To: Mylott, Richard[Mylott.Richard@epa.gov]
From: Morning Consult
Sent: Thur 1/19/2017 1:12:59 PM
Subject: Morning Consult Energy: Perry Didn't Initially Understand Role of Energy Secretary

By Jack Fitzpatrick

Washington Brief

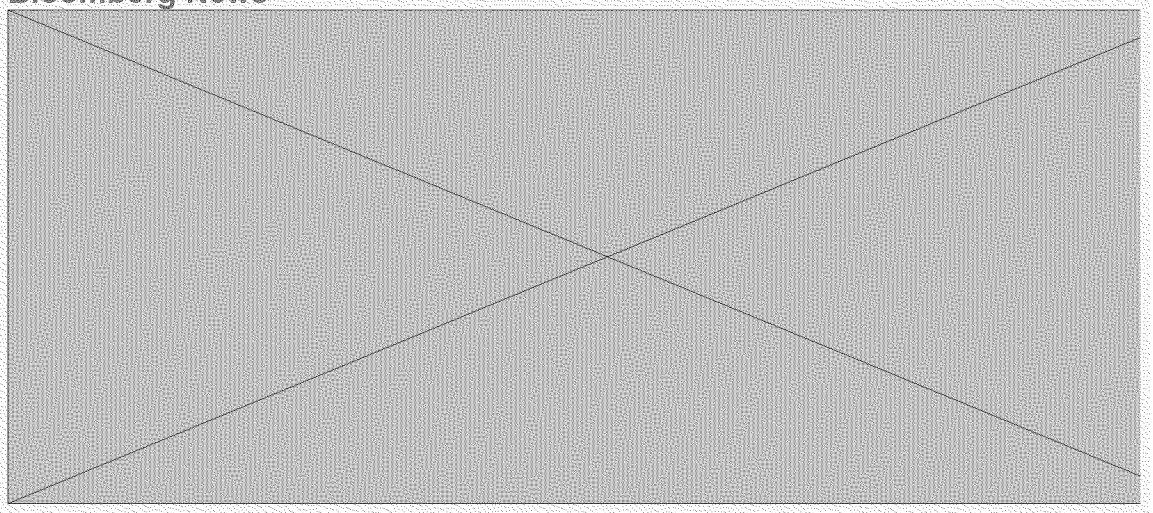
- When former Texas Gov. Rick Perry first agreed to serve as Energy secretary, he didn't realize how much the job has to do with nuclear weapons, rather than the energy industry, energy lobbyist Michael McKenna said. (The New York Times)
- Oklahoma Attorney General Scott Pruitt said he believes the climate is changing, but he downplayed the certainty of humans' responsibility, echoing the language of other Cabinet picks by President-elect Donald Trump. (Morning Consult)
- Thirteen states asked a federal court to block the Obama administration's stream-protection rule on coal mining. (The Associated Press)

Business Brief

- China canceled plans for 104 coal plants, adding up to a loss of 120 gigawatts of electrical capacity. (Vox)
- The price of coking coal has started 2017 on a weak note, after performing well in 2016, as Chinese mines have increased production. (Financial Times)
- Russian executives attending the World Economic Forum are much more bullish on their economy than last year, as oil prices rebound and officials hope Trump will end sanctions. (Reuters)

Chart Review

No Hoax: 2016 Was the Hottest Year on Record
Bloomberg News



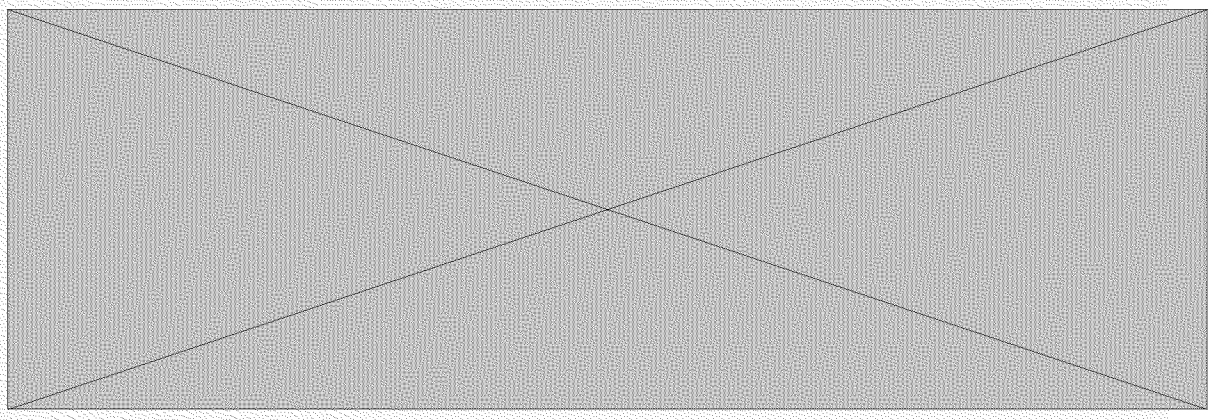
Events Calendar (All Times Local)

Thursday

Confirmation hearing for Perry to lead the Energy Dept.	10 a.m.

Friday

Inauguration Day



General

'Learning Curve' as Rick Perry Pursues a Job He Initially Misunderstood
Coral Davenport and David E. Sanger, The New York Times

When President-elect Donald J. Trump offered Rick Perry the job of energy secretary five weeks ago, Mr. Perry gladly accepted, believing he was taking on a role as a global ambassador for the American oil and gas industry that he had long championed in his home state. In the days after, Mr. Perry, the former Texas governor, discovered that he would be no such thing - that in fact, if confirmed by the Senate, he would become the steward of a vast national security complex he knew almost nothing about, caring for the most fearsome weapons on the planet, the United States' nuclear arsenal.

Pruitt Downplays Fossil-Fuel Ti Other Cabinet Picks on Climate
Jack Fitzpatrick, Morning Consu

Oklahoma Attorney General Scott Pruitt defended his lawsuit against the Environmental Protection Agency's mercury pollution standards, downplayed ties to fossil-fuel companies, and echoed other Trump nominees on climate change during a hearing on his nomination to lead the EPA. Pruitt expressed a similar stance on climate change to secretary of State pick Rex Tillerson and Interior secretary pick Ryan Zinke during his hearing with the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee on Wednesday, saying the climate is changing but "the extent of human impact is still being debated."

Trump to name ex-Georgia Gov e as agriculture secretary
Steve Holland, Reuters

U.S. President-elect Donald Trump will name former Georgia Governor Sonny Perdue as his nominee for secretary of agriculture on Thursday, a senior transition official said on Wednesday. Perdue, 70, served on Trump's agricultural advisory committee during his presidential campaign.

Democrats try to corner EPA pi flict of interest
John Siciliano, Washington Exa

Democrats on Wednesday tried to corner President-elect Trump's pick to lead the Environmental Protection Agency over a conflict of interest if he does not recuse himself from several lawsuits opposing the agency's climate rules and other regulations. Sen. Ed Markey, D-Mass., a top climate advocate, pressed Oklahoma Attorney General Scott Pruitt to recuse himself from the litigation because he said the conflict would be too serious to allow Pruitt to be confirmed as EPA administrator.

Wyden has 'no confidence' Prui n EPA fairly
Sean Higgins, Washington Exar

Sen. Ron Wyden Wednesday morning slammed President-elect Trump's

choice of Oklahoma Attorney General Scott Pruitt to run the Environmental Protection Agency. In a Senate floor speech Wednesday, the Oregon Democrat said he had "no confidence" Pruitt would uphold the agency's mission.

Investors Latch Onto Reflation T nds Fall
Cecile Gutscher, Bloomberg Ne

Bonds fell and the euro edged higher as investors look to Mario Draghi to address quickening inflation that make his stimulative policies look increasingly out of sync. Stocks retreated.

Oil and Natural Gas

Oil and Trump: Russians full of n Davos
Dmitry Zhdannikov and Sujata R s

Twelve months ago, the mood of the Russian delegation at the World Economic Forum in Davos was distinctly gloomy, with oil prices near 12-year lows below $30 per barrel and Western sanctions depressing their economy and financial markets. Since then, however, Russian stock and bond markets have risen about 50 percent, boosted by rebounding oil and - more recently - expectations the new U.S. presidency of Donald Trump will ease the sanctions imposed over Moscow's actions in Ukraine.

Opec needs output cuts to bala ket
David Sheppard, Financial Time

Opec's own projections for the oil market show the cartel needs to maintain or increase output cuts beyond the first half of this year if it wants to balance the market, with supply still threatening to overwhelm demand in 2017. In its closely watched monthly report, Opec forecast demand for its crude this year would average just 32.1m barrels a day, an increase on 2016 but still below its target output level of about 32.5m b/d.

OPEC Says Oil Output Fell Afte n Deal, but U.S. Output Rising
Benoit Faucon, The Wall Street

OPEC's total output began falling in December after its members agreed to slash output, the cartel said Wednesday, but the group appears to need deeper cuts than expected to achieve its goals.

Utilities and Infrastructure

EDF to start talks to sell Polish [illegible]s to local consortium - sources
Anna Koper and Geert De Clerc[illegible]

French power group EDF has agreed to talks with a consortium of Polish state-run utilities about selling its local power plants after Poland blocked a sale to foreign investors, sources familiar with the situation said. In December the Polish government prevented EDF from selling the plants to two private investors - Australia's IFM Investors and Czech utility EPH, citing concerns for the long- term security of energy supplies.

Entergy power plant condemne[illegible]rleans East neighbors
Beau Evans, New Orleans Time[illegible]

New Orleans East neighbors called on city officials Tuesday night (Jan. 17) to reject a plan Entergy has brought forth to build a new natural gas power plant in their backyard, citing environmental, health and cost concerns. The New Orleans City Council is expected to vote on the proposal later this month.

Xcel's pitch for new Becker pow[illegible]ets OK from House committee
Mike Hughlett, Minneapolis Star[illegible]

The Minnesota House committee on energy overwhelmingly passed a bill late Tuesday that would allow Xcel Energy to build a large natural-gas fired power plant in Sherburne County without the approval of state utility regulators, the normal route. Minneapolis-based Xcel wants to build a 786 megawatt gas-fired plant to replace two 680 megawatt coal-fired generators - Sherco 1 and Sherco 2 - that are planned to close in 2023 and 2026.

Renewables

FPL ramps up solar energy with [illegible]rs, more ahead
Debora Lima, South Florida Bus[illegible]nal

Florida Power & Light, a subsidiary of Juno Beach-based NextEra Energy, is ramping up its renewable energy efforts with three new solar power centers and additional sites planned in the months ahead. On the last day of 2016, the company officially connected three 74.5-megawatt universal solar power plants

to the energy grid that serves its customers.

Tiny town of Marathon looks to [illegible]lar
Ty Rushing, Sioux City Journal

The town of Marathon could soon be powered by the sun. The Buena Vista County town of about 237 is considering building a 1.42-megawatt solar project on city-owned land to supply power to residents.

Coal

China's war on coal continues - [illegible] just canceled 104 new coal plants
Brad Plumer, Vox

Because China is such a behemoth, its energy decisions absolutely dwarf anything any other country is doing right now. Case in point: Over the weekend, the Chinese government ordered 13 provinces to cancel 104 coal-fired projects in development, amounting to a whopping 120 gigawatts of capacity in all.

Alaska joins 12 other states sui[illegible] Obama coal mining rule
The Associated Press

Texas and 12 other states have asked a federal court to block final rules from President Barack Obama's administration designed to reduce coal mining's impact on streams. Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton petitioned a Washington-based appeals court for an injunction Tuesday.

Coking coal cools as China min[illegible]tput
Neil Hume, Financial Times

Coking coal, the best performing major commodity of 2016, has made a weak start to the new year as Chinese mines have responded to pressure from Beijing to increase output. The steelmaking ingredient rocketed last year after China introduced production curbs in an effort to improve the profitability of its heavily indebted coal industry.

Nuclear

Toshiba woes intensify on repo[redacted]ion writedown, shares plummet
Kentaro Hamada and Taiga Ura[redacted]rs

Toshiba Corp's financial crisis deepened on Thursday as media reported it may unveil a bigger-than-expected $6 billion writedown for its U.S. nuclear business, sending its shares sliding 15 percent. The reports cast doubt on whether steps by the scandal-hit conglomerate to bolster its finances - including the possible sale of a stake in its core chip business to business partner Western Digital Corp - will be sufficient to address the shortfall.

Climate

No Hoax: 2016 Was the Hottest [redacted]cord
Tom Randall and Blacki Migliozz[redacted]rg News

To say that last year was hot is an understatement. It was 1.69 degrees Fahrenheit (0.94 Celsius) warmer than the 20th century average, according to National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration figures released on Wednesday.

Phoenix, Atlanta Mayors: If U.S. [redacted]f Paris Deal, Cities Will Act Alone
Jack Fitzpatrick, Morning Consu[redacted]

If President-elect Donald Trump pulls the United States out of the Paris climate agreement, Phoenix Mayor Greg Stanton and Atlanta Mayor Kasim Reed said mayors of large cities will convene to express their support for the deal. "Within about a week, American mayors will physically get together and sign on to that agreement on behalf of the people that we represent," Stanton told Morning Consult in an interview.

Opinions, Editorials and Perspectives

Rabbi Marvin Hier Should Urge [redacted]ntal Stewardship on Inauguration Day
Steve Gutow, Morning Consult

Rabbi Marvin Hier, dean and founder of the Simon Wiesenthal Center, is one of six diverse faith leaders asked to read passages and be a part of the benediction at President-elect Trump's inauguration on Jan. 20. Because I am concerned that many in the new administration may put business and commerce success ahead of human suffering caused by environmental degradation, I have asked Rabbi Hier in a personal letter to take his "sharing of prayer" time and, in part, offer a message of priority for keeping our air clean, our water pristine, and for protecting the public lands and parks that provide us access to the best nature experiences America has to offer.

The Way Forward on Nuclear W
Ernest Moniz, Bloomberg View

The 115th Congress is likely to also take up nuclear waste, specifically the disposal of highly radioactive spent fuel from nuclear power plants and high-level waste from the Cold War nuclear weapons program. The opportunity to move forward is real, but not if we continue to clash over policies and methods that have not worked for decades.

Research Reports

Tambora and the mackerel year y and fisheries during an extreme climate event
Karen E. Alexander et al., Scien s

Global warming has increased the frequency of extreme climate events, yet responses of biological and human communities are poorly understood, particularly for aquatic ecosystems and fisheries. Retrospective analysis of known outcomes may provide insights into the nature of adaptations and trajectory of subsequent conditions.

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