To: Mylott, Richard[Mylott.Richard@epa.gov]
From: Morning Consult
Sent: Tue 1/24/2017 1:10:59 PM
Subject: Morning Consult Energy: Trump Administration Freezes EPA Contracts

By Jack Fitzpatrick

Washington Brief

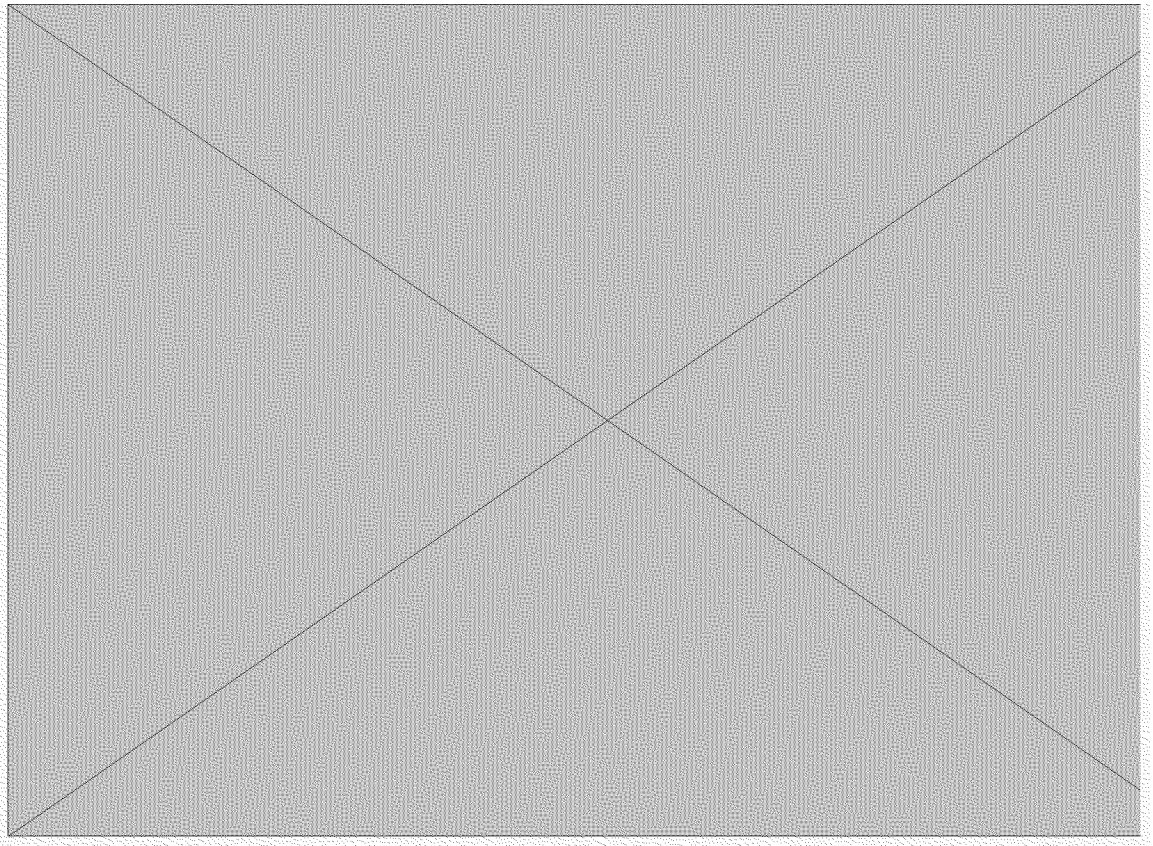
- The Trump administration has frozen new contracts and grants from the Environmental Protection Agency, which appears to be nationwide, and could disrupt key services. (ProPublica)
- The Centers for Disease Control canceled a major climate change summit scheduled for next month. (ClimateWire)
- The Senate Foreign Affairs Committee voted to confirm former ExxonMobil CEO Rex Tillerson to serve as secretary of State. (CNN)

Business Brief

- Russia was China's top crude oil provider in 2016, surpassing Saudi Arabia, according to data released Monday. (Reuters)
- Oil field services company Halliburton said it lost $5.7 billion in 2016, compared to losses of $671 million in 2015. (Houston Chronicle)
- The cost of electricity from offshore wind farms in the UK dropped nearly one-third in four years, beating a goal set by the British government. (Financial Times)

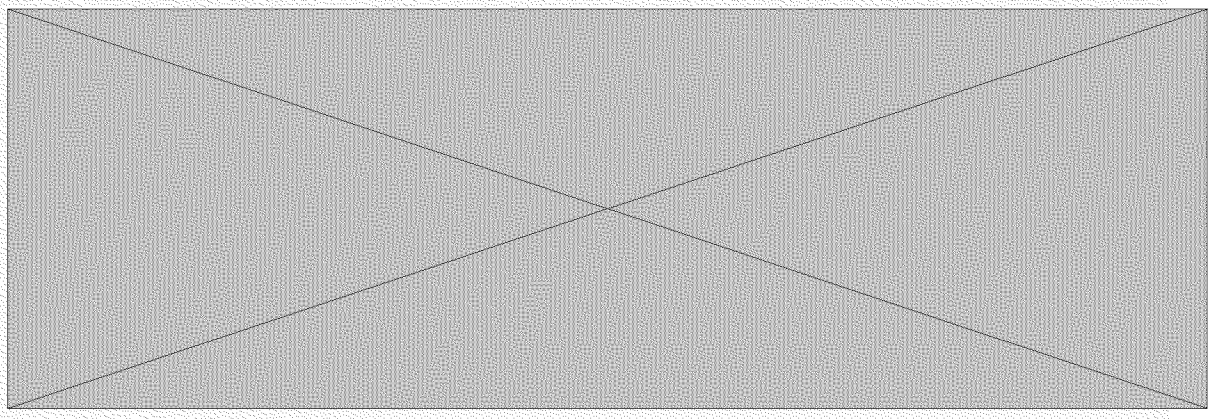
Chart Review

Canadian Drillers Brave Deep Freeze as Oil Patch Revives Growth
Bloomberg News



Events Calendar (All Times Local)

Tuesday	
Smart Cities International Symposium and Exhibition in Chicago	8:15 a.m.
Carnegie Endowment for International Peace discussion on Mexico energy policy	11 a.m.
House Energy and Commerce Committee organizational meeting	11:30 a.m.
Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee votes on Perry, Zinke confirmations	9:30 a.m.
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.



General

Trump Administration Imposes Freeze On EPA Grants and Contracts
Andrew Revkin and Jesse Eisinger, ProPublica

The Trump administration has imposed a freeze on grants and contracts by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, a move that could affect a significant part of the agency's budget allocations and even threaten to disrupt core operations ranging from toxic cleanups to water quality testing, according to records and interviews. One EPA employee aware of the freeze said he had never seen anything like it in nearly a decade with the agency.

Senate committee approves Tillerson for secretary of state
Nicole Gaouette, CNN

Former ExxonMobil chief executive Rex Tillerson won the backing of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee Monday to be secretary of state when it voted 11-10 to send his nomination to the full Senate. Sen. Marco Rubio was a long hold-out and potential "no" vote after he raised concerns about Tillerson's views toward Russia and human rights.

Senate Committee Indefinitely Delays Votes on Rick Perry, Ryan Zinke
Alex Johnson, NBC News

A Senate committee on Monday night abruptly postponed its scheduled votes Tuesday on President Donald Trump's nominations of Rick Perry and Ryan Zinke to lead the Energy and Interior departments. The Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee gave no explanation for the postponement, which it said was in effect "until further notice."

Dollar Rebounds With Oil as Po[redacted]n Brexit
Cecile Gutscher, Bloomberg Ne[redacted]

The dollar rebounded with oil and gold fell, as investors focused on President Donald Trump's plans to boost growth. The pound fell after a U.K. court ruled that Parliament must vote on triggering Brexit.

Oil and Natural Gas

Russia beats Saudi Arabia as C[redacted]rude oil supplier in 2016
Chen Aizhu and Meng Meng, Re[redacted]

Russia overtook Saudi Arabia in 2016 to became China's biggest crude oil supplier for the first year ever, customs data showed on Monday, boosted by robust demand from independent Chinese "teapot" refineries. Russian shipments surged nearly a quarter over 2015 to about 1.05 million barrels per day (bpd), the data showed, with Saudi Arabia coming in a close second with 1.02 million bpd, up 0.9 percent in 2016 versus the previous year.

Halliburton posts $5.7 billion in [redacted]
David Hunn, Houston Chronicle[redacted]

Halliburton, the world's second largest oil field services company, reported on Monday dramatic losses following the failed bid to take over rival Baker Hughes. Halliburton, based in Houston, said it lost $5.7 billion or $6.69 a share in the fourth quarter, compared to losses of $671 million in the fourth quarter, or 78 cents per share in the same period a year earlier.

'Things should go well for Cana[redacted]adviser tells Trudeau cabinet
James Wood, Calgary Herald

A top adviser to Donald Trump said Monday that Canada shouldn't fear the new president on trade issues, while federal cabinet ministers struck a reassuring tone in the face of intense protectionist sentiment from the new administration. Stephen Schwarzman, who met with Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and his cabinet at their retreat in Calgary Monday morning, also said prospects for the Keystone XL pipeline are looking up and suggested that Canadian energy exports to the United States are unlikely to be hit with a new cross-border tax.

Iraq says most oil majors partic[redacted]s OPEC cuts
Alex Lawler and Dmitry Zhdann[redacted]rs

Iraq's oil minister said on Monday that most oil majors working on its territory were participating in oil output reductions agreed as part of the deal between OPEC and non-OPEC producers to help to balance the market. OPEC and several independent producers agreed last year to cut supply, the first such deal in 15 years, as of Jan. 1, 2017 to remove a glut.

Canadian Drillers Brave Deep F Patch Revives Growth
Robert Tuttle, Bloomberg News

In the snowy prairies of Western Canada, not even temperatures below -40 degrees have stopped Stampede Drilling Ltd.'s 60 recently rehired workers from manning the oil-service provider's rigs after a nine-month dry spell for the business. "Once oil hit $50, everybody started phoning again," Bill Devins, the drilling company's 57-year-old owner, said in a phone interview from his office in Estevan, Saskatchewan, a town bordering North Dakota right at the heart of the Bakken shale formation.

Utilities and Infrastructure

PG&E to get maximum sentenc e safety violations
Bob Egelko, San Francisco Chr

A federal judge said Monday he would fine Pacific Gas and Electric Co. $3 million, the maximum allowed by law, and place the company under a court-appointed monitor for criminal violations of pipeline-safety laws uncovered by an investigation of the lethal San Bruno pipeline explosion. U.S. District Judge Thelton Henderson made the announcement during a sentencing hearing in San Francisco.

Solar group asks Arizona utility to reconsider net-metering decision
Ryan Randazzo, The Arizona Re

The Alliance for Solar Choice is asking Arizona utility regulators to reconsider their December decision to end the system of net metering, which will reduce what utilities pay residential customers for excess power they send to the grid. Net metering is a common system where utilities give solar customers a full retail credit for each kilowatt-hour of electricity they send to the grid.

Tallahassee storm damage und ed for utility improvements
Jeffrey Schweers, Tallahassee D

Sunday's heavy storms left behind a mini-Hermine scale of destruction and served as a reminder of the Tallahassee electrical grid's vulnerability to high winds and fallen limbs. The storms also gave officials a chance to see if any of the improvements they made to communicating with customers helped.

Renewables

UK wind farm costs fall almost a years
Pilita Clark, Financial Times

The green energy industry has hit another milestone as offshore wind companies reveal their costs have tumbled much faster than expected and should soon be level with gas or coal-fired power stations. Wind farms built out at sea have always had higher costs than conventional power generators based onshore, partly because they are newer and have to withstand harsh weather conditions.

Second big Xcel solar power pr s online
Mike Hughlett, Minneapolis Star

The Marshall Solar Energy Project recently started delivering electricity to Xcel Energy, the second of two large solar facilities that have gone on-line in the past month. The Marshall solar installation produce up to 62 megawatts of power when the sun is shining.

Republicans Consider Killing Fa wable Energy Fund
The Associated Press

Republican state lawmakers are considering killing a solar incentive and taking control of an energy fund they say has little oversight. The bill would shift money deposited into a renewable energy account to a general energy fund and end the "Made in Minnesota" solar energy incentive program.

Coal

Mine cleanup concerns lead obj Peabody bankruptcy plan
Tracy Rucinski, Reuters

Indiana and several environmental groups are objecting to a plan by Peabody

Energy Corp to exit its $8 billion Chapter 11 bankruptcy, citing concerns over how the company will cover about $1 billion in future mine cleanup costs. Most creditors support the plan by the world's largest private-sector coal company to cut $5 billion of debt, but it faced official objections in court filings on Friday.

Debate emerges over what repla Boardman coal plant
Ted Sickinger, The Oregonian

Portland General Electric's agreement to close its only coal-fired power plant won praise seven years ago as an environmental victory with national implications in the fight against air pollution and climate change. As the 2020 closure date approaches, though, those good feelings have largely evaporated.

Nuclear

France reaches agreement with essenheim closure: Les Echos
Bate Felix, Reuters

The French government has reached an agreement with state-controlled utility EDF on the conditions under which the company will shut down France's oldest nuclear plant, French business daily Les Echos said on Monday. EDF and the French government agreed in August on a $430 million compensation package for the closure of the Fessenheim nuclear plant.

Millstone Wants Access to Bigg for its Electricity
Stephen Singer, Hartford Coura

The owner of Millstone Nuclear Power Station, struggling with competition from cheap and abundant natural gas, is seeking state help from lawmakers who may be eager to protect one of Connecticut's biggest businesses. Dominion, the operator of Millstone in Waterford, is pushing to revive legislation boosting its access to electricity markets.

Climate

CDC quietly cancels long-plann summit
Scott Waldman, ClimateWire

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention quietly and abruptly canceled a major climate change summit scheduled for next month shortly after Donald Trump was elected president, according to emails sent to those scheduled to speak and obtained by E&E News.

Opinions, Editorials and Perspectives

Interior nominee Zinke must loo ongress to fix Park Service
Shawn Regan, The Hill

At his confirmation hearing, Department of the Interior secretary nominee Rep. Ryan Zinke (R-Mt.) promised that the National Park Service's maintenance backlog would be one of his top priorities as a Cabinet member in the incoming Trump administration. Estimated at nearly $12 billion, the Park Service's maintenance backlog is now several times higher than the agency's total budget from Congress, and it has emerged as one of the major issues facing the Interior Department that Zinke, if confirmed, will soon lead.

Research Reports

Percolation blockage: A proces es melt pond formation on first year Arctic Sea ice
Chris Plashenski et al., Journal ical Research

Melt pond formation atop Arctic sea ice is a primary control of shortwave energy balance in the Arctic Ocean. During late spring and summer, the ponds determine sea ice albedo and how much solar radiation is transmitted into the upper ocean through the sea ice.

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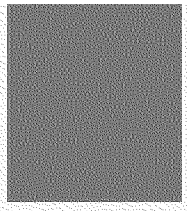

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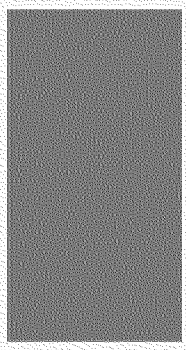

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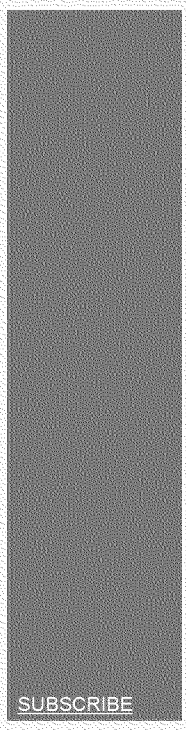
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