordinary diplomatic row with the Prince of Wales over climate change that threatens to disrupt his state visit to the UK. The new president is reluctant to meet the prince when he comes to Britain in June because of their violently divergent views on global warming.

U.S. auto dealers look to Trump [illegible]hicle emissions rules
Nick Carey, Reuters

U.S. auto dealers gathered for their annual convention in New Orleans said they want President Donald Trump to ease federal regulation of vehicle emissions and consumer lending, reversing action taken by his predecessor. Former President Barack Obama enacted rules requiring automakers to roughly double the average fuel efficiency of their U.S. car and truck fleets to 54.5 miles per gallon by 2025.

Mongolians Demonstrate in Cap[illegible]ding Action on Smog
The Associated Press

Thousands of Mongolians stood in frigid weather on Saturday for the second time this winter to demand that the government strengthen its response to the smog that routinely blankets Ulan Bator, the capital. About 7,000 people, many in air masks and gas masks under thick winter hats, braved temperatures below minus 4 Fahrenheit.

In America's Heartland, Discuss[illegible] Change Without Saying

'Climate Change'
Hiroko Tabuchi, The New York T

In north-central Kansas, America's breadbasket and conservative heartland, the economic realities of agriculture make climate change a critical business issue. At the same time, politics and social pressure make frank discussion complicated.

Opinions, Editorials and Perspectives

Congress shouldn't butcher fed e rules
The Editorial Board, The Denver

Congress is getting ready to use an ax where it needs a scalpel by attempting to repeal federal methane rules that took years to develop and could be destroyed in mere weeks. The Bureau of Land Management issued rules in November limiting the amount of natural gas, mostly methane, that can be vented or flared into the atmosphere instead of being captured and sent to a processing plant to become part of our nation's fossil fuel production chain.

Drilling and Dirty Air in Los Ang
The Editorial Board, The New Y

The air in much of Wilmington, at the southern tip of Los Angeles, has a fetid, tarry scent, but Giselle Cabrera can't smell it anymore. Sixteen years old, she's lived in the neighborhood her whole life, and she no longer notices the stench of pollutants from hundreds of oil wells.

U.S. Senators Should Learn to L
Julian Lee, Bloomberg Gadfly

OPEC's oil-market management and in particular its repeated attempts to raise prices have done more than any other single factor to boost U.S. oil production and set America on the road to some sort of energy independence, whatever that might be. Far from vilifying OPEC, U.S. senators should be erecting statues to the 13 men who are helping to "make America great again."

Research Reports

Photosensitized, energy transfe[redacted] organometallic catalysis through electronically excited n[redacted]
Eric R. Welin et al., Science

Traditional organic photochemistry often relies on sensitizers, molecules that efficiently absorb light and then transfer the energy to other compounds to spur reactivity. Welin et al. leveraged this approach to stimulate an organometallic nickel catalyst.

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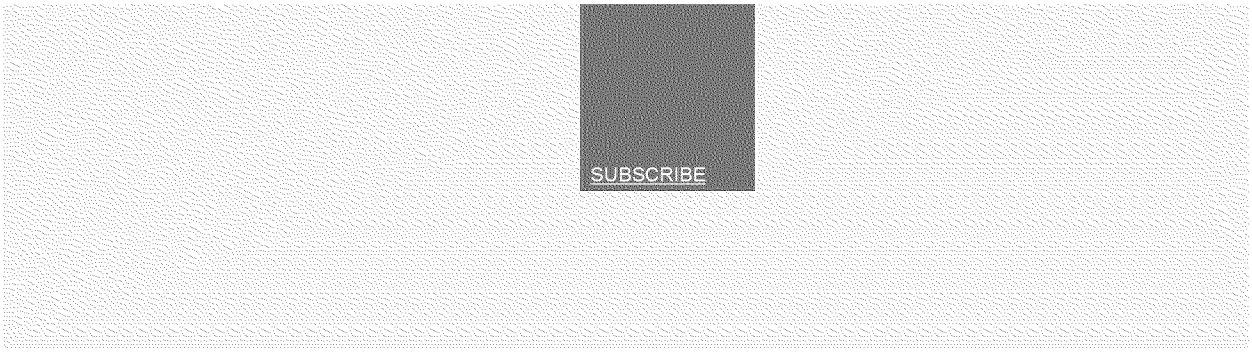
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