To: Mylott, Richard[Mylott.Richard@epa.gov]
From: Morning Consult
Sent: Tue 1/17/2017 1:11:58 PM
Subject: Morning Consult Energy: PACs Tied to Pruitt Sent Little to Candidates

By Jack Fitzpatrick

Washington Brief

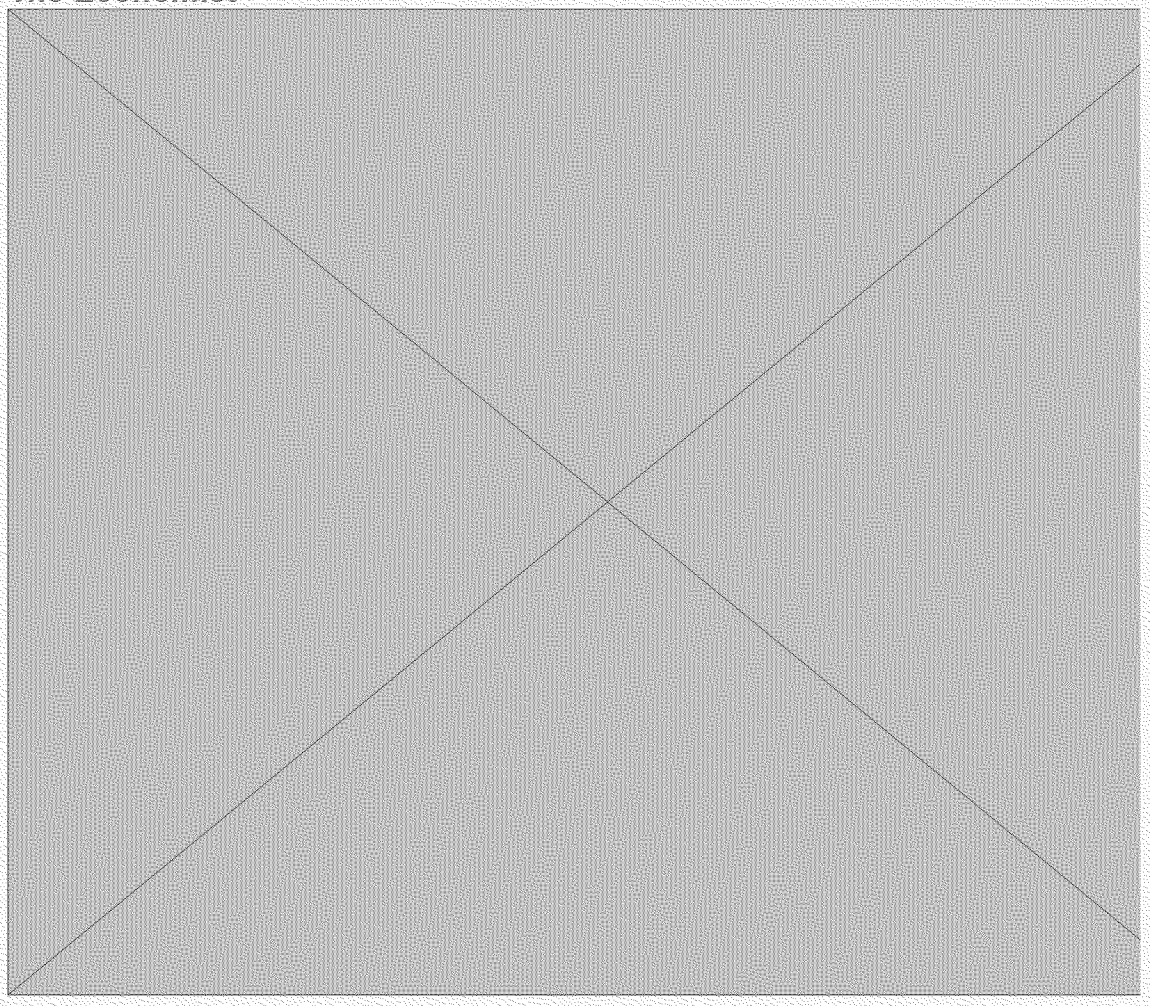
- Two PACs tied to Scott Pruitt, who has been tapped to lead the Environmental Protection Agency, spent hundreds of thousands of dollars on operating expenditures, sending little money on to political candidates. (The Huffington Post)
- One hundred U.K. climate scientists sent a letter to Prime Minister Theresa May asking her to urge President-elect Donald Trump to support action on climate change, including the Paris agreement. (The Washington Post)
- Energy experts attending the World Economic Forum this week in Davos, Switzerland, will focus heavily on the U.S.'s withdrawal from a leadership position on climate change as Trump takes office. (The New York Times)

Business Brief

- Saudi Arabia's energy minister Khalid al Falih said he expects oil prices to continue to rise because U.S. shale producers had recently been targeting only the most productive fields and could not quickly add another 2-3 million barrels per day of output. (Financial Times)
- Houston-based Noble Energy agreed to purchase Midland-based oil producer Clayton Williams Energy for $2.7 billion. (Houston Chronicle)
- Australian utility Duet Group agreed to a US$5.5 billion takeover bid from Hong Kong-based Cheung Kong Infrastructure Holdings Ltd. (The Wall Street Journal)

Chart Review

Electricity now flows across continents, courtesy of direct current
The Economist

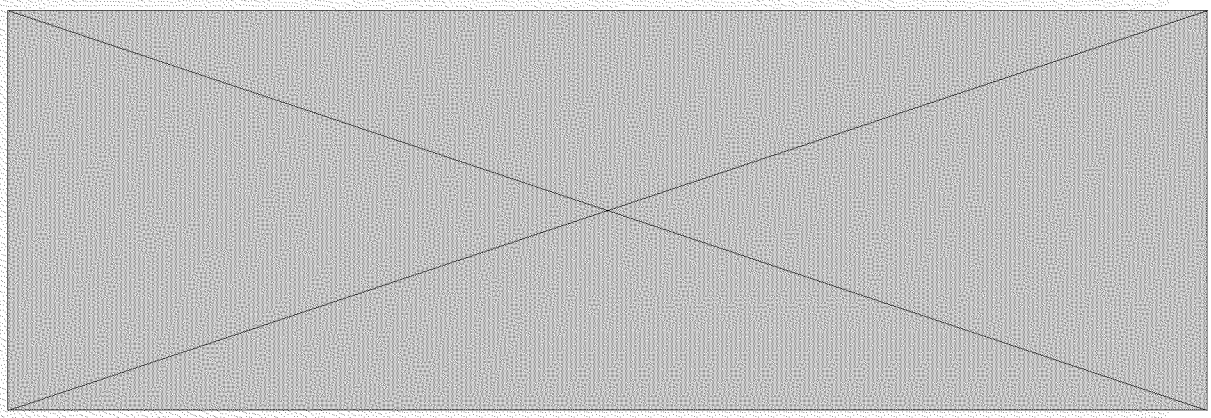


Events Calendar (All Times Local)

Tuesday	
Release of IEA coal market report	2 p.m.
Confirmation hearing for Zinke to lead the Interior Dept.	2:15 p.m.
Wednesday	
Confirmation hearing for Pruitt to lead the EPA	10 a.m.
CSIS discussion on African natural gas	10 a.m.
Thursday	
Confirmation hearing for Perry to lead the Energy Dept.	10 a.m.

Friday

Inauguration Day



General

Trump's EPA Pick Raised A Lot Of Money For Candidates That Never Reached Them
Alexander C. Kaufman, The Huffington Post

Two election fundraising groups linked to Scott Pruitt, President-elect Donald Trump's nominee to lead the Environmental Protection Agency, spent at least $637,034 since the start of 2015, even though he couldn't run for re-election as Oklahoma attorney general. An average of roughly $26,543 per month was disbursed from two federal election-focused political action committees linked to Pruitt, both of which announced plans last week to shut down.

Dems prepare to face off with Trump's pick to lead EPA
Devin Henry, The Hill

Democrats are gearing up for battle as Donald Trump's pick to lead the Environmental Protection Agency heads to the Capitol for his confirmation hearing this week. Scott Pruitt will testify before the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee on Wednesday, giving his opponents their first chance to poke into his record as Oklahoma attorney general, a position he has held since 2011.

'Drill, baby, drill' returns to the new Congress
John Siciliano, Washington Examiner

A long-standing Republican plan to drill for oil in Alaska's federal wildlife refuge

is being resurrected in the Senate as President-elect Trump takes office, although its return may not bode well for energy legislation in the new Congress. The drilling plan was one of two bills introduced during the first week of the 115th Congress that could be indicative of what to expect from Capitol Hill once Trump is sworn in as president.

Western Dems look to climate t[illegible] obs messages
Reid Wilson, The Hill

Western states run by Democrats are aiming to use government responses to climate change as the basis for a new economic pitch to show voters the party can manage a transitioning economy. State leaders are plotting aggressive new measures to tackle carbon emissions and promote renewable energy, in the face of an incoming administration that takes a skeptical view of climate change.

Dollar Drops on Trump Commer[illegible] s Await May: Markets Wrap
Samuel Potter and Natasha Dof[illegible] g News

The dollar weakened and gold advanced with bonds after the President-elect said the U.S. currency is already "too strong." Stocks declined as traders braced themselves for British Prime Minister Theresa May to set out her plan for leaving the European Union.

Oil and Natural Gas

Saudi oil minister doubtful on U[illegible] duction surge
David Sheppard, Financial Time[illegible]

Saudi Arabia's energy minister, Khalid al Falih, said on Tuesday he did not believe the US could add 2-3m barrels a day of oil production any time soon, despite the recovery in prices. Speaking at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Mr al Falih said that while US production had risen as prices stabilise around $50 a barrel, shale drillers have so far been targeting only the most productive fields and would face higher costs and more difficult prospects in the near future.

Noble Energy to buy Clayton Wi[illegible] 2.7 billion
Collin Eaton, Houston Chronicle[illegible]

Noble Energy has agreed to purchase West Texas oil producer Clayton Williams Energy for $2.7 billion in cash and stock, the company said Monday. It's part of the Houston oil producer's efforts to expand its operation in the

Delaware Basin in West Texas.

With a Major Oil Discovery, Guy ed to Become a Top Producer
Clifford Krauss, The New York T

Guyana, the tiny English-speaking South American country, is poised to become the next big oil producer in the Western Hemisphere, attracting the attention and investment dollars of some of the biggest oil companies in the world. Last week, Exxon Mobil and Hess announced the successful drilling of a deepwater exploration well that may soon confirm that the seafloor beneath Guyana's coastal waters contains one of the richest oil and natural gas discoveries in decades.

For Israel, Energy Boom Could ds Out of Enemies
Peter Baker, The New York Time

Once a barren energy island in a part of the planet otherwise awash in resources, Israel is, after years of delay, finally pushing ahead with an ambitious strategy to tap offshore reserves that could transform its economy and, it hopes, its place in a historically hostile region. If all goes according to plan, Israel will not only become largely energy-independent, it will also supply neighbors that will have new reason to be friends.

China's Oil Collapse Is Unintent ing OPEC
Bloomberg News

OPEC's campaign to prop up oil prices is getting unlikely support from its biggest customer. China's production is forecast to fall by as much as 7 percent this year, extending a record decline in 2016, according to analysts at CLSA Ltd., Sanford C. Bernstein & Co. and Nomura Holdings Inc.

Utilities and Infrastructure

Australia Utility Duet Accepts Ta er Worth Nearly $5.5 Billion
Robb M. Stewart, The Wall Stree

Australian utility Duet Group has agreed to a takeover bid worth US$5.48 billion from Hong Kong tycoon Li Ka-shing's Cheung Kong Infrastructure Holdings Ltd. The offer, which is expected to test Canberra's openness to overseas investment, was unanimously approved by Duet's board.

Electricity now flows across co urtesy of direct current

The Economist

Fossil fuels can be carried to power stations far from mines and wells, if necessary, but where wind, solar and hydroelectric power are generated is not negotiable. And even though fossil fuels can be moved, doing so is not desirable.

A Big Test for Big Batteries
Diane Cardwell and Clifford Kra w York Times

In Southern California in the fall of 2015, a giant natural gas leak not only caused one of the worst environmental disasters in the nation's history, it also knocked out a critical fuel source for regional power plants. Energy regulators needed a quick fix.

Renewables

Saudi Arabia seeks $30bn-$50b wind energy investment
Simeon Kerr, Financial Times

Saudi Arabia will "within weeks" start issuing tenders for a big solar and wind power programme that envisages investment worth $30bn-$50bn by 2030, the country's oil minister said on Monday. The oil-rich kingdom was also in the early stages of feasibility and design proposals for the country's first commercial nuclear power stations, with capacity of 2.8 gigawatts, added Khalid al-Falih.

Tidal power swamped by dubiou tics
Jonathan Ford, Financial Times

With so many renewable technologies vying for support and attention these days, there's a problem for even the most enterprising enthusiast. How do you whip up a jaded public's backing for the latest costly scheme?

Coal

Controversial wind bill intended l; critics question final outcome
Heather Richards, Casper Star-

Sponsors of a bill that would penalize wind and solar generation used for Wyoming electricity argue that Senate File 71 would help the state's struggling coal sector. Wyoming's green-friendly neighbors, like Oregon and California, legislate against coal due to its high carbon dioxide emissions to the benefit of wind and solar.

Australia should invest in coal p[illegible]luce emissions, minister says
Michael Slezak, The Guardian

Research touted by the resources minister that reportedly suggests Australia can rely on coal to meet emissions reduction has been attacked by experts and appears to have been misreported. The Australian reported on Tuesday that research conducted by the Department of Industry, Innovation and Science - and commissioned by Matt Canavan, the federal minister for resources - showed Australia could cut its emissions by 27% if it replaced its existing coal power stations with the more efficient "ultra-supercritical" technology.

Nuclear

NuScale of Corvallis envisions s[illegible]lear plant
The Associated Press

Oregon-based NuScale Power has submitted its design to federal regulators for a new kind of nuclear power plant, designed to be smaller and more affordable. The company on Thursday submitted its 12,000-page application to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Climate

British scientists to Theresa Ma[illegible]mp to support climate research
Chelsea Harvey, The Washingto[illegible]

In the final week leading up to the presidential inauguration, British scientists are urging their prime minister to stand up for climate science in the U.S. An open letter signed by 100 leading climate researchers in the United Kingdom warns of the incoming Trump administration's skeptical stance on climate change and points to "worrying media reports that the incoming administration

may severely weaken climate change research and data-gathering undertaken by federal organizations in the United States."

In Davos, Bracing for a Shifting [illegible] on Climate Change
Stanley Reed, The New York Tim[illegible]

However slowly and tentatively, nations around the globe appear to be taking some steps to confront the growing threat of climate change. But on Friday, Donald J. Trump, a self-described climate change doubter, will assume the presidency of the United States.

Davos Elite Focus on Climate C[illegible]ring Trump's Skepticism
Javier Blas and Jess Shanklema[illegible]erg News

Donald Trump has often ridiculed global warming and promised to withdraw the U.S. from the accord signed in Paris in 2015. Yet despite the shift in political weather in Washington, the captains of business and finance gathered in Davos this week will spend a lot of time talking about climate change - and how to make money from it.

Opinions, Editorials and Perspectives

Rick Perry will be a superb Ener[illegible]y
Antonio Garza, San Antonio Exp[illegible]

For more than 30 years, Rick Perry has served as a dedicated public servant in the great state of Texas. In my former positions as Texas secretary of state, Texas railroad commissioner - overseeing the state's energy sector - and as the U.S. ambassador to Mexico under President George W. Bush, I have worked closely with Gov. Perry on developing Texas' energy sector and a variety of other issues. I could not be more confident in his exceptional leadership and his qualifications for the position of U.S. secretary of energy.

Will the real Ryan Zinke please s[illegible]
Jennifer Rokala, Denver Post

When Montana Congressman Ryan Zinke, President-elect Donald Trump's choice to run the Department of the Interior, gets his confirmation hearing Tuesday, Westerners will find out which Ryan Zinke plans to show up for the job: Will it be the Ryan Zinke who says he will defend our public lands, or the Ryan Zinke who votes to undermine them? During his one term in Congress, Zinke's voting record often failed to match his rhetoric on our parks and public lands.

Research Reports

Unplanned ecological engineeri
Ken H. Andersen and Henrik Gis ceedings of the National Academy of Sciences

Fisheries can double the production of protein and revenue by abandoning current single-species management.

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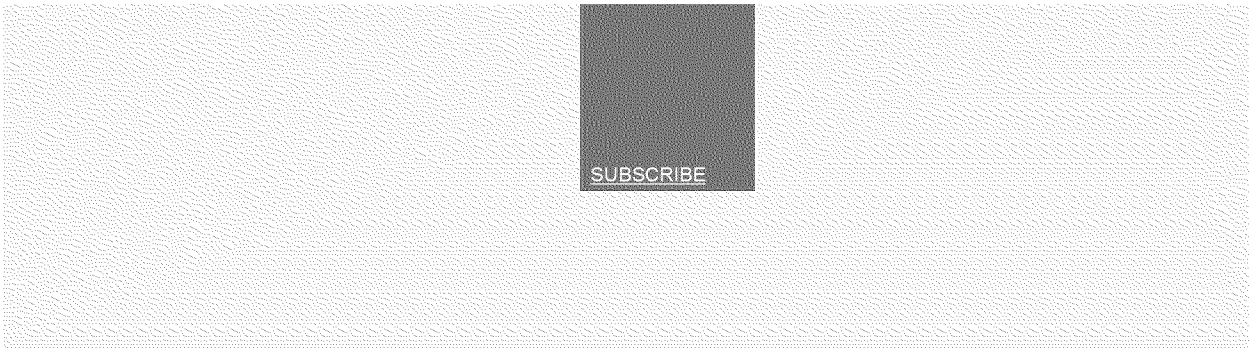
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