To: Mylott, Richard[Mylott.Richard@epa.gov]
From: Morning Consult
Sent: Mon 12/19/2016 12:48:59 PM
Subject: Morning Consult Energy, Presented by Southern Company: ExxonMobil Lobbied Against Bill Locking In Russia Sanctions

By Jack Fitzpatrick

Today's Washington Brief

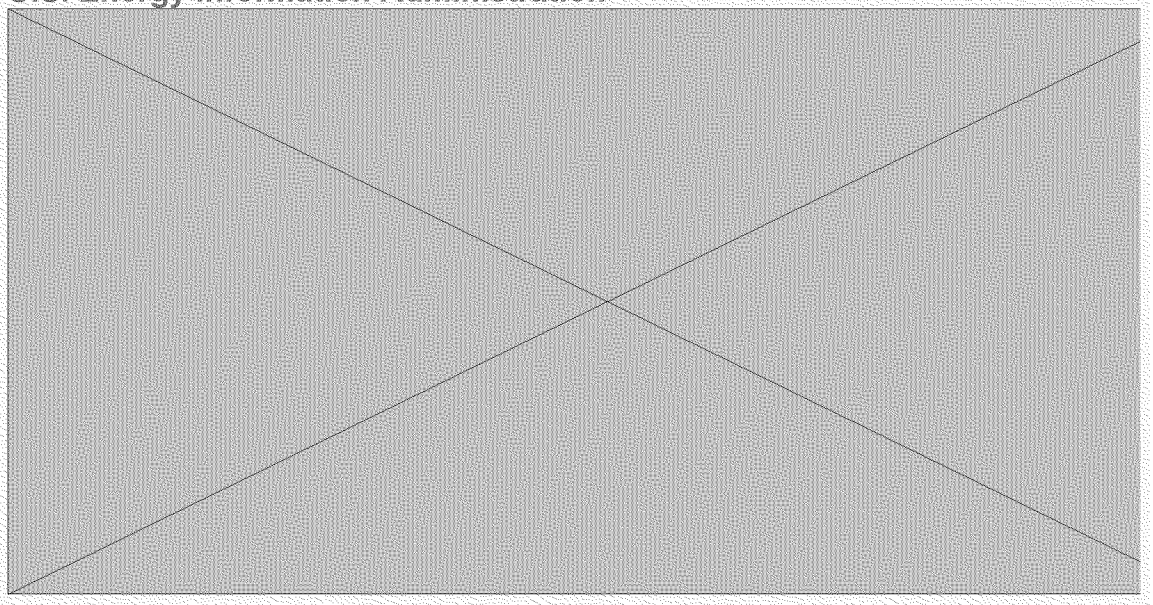
- Exxon Mobil Corp. lobbied against a bill that would have made it more difficult for President-elect Donald Trump to lift sanctions against Russia, which the Senate did not take up before it left town. (Politico)
- President Barack Obama signed the $10 billion water infrastructure bill that includes funds for Flint, Mich., and other cities with drinking water issues. (Washington Examiner)
- Nine Senate Democrats called for an investigation into the Trump transition team questionnaire about Department of Energy employees who worked on climate policy. (The Washington Post)

Today's Business Brief

- Abu Dhabi will receive a 2 percent stake in BP worth nearly $2.5 billion, and BP will take a 10 percent stake in ADCO, the emirate's onshore petroleum company. (BBC News)
- EDF Energy said it will raise United Kingdom energy prices by 8.4 percent beginning in March. (The Guardian)
- Hedge funds have increased bets on West Texas Intermediate crude oil futures more than any time since July 2014, signaling confidence in the OPEC deal to boost prices. (Bloomberg Politics)

Today's Chart Review

U.S. natural gas production resilient to market changes in 2015, but has fallen in 2016
U.S. Energy Information Administration



Mark Your Calendars (All Times Eastern)

Monday	
CSIS event on maritime disputes and Arctic Ocean	9 a.m.
Tuesday	
Brookings Institution event on U.S.-Japan energy policy	3:30 p.m.
Wednesday	
No events scheduled	
Thursday	
No events scheduled	
Friday	
No events scheduled	

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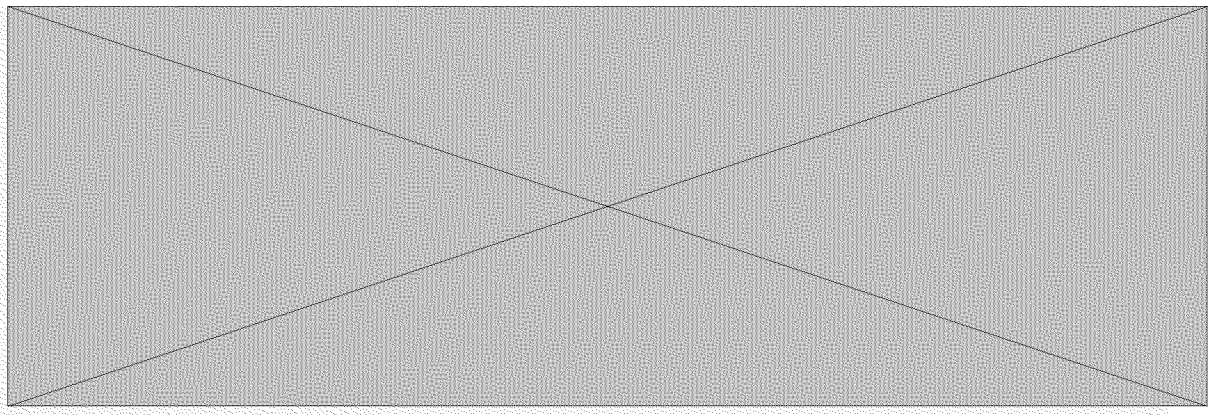

General

ExxonMobil helped defeat Russia sanctions bill
Isaac Arnsdorf and Elana Schor, Politico

ExxonMobil successfully lobbied against a bill that would have made it harder for the next president to lift sanctions against Russia, clearing the way for the oil giant to restart a program worth billions of dollars if Donald Trump eases those restrictions as president. The company's effort could be helped by outgoing CEO Rex Tillerson, who, if confirmed as secretary of state, would be a key adviser on the decision.

Leak reveals Rex Tillerson was director of Bahamas-based US-Russian oil firm
Luke Harding and Hannes Munzinger, The Guardian

Rex Tillerson, the businessman nominated by Donald Trump to be the next US secretary of state, was the long-time director of a US-Russian oil firm based in the tax haven of the Bahamas, leaked documents show. Tillerson - the chief executive of ExxonMobil - became a director of the oil company's Russian subsidiary, Exxon Neftegas, in 1998.

Obama signs $10B water bill that helps Flint
John Siciliano, Washington Examiner

President Obama signed a $10 billion water infrastructure bill Friday that provides $170 million to the city of Flint, Mich., and other communities suffering from lead-contaminated drinking water. "That help for Flint is a priority of this administration," President Obama said.

Texas city lifts tap water ban after chemical spill
Laila Kearney, Reuters

Corpus Christi lifted a four-day ban on drinking tap water on Sunday when authorities deemed it to be safe despite a chemical leak that forced most of the Texas city's residents to rely on bottled water and prompted the closures of schools and restaurants. Residents of the Gulf of Mexico city were told on Wednesday to stop using tap water for drinking, food preparation and bathing.

How California's water wars poi of the closest friendships in Congress
Darryl Fears, The Washington P

A bill that stands to help farmers struggling through California's epic drought sits on President Obama's desk, awaiting a signature that would allow water in a river delta where fish stocks are depleted to be diverted for the state's parched agriculture. The story of how the legislation reached the White House reflects the drama of water wars that have pitted groups within California against one another in a fight to survive.

Zinke Faces Easier Path to Con an Pruitt
Jack Fitzpatrick, Morning Consu

Rep. Ryan Zinke (R-Mont.) is the exception to the rule that all of President-elect Donald Trump's nominations for energy and environment Cabinet positions will face opposition from the left. Zinke's nomination to lead the Department of the Interior was met with more measured criticism, and even some praise from environmental interests, thanks to his support for federal lands.

Dollar Drops Versus Yen as Eur ks Slide; Gold Rises
Eddie Van Der Walt and Natash mberg News

The dollar retreated versus the yen as traders took stock following a six-week rally in the currency. European shares fell along with most Asian equities and gold rose.

Oil & Natural Gas

Abu Dhabi becomes top BP sha
BBC News

Abu Dhabi has become one of BP's biggest shareholders under a deal which gives the oil company a much bigger stake in the emirate's oil output. BP will take a 10% share in ADCO, which owns onshore oil fields that account for most

of Abu Dhabi's production.

OPEC Deal Makes Oil Investors [illegible]h Since Slump Began
Mark Shenk, Bloomberg Politics

Investors are the most optimistic on oil since the slump began two and a half years ago. Money managers boosted bets on rising West Texas Intermediate crude prices to the highest level since July 2014 after the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries and producers outside the group agreed to coordinate crude production cuts.

Fossil fuel industry's hopes rise [illegible]o nominee
Devin Henry, The Hill

President-elect Donald Trump appears poised to open the door to new fossil fuel development on public lands, a shift that has industry groups salivating. Trump has tapped conservative Montana Rep. Ryan Zinke to lead the Interior Department, and the two have said they want to expand energy development on government lands.

Utilities & Infrastructure

EDF to hike electricity prices 8.4[illegible]er providers expected to follow suit

Hilary Osborne and Patrick Collinson, The Guardian

Householders face steep hikes in electricity bills next year, as EDF Energy said it would raise prices by 8.4% from March, with other "big six" energy providers expected to match the increases. The French-owned energy giant, which in September signed an $22. 4 billion deal to build the controversial Hinkley Point nuclear plant, said it would cut gas prices by 5.2% but blamed rising costs for the increase in its electricity tariff.

Ofgem suspects UK energy gro[illegible]pulating wholesale prices
Andrew Ward, Financial Times

Electricity generating companies have been threatened with fines and criminal prosecution if they are caught trying to manipulate the wholesale energy market after suspicious activities were reported to the industry regulator. The warning relates to concerns that UK power companies could be trying to artificially inflate the selling price of their electricity by providing false information about the generating capacity they have available.

Only the hardiest remain at Dak camp
Valerie Volcovici, Reuters

Two weeks after a victory in their fight against the Dakota Access Pipeline, most protesters have cleared out of the main protest camp in North Dakota - but about 1,000 are still there, and plan to remain through the winter. These folks say they are dug in at the Oceti Sakowin Camp in Cannon Ball, North Dakota, despite the cold, for a few reasons.

Renewables

Innogy seeks golden future as y business
Guy Chazan, Financial Times

Peter Terium has the contented look of an alchemist who has just magicked lead into gold. The Dutchman took an ailing German utility, RWE, hived off its green energy business into a new company called Innogy and listed a chunk of it in October, raising ???4.6bn in Frankfurt's largest initial public offering since 2000.

Statoil Wins Auction for Offsho se Off New York's Coast
Jack Fitzpatrick, Morning Consu

The Department of the Interior sold a lease for offshore wind energy covering 79,350 acres southeast of New York City on Friday. Statoil bid $42.4 million for the lease, beating out five other companies that participated.

Coal

ScottishPower demands Govern ge coal plans
Emily Gosden, The Telegraph

ScottishPower is demanding the Government overhaul one of its key energy policies after the company's proposed new gas power station missed out on subsidies for keeping the lights on in favour of old coal plants. Neil Clitheroe, a senior executive at the energy giant, said making consumers pay almost £130m to keep polluting coal plants running through winter 2020-21 instead of investing in cleaner new gas plants was a "waste of money", given the coal

plants were scheduled to close by 2025 anyway.

Three charged with stealing truc[illegible]oal in Knott County
Bill Estrep, Lexington Herald-Le[illegible]

Three men took part in a scheme to steal hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of coal in Knott County, a federal grand jury has charged. The grand jury indicted Billy Joe Smith, Allen Rocky Madden Jr. and James M. Combs on charges of conspiracy and theft.

Nuclear

No. 1 nuclear plant's reactor to [illegible]rations at midnight
Focus Taiwan

State-run utility Taiwan Power Co. said Sunday that the second reactor at its No. 1 nuclear power plant will go back on line at midnight after being shut down for more than a day. The reactor was shut down early Saturday morning due to oil leaks in its cooling system, and the problem was fixed at around 1 p.m. Sunday, Taipower said.

Climate

Democrats call for special coun[illegible]e Trump team's focus on climate scientists
Chris Mooney, The Washington [illegible]

Nine Senate Democrats, led by Richard Blumenthal of Connecticut, called Friday for an investigation into a questionnaire sent by the Trump transition team to the Energy Department, asking for names of "employees or contractors" who attended United Nations climate change meetings under President Obama. The questionnaire was disavowed Wednesday by the Trump transition, which released a statement that it was "not authorized or part of our standard protocol" and that the individual who sent it had been "properly counseled.

Santorum: Exxon Mobil became [illegible]n climate change under Tillerson
Devin Henry, The Hill

Donald Trump's former White House rival Rick Santorum says he has doubts over the president-elect's pick to lead the State Department. Santorum, a former GOP senator from Pennsylvania, told WABC Radio late Thursday that he's concerned about Rex Tillerson being nominated to be secretary of State because of the direction Exxon Mobil Corp. went on climate change during Tillerson's time as CEO.

Polar Bears' Path to Decline Ru Alaskan Village
Erica Goode, The New York Tim

Come fall, polar bears are everywhere around Kaktovic, Alaska, dozing on sand spits, roughhousing in the shallows, padding down the beach with cubs in tow and attracting hundreds of tourists who travel long distances to see them. Scientists have counted up to 80 at a time in or near Kaktovik; many look healthy and plump, especially in the early fall, when their presence overlaps with the Inupiat village's whaling season.

A Message from Southern Company:

95% of voters agree that energy innovation creates jobs, grows the economy and makes American lives better. uthern Company is building the future of energy through innovatio

Opinions, Editorials & Perspectives

DU fossil-fuel divestment is unr unwise
Editorial Board, Denver Post

While it is understandable that some University of Denver students might wish to see their institution shed its fossil-fuel holdings, such a move would be hardly realistic, and we hope the trustees maintain their independence concerning their endowment's portfolio. There is a teachable moment here, though in truth this kind of debate is getting stale.

The Conservative Case for Nucl
Robert Bryce, National Review

As the Trump transition team prepares to take power in Washington, they should be making the conservative case for nuclear energy. During the campaign, President-elect Donald Trump declared: "Nuclear power is a valuable source of energy and should be part of an all-the-above program for providing power for America long into the future.

A Message from Southern Company:

Southern Company is building the future of energy through innovation. See how our innovative energy solutio[illegible]ng jobs, growing the economy and making American lives better.

Research Reports, Issue Briefs & Case Studies

Ocean heat drives rapid basal m[illegible]otten Ice Shelf
Stephen Rich Rintoul, Science A[illegible]

Mass loss from the West Antarctic ice shelves and glaciers has been linked to basal melt by ocean heat flux. The Totten Ice Shelf in East Antarctica, which buttresses a marine-based ice sheet with a volume equivalent to at least 3.5 m of global sea-level rise, also experiences rapid basal melt, but the role of ocean forcing was not known because of a lack of observations near the ice shelf.

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