To: Bohan, Suzanne[bohan.suzanne@epa.gov]
From: Morning Consult
Sent: Wed 1/25/2017 1:36:31 PM
Subject: Morning Consult Energy: EPA Directed to Delete Climate Change Webpage

By Jack Fitzpatrick

Washington Brief

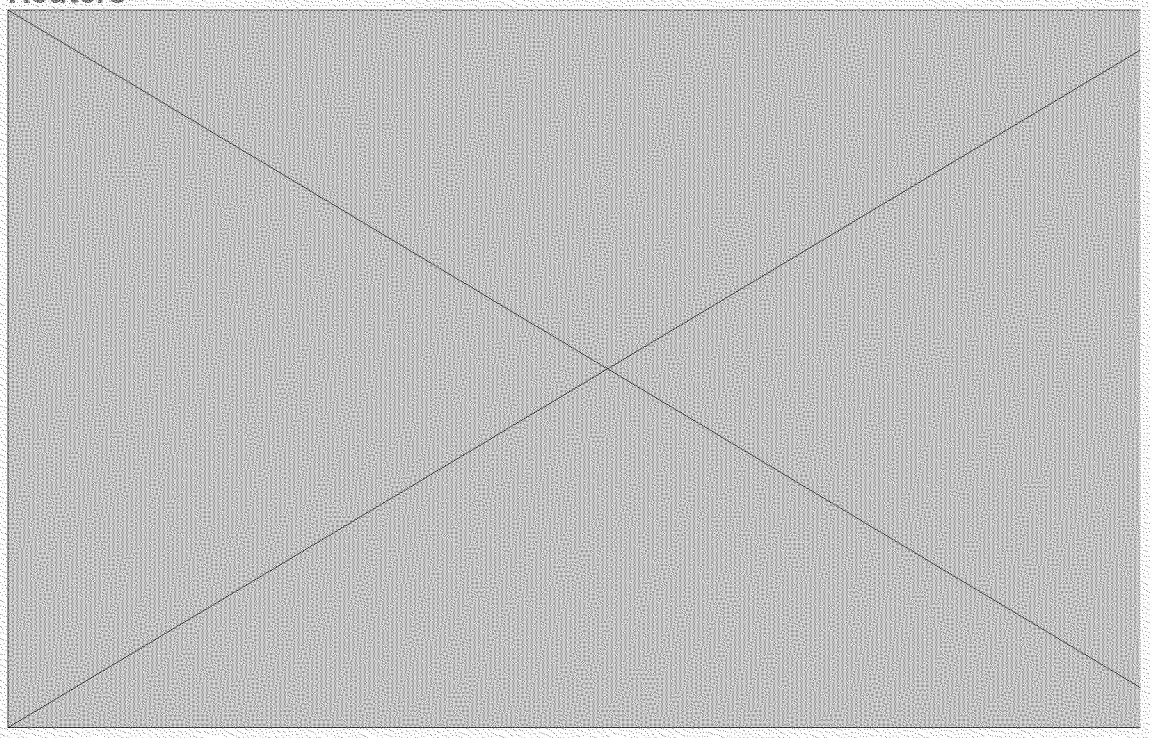
- The Trump administration has told Environmental Protection Agency employees to delete the agency's webpage on climate change, which contains links to scientific research and data on emissions. (Reuters)
- Opponents of the Keystone XL and Dakota Access pipelines are preparing to fight at the local and regional level. (Bloomberg News)
- Multiple agencies including the Environmental Protection Agency have told employees to cut off communication with members of Congress and the press. (The Huffington Post)

Business Brief

- Saudi Arabia's national petroleum company, Saudi Aramco, called off plans for a joint refining and petrochemicals project with Malaysia's state-owned Petronas worth up to $20.1 billion in Malaysia's southern state of Johor. (The Wall Street Journal)
- The chairman of Libya's state-run oil company said the country plans to open its oil sector to foreign investments, aiming to increase production by almost 70 percent. (Financial Times)
- Rio Tinto agreed to sell its coal mines in New South Wales, Australia, to Chinese state-owned Yancoal, for US$2.5 billion. (Sydney Morning Herald)

Chart Review

Standing still
Reuters



Events Calendar (All Times Local)

Wednesday	
Smart Cities International Symposium and Exhibition in Chicago	8:15 a.m.
USAEE annual dinner with guest Amy Myers Jaffe	6 p.m.
Thursday	
AEI discussion on carbon taxes	9 a.m.
Atlantic Council discussion on natural gas diplomacy	9 a.m.
Friday	
CSIS presents IEA's Global Gas Security Review	10 a.m.

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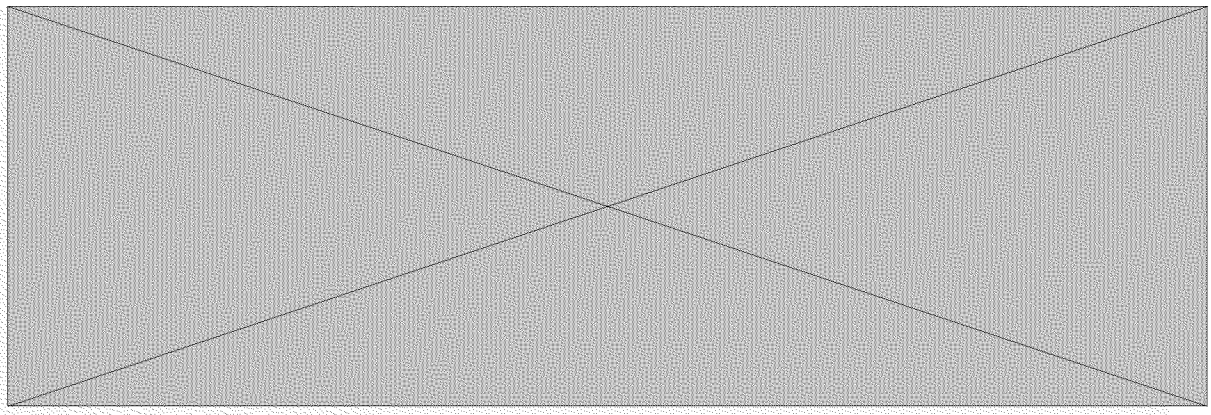

General

Trump administration tells EPA to cut climate page from website: sources
Valerie Volcovici, Reuters

U.S. President Donald Trump's administration has instructed the Environmental Protection Agency to remove the climate change page from its website, two agency employees told Reuters, the latest move by the newly minted leadership to erase ex-President Barack Obama's climate change initiatives. The employees were notified by EPA officials on Tuesday that the administration had instructed EPA's communications team to remove the website's climate change page, which contains links to scientific global warming research, as well as detailed data on emissions.

Federal Workers Told To Halt External Communication In First Week Under Trump
Sam Stein and Kate Sheppard, The Huffington Post

Multiple federal agencies have told their employees to cease communications with members of Congress and the press, sources have told The Huffington Post. The freeze has startled aides on the Hill and people at those agencies, who worry that it could abruptly upend current operations and stifle work and discussions that routinely take place between branches of government.

Republican senator presses McMahon on EPA water rule
Lydia Wheeler, The Hill

Sen. Mike Rounds (R-S.D.) pressed Linda McMahon, President Trump's nominee to head the Small Business Administration, on whether she'll push the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to repeal the Waters of the United States rule. In 2014, Rounds said the SBA Office of Advocacy stepped in on

behalf of many small businesses and recommended the entire rule be withdrawn.

Flint, Michigan, Water Has Falle deral Lead Limit
David Eggert, The Associated P

Flint's water system no longer has levels of lead exceeding the federal limit, a key finding that Michigan state environmental officials said Tuesday is good news for a city whose 100,000 residents have been grappling with the man-made water crisis. The 90th percentile of lead concentrations in Flint was 12 parts per billion from July through December — below the "action level" of 15 ppb, according to a letter from the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality to Flint's mayor.

Trump team compiles infrastruc y list
Lynn Horsley et al., Kansas City cClatchy Washington Bureau

President Donald Trump's team has compiled a list of about 50 infrastructure projects nationwide, totaling at least $137.5 billion, as the new White House tries to determine its investment priorities, according to documents obtained by McClatchy's Kansas City Star and The News Tribune. The documents, circulated within the congressional and business communities, offer a first glimpse at which projects around the country might get funding if Trump follows through on his campaign promise to renew America's crumbling highways, airports, dams and bridges.

Earnings Feed Global Stock Ral s Retreat
Cecile Gutscher and Todd Whit g News

Stocks around the world extended a rally as corporate earnings reignited investors' optimism in economic growth. Bonds sold off with gold.

Oil and Natural Gas

As Trump Pushes Pipelines, Ac are for Local Battles
Meenal Vamburkar, Bloomberg

As the Trump administration moves to push forward the Dakota Access and Keystone XL pipelines, environmental groups are gearing up for local fights. On Tuesday, Trump invited TransCanada Corp. to reapply for its Keystone XL project, which former President Barack Obama rejected in 2015. He also issued a memorandum supporting completion of the Energy Transfer Partners LP's Dakota Access pipeline, which has been stalled since the Obama

administration intervened in September.

Saudi Aramco Axes Plans for P[illegible]nt Venture
Summer Said and Yantoulta Ng[illegible] Street Journal

Saudi Arabian Oil Co., or Saudi Aramco, has given up plans to partner Malaysia's national oil company for an up to $20.1 billion refining and petrochemicals project in the southern state of Johor, according to three people familiar with the matter.

Libya's oil head seeks investme[illegible]rt output surge
David Sheppard, Financial Time[illegible]

The head of Libya's National Oil Corporation has called on the central bank to free up more money for the energy sector to help boost production as he tries to rally investment from international oil companies for the struggling north African country. Mustafa Sanalla, chairman of the NOC, said that oil production could jump almost 70 per cent by the second half of this year to more than 1.2m barrels a day if he can attract more money and defend the independence of one of Libya's few functioning institutions.

Court revives investor suit vs. E[illegible]l billion pipeline deal
Tom Hals, Reuters

A Delaware court revived an investor lawsuit against Energy Transfer Partners over its $11 billion acquisition of Regency Energy Partners in a case focused on protections for investors in master limited partnerships. The Delaware Supreme Court ruled on Friday that pipeline operators Energy Transfer Partners and its indirect parent, Energy Transfer Equity, must face allegations that Regency investors were not properly informed when they approved the merger in 2015.

BP selling part of Magnus field [illegible] Voe stakes to EnQuest
BBC News

BP is to sell part of its interests in the Magnus oil field and Sullom Voe terminal in Shetland for $85 million. EnQuest will secure 25% of BP's Magnus stake, and a 3% share of the Shetland facility.

200,000 litres of oil from pipelin[illegible] Stoughton, Sask.
CBC News

About 200,000 litres of oil spilled near Stoughton, Sask., last week, the biggest pipeline breach in the province since the Husky Oil spill last summer. It happened on First Nations land near Stoughton, about 140 kilometres southeast of Regina.

How Russia sold its oil jewel: w g who bought it
Katya Golubkova et al., Reuters

More than a month after Russia announced one of its biggest privatizations since the 1990s, selling a 19.5 percent stake in its giant oil company Rosneft, it still isn't possible to determine from public records the full identities of those who bought it. The stake was sold for 10.2 billion euros to a Singapore investment vehicle that Rosneft said was a 50/50 joint venture between Qatar and the Swiss oil trading firm Glencore.

Utilities and Infrastructure

Scotland proposes government rgy company
Nathalie Thomas, Financial Tim

A Scottish government-owned energy company that would potentially go head-to-head with "big six" utility companies has been proposed by ministers at Holyrood. The Scottish Government is proposing to create a taxpayer-owned energy company that could supply power on a not-for-profit basis as part of its latest energy strategy, published on Tuesday.

NY's utility oversight board losi s members
Larry Rulison, Albany Times-Un

The state Public Service Commission is on the verge of dropping down to just two board members after Monday's surprise announcement that its chair, Audrey Zibelman, is taking a job in Australia in two months.
The PSC, which regulates utilities in the state, from electric and gas service to water and telecommunications, is supposed to have up to five members.

Renewables

Trump puts EPA's ethanol prog
John Siciliano, Washington Exa

The Environmental Protection Agency's renewable fuel program faces a temporary freeze as President Trump's regulatory chill kicks in this week. The Trump administration will use that time to review the regulations and decide if

any further action is warranted based on an executive order Trump signed after being sworn in as the 45th president on Friday, according to a notice that the EPA's acting administrator, Catherine McCabe, issued late Monday.

Coal

Yancoal snaps up Rio Tinto's N[illegible]nes for $US2.5 billion
Brian Robins, Sydney Morning [illegible]

An arm of the Chinese government has snapped up Rio Tinto's coal mines in NSW and in the process has emerged as one of the largest coal miners in Australia. Ending months of speculation, Rio has finally managed to offload its remaining coal interests in NSW, selling out to the Chinese government-controlled Yancoal Australia, although it is expected to take much of 2017 for the deal to be settled.

Nuclear

EDF board approves closure of [illegible]ear power station in France
Adam Vaughan, The Guardian

EDF has voted to begin the process of closing France's oldest nuclear power station after pressure from Germany and a law capping the country's reliance on atomic power. The French energy firm's board approved plans on Tuesday to close the 39-year old Fessenheim plant in north-east France, near the German border, allaying fears that the company, which is 85%-state owned, would drag its heels until President François Hollande left office later this year.

Climate

Trump's Climate Stance Threate[illegible]mmon Ground With China
Joe Ryan, Bloomberg News

President Donald Trump's vow to pull back from climate-change efforts endangers one of the few areas where China and the U.S. have seen eye-to-

eye, exacerbating tensions as he takes on more contentious subjects. “There is a long history of countries that struggle to get along, using the subject of the environment to continue talking and build good will,” said David Victor, co-chair of the Brookings Institution’s foreign policy, energy security and climate initiative.

A National Park Deleted Tweets [illegible] Change After Trump Silenced Federal Scientists
Claudia Koerner, BuzzFeed New[illegible]

Badlands National Park on Tuesday posted several facts about climate change on its official Twitter account, then deleted them. Before being deleted, the tweets were retweeted thousands of times and earned praise as defiance of the Trump administration.

Opinions, Editorials and Perspectives

Interior Nominee Votes in Favor [illegible]ing Rule for Giving Public Lands to States
Dean B. Suagee, Morning Consu[illegible]

On Jan. 3, Rep. Ryan Zinke (R-Mont.) voted with the Republican majority in the House to adopt a package of rules that would facilitate transferring public lands to the states. The rules package, House Resolution 5, includes a provision captioned “Treatment of Conveyances of Federal Land,” which would make it budget neutral for Congress to convey federal land to a state, local government, or tribal entity.

Trump probably can’t require pi[illegible]se U.S. steel
John Kemp, Reuters

President Donald Trump on Tuesday invited the promoter of the Keystone XL pipeline to re-submit its application for a permit and promised an expeditious review. But Trump’s memorandum on Keystone was twinned with another ordering the secretary of commerce to develop a plan to ensure all pipelines built, repaired or upgraded in the United States use domestically made steel.

Research Reports

Putting the Potential Rate Impac[redacted]buted Solar into Context

Galen Barbose, Lawrence Berke[redacted]l Laboratory

Concerns about the potential impacts of net-metered PV on retail electricity prices have led to an array of proposals to reform rate structures and net metering rules for solar customers. These proposals have typically been met with a great deal of contention and often absorb substantial time and administrative resources, potentially at the expense of other issues that may ultimately have greater impact on utility ratepayers.

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