**To:** Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
**From:** Morning Energy
**Sent:** Tue 9/19/2017 2:05:43 PM
**Subject:** POLITICO's Morning Energy, presented by the Nuclear Energy Institute: Climate talk looms throughout U.N. meetings — Senate Energy panel moves nominees today — Steyer hits Trump over climate

By Anthony Adragna | 09/19/2017 10:00 AM EDT

*With help from Ben Lefebvre*

**CLIMATE TALK PROMINENT IN U.N. MEETINGS:** Look for talk of climate change and the Paris climate agreement to continue to pop up throughout the United Nations General Assembly today, but any fog around the White House's position appears to be clearing. President Donald Trump reiterated his view that the landmark international accord was unfair to the U.S. during a Monday meeting with French President Emmanuel Macron, according to a White House official. "The President talked through that he believes it's just simply unfair - that he thought other countries, particularly China, received a better deal than the United States negotiated," State Department policy planning director Brian Hook said. "He does not believe that the Paris Agreement is a framework to achieve those goals around clean energy, protecting the environment, and promoting economic growth."

**Chicago to host climate conference:** Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel announced Monday his city would host a two-day conference to discuss how cities around the world are addressing climate change and implementing the Paris agreement. And former U.N. climate chief Christiana Figueres said in a statement the Dec. 4-5 event would "provide an opportunity for mayors to continue acting on the political will demonstrated in Paris, showing that local action is being taken to fulfill commitments." Participants will include Paris' Anne Hidalgo, Montreal's Denis Coderre, Austin's Steve Adler and Atlanta's Kasim Reed, among others.

**MOVE ALONG, MOVE ALONG:** It should be a quick and easy process for five FERC, DOE and Interior nominees to get through the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee this morning. On the agenda are votes on the selections of Kevin McIntyre for chairman of FERC, Richard Glick for FERC commissioner, David Jonas for DOE general counsel, and Ryan Nelson and Joseph Balash for solicitor and assistant secretary for land and minerals management at DOI, respectively. The vote is set for 9:30 a.m. in Dirksen 366. Watch here.

**FIGHT AGAINST DOURSON HEATS UP:** Outside groups are ramping up what's expected to be an intense push against the nomination of Michael Dourson to head up EPA's chemicals office (and the lead role in implementing the revamped Toxic Substances Control Act). Clean Air Moms Action is out with an ad hitting him for being a "toxicologist-for-hire for corporate clients" who minimized the dangers of second-hand smoke and dangerous chemicals. The Environmental Defense Fund and Environmental Working Group are holding their own press call today to draw attention to Dourson's past work.

**WELCOME TO TUESDAY!** I'm your host Anthony Adragna, and LCV's Gene Karpinski was first up to identify former EPA chief Doug Costle as the unsuccessful Senate candidate in

Vermont. For today: Which Supreme Court justice once hosted the prime-time Emmys? Send your tips, energy gossip and comments to aadragna@politico.com, or follow us on Twitter @AnthonyAdragna, @Morning_Energy and @POLITICOPro.

**#CONCORDIA17:** POLITICO is the official media partner of the 2017 Concordia Annual Summit taking place in conjunction with the U.N. General Assembly in New York on Sept. 18-19. Join us in the Big Apple as we host conversations with world leaders, industry experts, current and former heads of states, C-suite executives, and senior congressional and administration officials. Among the POLITICOs: **Bryan Bender**, defense editor; **Jack Blanchard**, editor, Playbook London; **Helena Bottemiller Evich**, senior food and agriculture reporter; **Michael Crowley**, national security editor; **Susan Glasser**, chief foreign affairs correspondent & Global POLITICO host; **Nick Juliano**, deputy energy editor; **Matt Kaminski**, executive editor, POLITICO Europe; **Anna Palmer**, senior Washington correspondent and co-author of Playbook; and **Ben White**, chief economic correspondent. Register here.

**MURKOWSKI ENERGY BILL BACK ON ICE?** Congressional GOP lawmakers consider the bill S. 1460 (115) Sen. Lisa Murkowski introduced in June "too moderate" and don't expect it to move until next spring at the earliest, energy lobbyist and GOP sources tell ME. Republicans want to see language paring back DOE's role in approving LNG export projects in any energy bill package, sources said. One item lobbyists and Senate and House aides said would help jumpstart its chances would be adding language similar to the bills Republicans Ted Cruz and Bill Cassidy also introduced in June that would require DOE automatically approve LNG export applications to any country that isn't on a U.S. sanctions list.

**But even with that included,** the legislation could languish as the energy industry focuses its attention on the White House, said one GOP staffer familiar with the bill's negotiations. "I think something will happen this Congress, but there's no appetite to get anything done anytime soon. Spring sounds about right," the aide said.

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**MORE CLIMATE LUMINARY CHATTER TODAY (AND LEO ALERT!):** John Kerry's climate change summit is back for another packed day of action at Yale. First up at 10:30 a.m.: A session on what non-federal entities are doing to tackle the problem, featuring Govs. Jerry Brown and Jay Inslee, World Bank President Jim Yong Kim and Paris Mayor Anne Hidalgo. After that comes a panel at 2:30 p.m. on "potential new avenues for bipartisanship" with former Secretary of State James Baker and recorded video remarks from Sens. Lindsey Graham and John McCain .

**Bringing it home:** Kerry closes his summit at 5:00 p.m. along with remarks from actor/activist Leonardo DiCaprio. Watch all the events online here.

**EXPECT MORE OF THESE!** The Sierra Club filed a lawsuit Monday in the U.S. District

Court for the District of Columbia seeking to compel EPA to release a host of records about the activities of Administrator Scott Pruitt, including his schedule, list of meetings and records of communications with outside parties, your ME hosts report . The legal actions comes after the group filed Freedom of Information Act requests in June and the agency has not yet produced responsive records nor provided any indication of when it might be able to.

**BISHOP SEEKS INVESTIGATION ON MONUMENT REPORT LEAK:** As Democrats and outside groups condemned the leak of Zinke's recommendations on national monument (and threatened immediate legal action), House Natural Resources Chairman Rob Bishop said its release warranted investigation. "The fact this was leaked is troubling and merits an immediate and thorough investigation," Bishop said. "The President should have the time to evaluate the Secretary's review and develop actions without the encumbrance of incomplete information being leaked to the press."

**CLINTON TO FEDERAL WORKERS: DON'T QUIT:** Hillary Clinton urged federal employees to remain in their posts if possible, arguing their experience is needed more now than ever, POLITICO's Gabriel Debenedetti reports . "I don't want us to lose the decades - really, if you added it all up, the thousands of years - of experience in the EPA, in the State Department, in the Labor Department, in a lot of the places being targeted by the administration," Clinton said at an event at the Warner Theatre in Washington. "At some point they're going to need you, and the country is going to need you. And I hope you're still there."

**VIRGIN ISLANDS NOT READY FOR HURRICANE:** Utility restoration efforts are now on pause with Hurricane Maria bearing down, but the U.S. Virgin Islands lack adequate basic supplies like drinking water and electric generators, POLITICO's Sarah Ferris reports, citing internal FEMA briefing documents.

**EXAMINING VEGETATION MANAGEMENT:** The Senate Energy committee will hear testimony regarding "the vegetation management requirements for electricity assets located on federal lands." Witnesses include representatives from the Forest Service, BLM, the Wilderness Society, Arizona Public Service and a Montana electric cooperative. "I fully recognize that the fires burning in Montana today were all lightning sparked. But, for me, these fires serve as a vivid reminder and warning of what could occur as a result of long delays in permit approvals and inconsistent application of policies by federal land managers," Mark Hayden, Missoula Electric Cooperative general manager, will say.

**STEYER HITS TRUMP OVER CLIMATE:** Billionaire environmentalist Tom Steyer is criticizing Trump over his failure to act on climate in a full-page ad appearing today in *The New York Post,* one of the president's preferred papers. "The most dangerous part of a hurricane isn't the wind or the surge," the ad says. "It's a President who fails to act on climate change."

**MAIL QUESTION! INTERIOR ORDER QUESTIONED:** House Natural Resources Ranking Member Raul Grijalva sent a letter Monday seeking additional information on an Interior order setting page and time limits on National Environmental Policy Act reviews. Grijalva argues the agency failed to provide adequate evidence that NEPA analyses are indeed overly complex or that they have caused infrastructure project delays.

**LEAKED EPA MEMO MANDATES ANTI-LEAK TRAINING:** All federal agency employees this week will undergo a one-hour training course for employees on preventing leaks, according to a EPA memorandum slipped under the door to ME. "As federal government employees and federal contractors, we have a responsibility to properly protect this information from unauthorized disclosure," Donna J. Vizian, acting assistant administrator for EPA's Office of Administration and Resources Management, wrote. The agency didn't respond to request for comment.

**RUFFALO SENDING CLIMATE PLEA:** Actor Mark Ruffalo is emailing the Progressive Change Campaign Committee's 1 million members today, urging them to donate to Hurricane Irma relief and fight back against Pruitt. "As we help hurricane victims, we need to stay true to our progressive values," he'll say. "This means acknowledging climate change and remembering that marginalized communities who are least equipped to escape are hardest hit in crises like this."

**SCIENTIST PAC ROLLS OUT ENDORSEMENTS:** 314 Action, which backs scientific professionals seeking public office, announced endorsements of four House hopefuls Monday: Mai-Khanh Tran against Rep. Ed Royce; Joseph Kopser against House Science Chairman Lamar Smith; RD Huffstetler against Rep. Tom Garrett; and Kathie Allen, who's seeking to replace former Rep. Jason Chaffetz. The group also endorsed Ralph Northam's run for Virginia governor.

**REPORT: ASSESSING RISKS TO RATEPAYERS:** Oil Change International is out today with a report in partnership with Public Citizen and the Sierra Club arguing FERC offers little meaningful analysis of market need for new gas pipelines. "FERC fails ratepayers when it takes at face value pipeline company estimates of future gas demand while the momentum behind clean energy's disruption of fossil fuel markets is accelerating," Lorne Stockman, senior research analyst at Oil Change International, said in a statement.

**REPORT: 15 PLACES LIKELY FOR ENERGY DEVELOPMENT:** The Wilderness Society is out with a report today examining 15 places on public lands seen as likely targets for drilling, mining and other energy development by the Trump administration. "Some places are simply too wild to drill," Jamie Williams, president of The Wilderness Society, said in a statement. "The federal government must resist pressure from energy companies and other special interests to open up our last remaining wild places for development."

**ZINKE'S 'HAVING A BALL':** Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke invoked his well-known love of Teddy Roosevelt and said he was "having a ball" running his agency in a Monday interview with the Washington Examiner. "No one loves public land more," Zinke said. "Roosevelt, who've I've admired since I was a Boy Scout, had it right. He carved the path of putting under federal protection millions of acres and and beginning our experience of our public lands, unique to the U.S." The secretary added that Trump "has got a lot of Roosevelt in him, in that he's a man of action."

**MOVER, SHAKER:** Todd Snitchler has joined the American Petroleum Institute as group

director for the association's market development department. He previously chaired both the Public Utilities Commission and the Power Siting Board of Ohio.

**SPOTTED:** At the Capitol last night, STARZ screened "Age of Consequences," a new documentary examining how climate change is affecting U.S. national security and global stability. Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse delivered opening comments before the screening, which was followed by a panel discussion featuring David Titley, founding director of the U.S. Navy's Task Force on Climate Change and the film's executive producer Sophie Robinson. The documentary premiered on STARZ Monday.

**QUICK HITS**

- Study: 'Unprecedented' rain, warmth for Alaska by end of century. Alaska Dispatch News.

- GOP lawmakers: Move Appalachian agency out of Washington. AP.

- World reliance on coal will last for decades, report finds. The Australian.

- Judges request ending provisions for outside attorneys in DAPL cases. Bismarck Tribune.

- U.S. Governors at U.N. Assembly: 'You Have Allies' on Climate Change. New York Times.

- VC Summer nuclear expansion could be finished some day, Santee Cooper chief says. The State.

- Virginia's environmental agency to press ahead on pipeline permits as other states hit the brakes. Richmond Times-Dispatch.

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*To view online*:
http://www.politico.com/tipsheets/morning-energy/2017/09/19/climate-talk-looms-throughout-un-meetings-222358

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