To: Mylott, Richard[Mylott.Richard@epa.gov]
From: Morning Consult
Sent: Wed 2/1/2017 12:58:02 PM
Subject: Morning Consult Energy: Democrats Threaten to Boycott Pruitt Vote

By Jack Fitzpatrick

Washington Brief

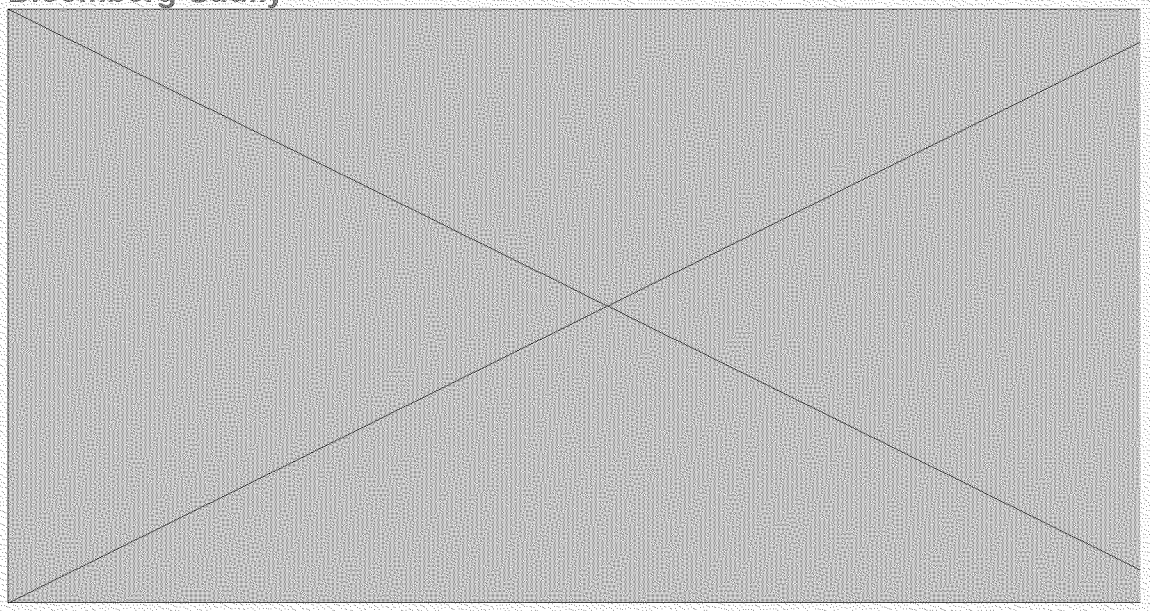
- Democrats on the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee are threatening to boycott today's vote on Scott Pruitt's nomination to lead the Environmental Protection Agency. (The Wall Street Journal)
- Myron Ebell, who led the Environmental Protection Agency transition team, met with advisers to British Prime Minister Theresa May. (Financial Times)
- The Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee voted to confirm Rick Perry as Energy secretary and Rep. Ryan Zinke (R-Mont.) as Interior secretary. (The Associated Press)
- More than 1,700 residents of Flint, Mich., sued the EPA over its lack of action on the city's water crisis. (Reuters)

Business Brief

- The Army Corps of Engineers has been directed to allow the completion of the Dakota Access pipeline, despite an ongoing environmental review, according to Sen. John Hoeven (R-N.D.). (CNN)
- China is on track to surpass the U.S. as the country with the most nuclear power capacity by 2026. (Bloomberg News)
- BlackRock is buying $3.7 billion in two funds that invest in power plants and energy infrastructure. (The Wall Street Journal)

Chart Review

Shell's North Sea Retreat
Bloomberg Gadfly



Events Calendar (All Times Local)

Wednesday	
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.

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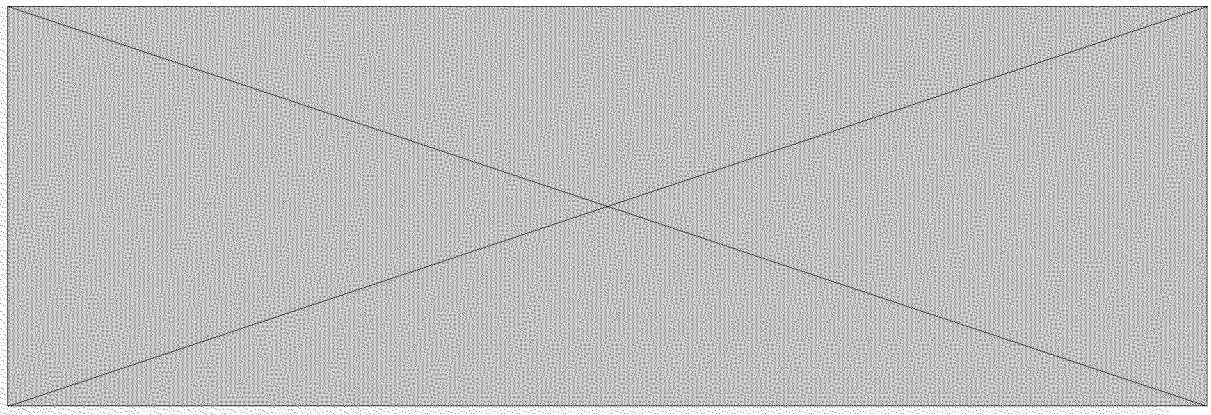

General

Senate Democrats Threaten to Boycott Committee Vote on EPA Nominee Scott Pruitt
Amy Harder, The Wall Street Journal

Senate Democrats are threatening to boycott a planned committee vote Wednesday on President Donald Trump's pick to head the Environmental Protection Agency, arguing Oklahoma Attorney General Scott Pruitt hasn't fully answered their questions or addressed their concerns, according to multiple Senate aides. The move, if executed, would be the latest setback for Mr. Trump's top nominees in the face of staunch Democratic opposition. Because Republicans are in the majority in the Senate, the tactics employed by the Democrats likely only delay the inevitable approval of most if not all of Mr. Trump's nominees, but nonetheless the actions emphasize the opposition coming from the minority party.

Leading Trump climate change sceptic visits No 10
Pilita Clark, Financial Times

A former adviser to Donald Trump who says fears about global warming have been exaggerated by a "climate-industrial complex" met with Theresa May's advisers in Downing Street on Tuesday. Myron Ebell, a prominent climate sceptic who led the Environmental Protection Agency transition team for the Trump administration, met advisers but not senior staff or ministers, a Number 10 spokesman said.

GOP-led Senate panel approves Perry, Zinke
Alan Fram, The Associated Press

Republicans pushed President Donald Trump's nominees to head the Energy and Interior Departments through a Senate panel on Tuesday while other

committees moved toward votes on his picks to head agencies in the thick of partisan battles over health care, legal protections, education and the economy. The Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee quickly approved former Texas Gov. Rick Perry as Energy secretary by 16-7, and Rep. Ryan Zinke, R-Mont., to head Interior by 16-6.

1,700 residents of Flint, Michiga over water crisis
Dan Whitcomb, Reuters

More than 1,700 residents of Flint, Michigan who say the Environmental Protection Agency mismanaged the water crisis that exposed thousands of children to lead poisoning have sued the U.S. government, seeking class action status for their claims. The lawsuit, filed in U.S. District Court in Michigan on Monday, asserted that the EPA failed to warn them of the dangers of the toxic water or take steps to ensure that state and local authorities were addressing the crisis.

A new battle over politics and s d be brewing. And scientists are ready for it
Chris Mooney, The Washington

Over a decade ago, George W. Bush's presidency attracted plenty of attention for charges that it had all-too-often mistreated scientific information. By the middle Bush years, reports were rampant that the administration had presented inaccurate or incomplete information on issues such as climate change and stem cell research, edited scientific reports to skew their contents, or had prevented scientists on the government payroll from speaking with the media about their findings and knowledge.

Trump Nominates Neil Gorsuch eme Court
Julie Hirschfield Davis and Mark he New York Times

President Trump on Tuesday nominated Judge Neil M. Gorsuch to the Supreme Court, elevating a conservative in the mold of Justice Antonin Scalia to succeed the late jurist and touching off a brutal, partisan showdown at the start of his presidency over the ideological bent of the nation's highest court. Mr. Trump announced his selection during a much-anticipated evening ceremony that unfolded in prime time at the White House.

Corporate Outlook Spurs Stock urn to Fed
Samuel Potter, Bloomberg News

An upbeat mood in Europe's corporate sphere underpinned a rebound in global stocks, while the dollar stabilized as investors prepare to scour the Fed statement for clues on the path of interest rates this year. European stocks climbed with S&P 500 Index futures after companies including Apple Inc.,

Siemens AG and Volvo AB posted results that exceeded expectations, along with optimistic forecasts for the year ahead.

Oil and Natural Gas

Saudi Oil Minister Praises Trum Policy, Welcomes Increased U.S. Production
Benoit Faucon and Michael Am l Street Journal

Saudi Arabia's oil minister on Wednesday praised President Donald Trump's energy policies and said he welcomed an increase in American oil production "as long as they grow in line with global energy demand."

Oil Braces for Trump Ban Fallou rton Says Stay Put
Ryan Collins and David Wethe, News

Oil-services giant Halliburton Co. told employees to stay put. Another global oil company is reconsidering whether to place a crude trader in Houston. And universities that train energy workers across the country estimated that hundreds of students may be affected.

Exxon says it can more than do in Permian Basin
Ed Crooks, Financial Times

ExxonMobil, the world's largest listed oil company, has said it will be able to more than double its output in the Permian Basin region of the US and maintain it at that level for decades, in a vote of confidence in the outlook for North American shale production. The company told analysts on Tuesday morning that it could add 350,000 barrels of oil equivalent per day from the Permian region of Texas and New Mexico, thanks to the $6.6bn acquisition of companies from the Bass family announced in January. Its current output in the region is 140,000 b/d.

ExxonMobil earnings 40% lower ted
Ed Crooks, Financial Times

ExxonMobil has become the second large oil company to report earnings well below analysts' expectations, following Chevron on Friday. Exxon's earnings per share were 41 cents for the fourth quarter of 2016, with net income of $1.68bn, 40 per cent lower than expected.

Utilities and Infrastructure

Army Corps ordered to approve [illegible] o finish Dakota Access Pipeline
Madison Park and Keith Allen, C[illegible]

The US Army Corps of Engineers has been directed to allow the completion of the Dakota Access Pipeline, North Dakota Sen. John Hoeven said on Tuesday. Although the official easement from the Army Corps has yet to be released, Hoeven and Rep. Kevin Cramer praised the move, which will pave the way for the final phase of the controversial $3.7 billion project.

Court halts lawsuit over Keysto[illegible]
Timothy Cama, The Hill

A federal court has put a hold on a lawsuit filed by the developer of the Keystone XL pipeline in an effort to force the U.S. government to approve the controversial project. Houston-based Judge Kenneth Hoyt wrote in a late Monday order that TransCanada Corp.'s lawsuit should be paused after President Trump's memo last week to restart the application process for the oil pipeline.

Shutdown of Texas Pipeline Bo[illegible] rices
Dan Molinski, The Wall Street Jo[illegible]

The rupture and closure of a major crude oil pipeline in Texas jointly-owned by Enterprise Products Partners and Enbridge Inc. helped to push oil prices higher Tuesday as crews worked to clean up the spill. The 30-inch diameter Seaway S-1 pipeline pumps up to 400,000 barrels a day of crude oil from a commercial hub in Cushing, Okla., to to refineries 500 miles away near the Gulf Coast.

Renewables

Maryland House overrides Hoga[illegible] nergy bill
Pamela Wood, The Baltimore Su[illegible]

The House of Delegates on Tuesday took the first step to reverse Gov. Larry Hogan's veto of a renewable energy bill, voting 88-51 to overturn it. The state Senate plans to vote on Thursday. To override a governor's veto, three-fifths of the members in both houses of the General Assembly must vote to do so.

Maine regulators strike middle d olar incentives
Tux Turkel, Portland Press Hera

Homeowners with solar-electric panels as of the end of this year will be compensated for the power they produce at a full retail rate for 15 years, but those who wait until 2018 and thereafter to install solar units will see the credit gradually reduced over time. That was the upshot of a rule finalized on Tuesday by the Maine Public Utilities Commission.

NextEra eyes big solar project a ant
Thomas Content, Milwaukee Jo el

Wisconsin's largest solar project, comprising hundreds of thousands of solar panels, would be built adjacent to the Point Beach nuclear plant in Two Rivers, under a proposal announced by the nuclear plant's operator on Monday. NextEra Energy Resources announced the project, to be called the Point Beach Solar Energy Center, in conjunction with WPPI Energy of Sun Prairie. WPPI plans to buy electricity generated by the project for 20 years.

Coal

Illinois overtakes Kentucky in c on as nearly 1 in 4 jobs disappears
Bill Estep, Lexington Herald-Lea

There was a slight uptick in coal production in Kentucky in the last three months of 2016, but for the year, production and employment continued the steep slide that's been going on since 2011. Production fell so much that the state dropped to the fourth biggest coal producer in the nation.

Japanese government planning new coal fired power stations to diversify supply
Babs McHugh, Australian Broad rporation

The Japanese government is moving ahead with its plans to build up to 45 new coal fired power stations. The power plants will utilise high energy, low emissions (HELE) technology that use high-quality black coal.

Ban coal from backup power su me, says Scottish Power
Adam Vaughan, The Guardian

Ministers should ban coal power stations from a scheme paying their owners

subsidies to provide backup power, a leading energy company and green energy group have urged. Scottish Power and RenewableUK said it was an "obvious paradox" and "counterproductive" that the government had committed to closing all coal power stations by 2025 while continuing to support them through the capacity market, its system for ensuring power when supplies are low.

Nuclear

China's Nuclear Power Capacity [illegible] rtake U.S. Within Decade
Stephen Stapczynski, Bloomber[illegible]

China's rapid nuclear expansion will result in it overtaking the U.S. as the nation with the largest atomic power capacity by 2026, according to BMI Research. The world's second biggest economy will almost triple its nuclear capacity to nearly 100 gigawatts by 2026, making it the biggest market globally, analysts said in a note dated Jan. 27.

Climate

Burning Wood Beats Coal at J-P[illegible]e Fights Climate Change
Tsuy0shi Inajima et al., Bloomb[illegible]

Japan's biggest electricity wholesaler knows it'll take more than cutting-edge coal technology to save the environment. Electric Power Development Co., known as J-Power, is looking to build its first major power plant that burns natural gas near cities such as Tokyo as well as use more woody biomass instead of fossil fuels, Executive Officer Hitoshi Kanno said.

Opinions, Editorials and Perspectives

Winning the Fight on Stream Pr[illegible]
Rep. Bill Johnson et al., Mornin[illegible]

For close to a decade, Republicans have been leading the charge against the

regulatory onslaught on coal communities. But now, with an ally in the White House, we can finally begin to roll back some of the punishing regulations of the last eight years.

With Trump Now in Office, Cana[illegible]o Build a Carbon Wall
Michael Binnion, Morning Cons[illegible]

Former Canadian Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau once said that living next to the United States is like "sleeping with an elephant," with Canada having to pay attention to every "twitch and grunt." With the ascension of Donald Trump to the White House, that elephant just rolled over.

Shell's North Sea Retreat
Chris Hughes, Bloomberg Gadf[illegible]

Royal Dutch Shell Plc is selling more than half of its North Sea oil production. It may be a big pullback from Britain for the Anglo-Dutch oil major.

Remember that time when Neil [illegible]nother tried to dismantle the EPA?
Lisa Hymas, Grist

Anne Gorsuch - whose son has just been nominated by President Trump for the Supreme Court - was administrator of the EPA from 1981 to 1983, under Ronald Reagan. And much like Scott Pruitt, Trump's EPA nominee, she wanted to rip the agency apart.

Research Reports

Skilful seasonal predictions for [illegible]an energy industry
Robin T. Clark et al., Environme[illegible]ch Letters

We assess the utility of seasonal forecasts for the energy industry by showing how recently-established predictability of the North Atlantic Oscillation (NAO) in winter allows predictability of near-surface wind speed and air temperature and therefore energy supply and demand respectively. Our seasonal prediction system (GloSea5) successfully reproduces the influence of the NAO on European climate, leading to skilful forecasts of wind speed and wind power and hence wind driven energy supply.

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