Message

From: Morning Consult [energy@e.morningconsult.com]
Sent: 10/19/2016 11:53:01 AM
To: Murray, Bill [Murray.Bill@epa.gov]
Subject: Morning Consult Energy, Presented by Nuclear Matters: Leaked Emails Show Podesta Called for Harvard Protests; Chinese Coal Production Drops

By Jack Fitzpatrick

Today's Washington Brief

- Hacked emails released by Wikileaks show John Podesta, Hillary Clinton's campaign manager, hoped to spark a Harvard campus revolt against Laurence Tribe, a law professor who has criticized Obama administration climate regulations. Podesta emailed billionaire activist Tom Steyer in March 2015 and asked him to get 350.org founder Bill McKibben to organize student protests. (Washington Examiner)

- The Obama administration released a report on Tuesday with dozens of recommendations for gas storage operators, in response to the Aliso Canyon methane leak that lasted from October 2015 to February 2016. But some environmentalists said the key will be the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration taking greater authority. (Morning Consult)

- A Nevada initiative on the ballot in November would end NV Energy's monopoly and create a market where customers can choose their provider. The measure is backed by Las Vegas casinos and others. (The Wall Street Journal)

Today's Business Brief

- China's coal production dropped in September, down 0.4 percent from August and down 12.3 percent from September 2015. President Xi Jinping has ordered miners to lower output to the equivalent of 276 days of production, down from 330 days. (Bloomberg News)

- Siemens signed a new power service agreement in Thailand to continue providing service and maintenance at the Korat 1 and Korat 2 wind power projects, which can produce about 207 megawatts of energy, in Nakorn Rachasrima Province for the next 13 years. The agreement is the first wind power service extension for Siemens in Thailand. (Electric Light & Power)

- Oil rose by around 1 percent on Wednesday, boosted by evidence of declining production in China and falling U.S. inventories, while an upbeat OPEC statement on its planned output cut also supported the market. Brent crude futures were at $52.42 a barrel, up 74 cents on the day by 5:22 a.m. ET, while West Texas Intermediate crude oil futures were up 73 cents at $51.02 a barrel. (Reuters)

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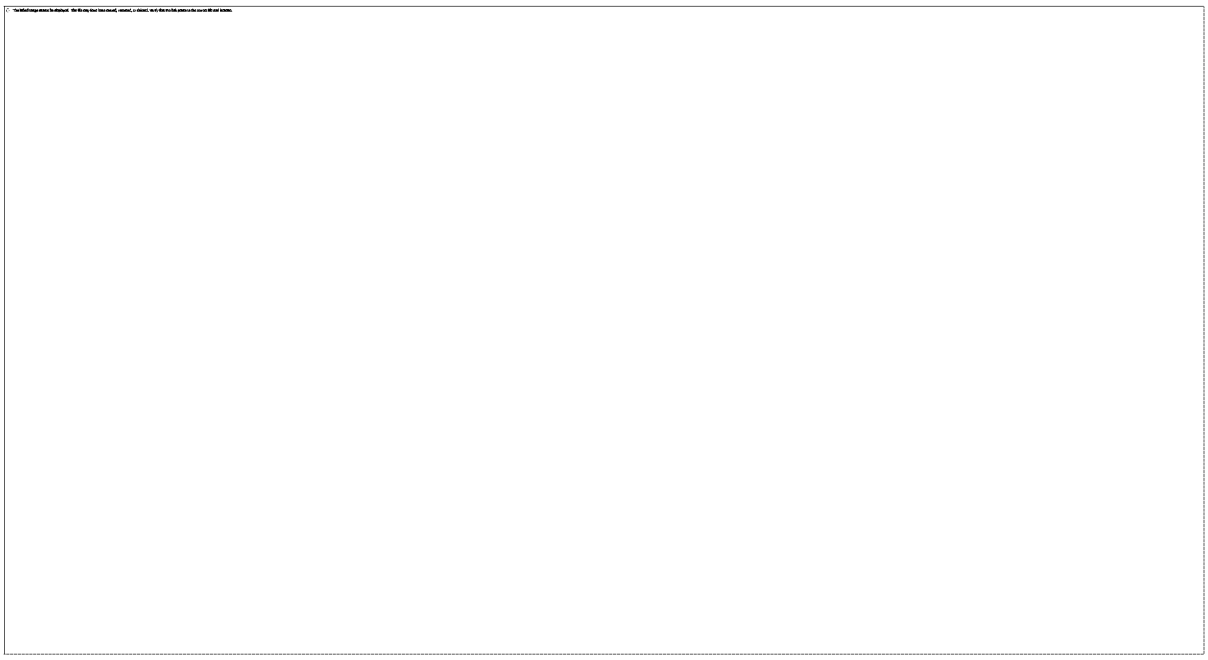
Today's Chart Review

Global Wind Energy Outlook 2016
Global Wind Energy Council



Mark Your Calendars (All Times Eastern)

Wednesday

Council of Industrial Boiler Owners holds its annual meeting in Woodstock, Vt.

Thursday

Council of Industrial Boiler Owners holds its annual meeting in Woodstock, Vt.

Hosnia Hashim, Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Petrochemical Industries Company of Kuwait, speaks at Columbia University's Center on Global Energy Policy **10 a.m.**

Friday

Council of Industrial Boiler Owners holds its annual meeting in Woodstock, Vt.

General

Hacked: Podesta targeted law professor in planning student climate revolt
John Siciliano, Washington Examiner

Hillary Clinton's campaign chairman tried to spark a campus revolt at Harvard University against one of President Obama's mentors who opposed the administration's climate regulations, according to illegally obtained emails posted by WikiLeaks Tuesday. Clinton campaign chairman John Podesta tried to pull together environmental activists such as billionaire Tom Steyer to tap others in the climate camp to foment protests against constitutional law professor Laurence Tribe, according to an email sent by Podesta to Steyer in March 2015.

Common household chemicals hurt our health ... and cost us billions
Susan Scutti, CNN

Routine contact with plastic bottles, toys, food cans, cosmetics and flame retardants containing "endocrine-disrupting chemicals" results in ingestion, leading to a toxic buildup and potentially a variety of medical conditions. Routine exposure to these chemicals adds up to annual costs in excess of $340 billion - a whopping price tag that comes in the form of poor health, increased medical bills and lost income, according to researchers at NYU Langone Medical Center.

American Chemistry Council Says Chaffetz Is Right to Question Study on Glyphosate
Jack Fitzpatrick, Morning Consult

The American Chemistry Council on Tuesday praised House Oversight Chairman Jason Chaffetz's skepticism about federal funding for the International Agency for Research on Cancer, as the agency's research on a widely used herbicide comes under scrutiny. The council wrote a letter to the Utah Republican saying it "has serious concerns about the lack of transparency, rigor and relevance" of the IARC program that released a report saying glyphosate, which is used in Monsanto's "Roundup" weed killer, could cause cancer.

Sierra Club, LCV Hit Heck on Solar Jobs in Second Ad
Jack Fitzpatrick, Morning Consult

The Sierra Club and LCV Victory Fund doubled down on a solar-focused campaign against Rep. Joe Heck (R-Nevada) on Tuesday, releasing a second TV ad in a $1.85 million Nevada Senate ad campaign. The ad points to Nevada's 8,764 solar-industry jobs as of 2015, according to the Solar Foundation, and says Heck "puts their jobs at risk, voting against Nevada solar."

Crude Rises on OPEC Deal Optimism; Chinese Data Weighs on Stocks
James Regan and Kelly Gilblom, Bloomberg News

Oil rose on signs the world's largest producers will honor a deal to pare a surplus, boosting currencies of exporters including the ruble, while Chinese economic data damped demand for equities. West Texas Intermediate crude climbed for a second day after industry data showed U.S. stockpiles declined and Saudi Arabia's Minister of Energy and Industry Khalid Al-Falih said many nations are willing to join OPEC in cutting production.

Oil & Natural Gas

Agencies Call for Safety Reforms in Response to Methane Leak
Jack Fitzpatrick, Morning Consult

The Obama administration offered dozens of safety recommendations for gas storage operators on Tuesday in a response to the methane leak at a Southern California natural gas facility, but some environmentalists said the suggestions won't help without more government action. The report was prompted by the leak at Aliso Canyon, which was discovered in October 2015 and wasn't plugged until February 2016.

Utilities & Infrastructure

Nevada Voters Weigh Deregulation of Electricity Market
Cassandra Sweet, The Wall Street Journal

A November ballot measure backed by Las Vegas casinos and other firms would end the monopoly of the state's largest utility, NV Energy, owned by Warren Buffett's Berkshire Hathaway Inc., and create a competitive retail power market where customers could choose their provider. The measure has bipartisan support from such figures as Sheldon Adelson, owner of Las Vegas Sands Corp. and a major

donor to Republicans, and Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid, the retiring Nevada Democrat.

Jewell to Urge FERC to Approve Major Dam Removal Project in Oregon, California
Jack Fitzpatrick, Morning Consult

Interior Secretary Sally Jewell will encourage the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to approve the decommissioning of four dams on the Klamath River in Oregon and California, deputy secretary Michael L. Connor said Tuesday. Jewell will send FERC a letter today "strongly making the case as to why removal of those four dams makes sense," Connor said at a panel discussion organized by the Center for American Progress.

Renewables

Siemens signs wind power service agreement in Thailand
Electric Light & Power

Siemens has received an order to continue providing service and maintenance at the Korat 1 and Korat 2 wind power projects in Nakorn Rachasrima Province in Northeastern Thailand for the next 13 years and to provide performance-enhancing upgrades to the projects' wind turbines. The agreement is the first wind power service extension for Siemens in Thailand.

SolarCity to offer Airbnb members up to $1,000 cash back on solar systems
Darrell Etherington, TechCrunch

SolarCity and Airbnb are teaming up to provide Airbnb members a discount when it comes to installing solar power generation systems on their own homes. Airbnb community members (including hosts and guests), will now be eligible to receive as much as $1,000 in cash back rebates on solar system installations, in all markets where SolarCity currently operates

Department of Energy eyes hydropower to help Alaska
Alex DeMarban, Alaska Dispatch News

The lone U.S. Department of Energy employee in Alaska is turning his attention to small-scale hydropower projects that could help rural communities burdened with high energy prices, including three Northwest Alaska villages. As Alaska program manager for the Office of Indian Energy, Givey Kochanowski is working to unite

resources across the United States and Alaska to support energy development and efficiency programs across the state.

Argentina Awards 400 MW Of Solar In 1.1 GW Renewable Energy Auction
Glenn Meyers, CleanTechnica

Argentina has awarded a total of 1.1 GW of renewable energy projects in its first auction round of the RenovAR program. Of this total, 400 MW are solar electricity projects.

Coal

China Coal Mining Slips as Efforts to Boost Output Ramp Up
Bloomberg News

China's coal production dipped in September as government efforts to reverse some output restrictions are still ramping up. Coal output by the world's largest miner last month slipped 0.4 percent from August to 276.96 million metric tons, according to data from the National Bureau of Statistics on Wednesday.

Glencore's Coal Hedge Gets More Painful as Prices Rally
Jesse Riseborough, Bloomberg News

The rally in thermal coal is taking a bigger bite out of Glencore Plc's profits after the world's biggest exporter of the fuel locked in prices prior to the surge. The Swiss company reported a $395 million mark-to-market non-cash loss in the first half on hedges for future sales, which applied to the equivalent of about half its annual production.

Vancouver, Wash., council votes to oppose Longview coal terminal plan
Lauren Dake, The Columbian

The Vancouver City Council approved a resolution opposing the proposed Millennium coal terminal on Monday night. The terminal is slated for Longview, but would bring up to eight coal-carrying trains at 125 cars each through Vancouver every day, according to a state environmental review.

Nuclear

Controversial new nuclear plant ignites Belarus
Jonathan Brown, Al Jazeera

Thirty years after an explosion at the Chernobyl nuclear power station devastated the countryside on the southern border of Belarus, leaving behind lasting consequences for millions of people, the construction of a new nuclear station is stirring discord between government officials, opposition politicians, the local populace and foreign diplomats. The death of a 43-year-old Russian contractor last month, after an explosion at the Belarusian nuclear power plant (BelNPP) construction site near Astravets in northern Belarus on its border with Lithuania, is only the latest in a string of little-publicized incidents that has raised concerns at home and abroad about the how the station is being constructed.

California's cleaner dream
Leslie Hook and Ed Crooks, Financial Times

Diablo Canyon, the last nuclear plant in California, is to be shut down. In June, Pacific Gas & Electric, the utility that owns the plant, said it would close within a decade and that most of the power it supplies replaced by renewable energy.

Climate

Indonesia's Parliament Ratifies Paris Climate Change Deal
The Associated Press

Indonesia's parliament has ratified the Paris climate change agreement, obligating one of the world's biggest polluters to limit its carbon emissions. All 10 political parties in Indonesia's parliament agreed Wednesday to endorse the agreement, paving the way for it to become part of the country's laws.

2016 locked into being hottest year on record, Nasa says
Fiona Harvey, The Guardian

Nasa has all but declared this year to be the hottest yet recorded, after September narrowly turned out the warmest in modern temperature monitoring. Last month was 0.91C above the average temperature for that time of year from 1951 to 1980, the benchmark used for measuring rises.

Longest-ever streak of record-warm months ends
Devin Henry, The Hill

The longest-ever streak of monthly temperature records came to an end last month, federal scientists reported Monday, as 2016's September clocked in as only the second-hottest on record. Before last month, a record 16 months in a row had broken their global high temperature marks.

The West Is Burning, And Climate Change Is Partly To Blame
Cally Carswell, FiveThirtyEight

So far this year, wildfires have scorched nearly 5 million acres in the U.S. That sounds like a lot, but compared to 2015, the season has been downright tame.

A Message from Nuclear Matters:

Providing more than 62% of America's carbon-free electricity, existing, state-of- the-art nuclear energy plants play a vital role in achieving our clean-energy and carbon-reduction goals. Learn more at NuclearMatters.com.

Opinions, Editorials & Perspectives

The Missing Climate Change Debate
Bloomberg View

For a presidential campaign notable for dark warnings of the coming apocalypse, the one thing that actually could bring about an apocalypse - climate change - has been conspicuously absent from the debates. A final chance to raise the issue will come Wednesday, during the campaign's last debate.

Don't let foreign interests prevent US biofuels future
Retired Maj. Gen. Paul D. Eaton, The Hill

Ninety-seven percent America's motor fuel is blended with homegrown ethanol. From an energy security perspective, this is major progress that should be celebrated and encouraged. Energy is not a luxury; it's a necessity that has shaped conflicts across the globe and plunged U.S. warfighters into countless battles to protect U.S. interests, allies, and access to scarce resources.

The left vs. a carbon tax
David Roberts, Vox

There's a carbon tax on the ballot in Washington this November, meant not just to put the state on the path to its climate targets but to serve as an example to other states. The measure, called Initiative 732, isn't just any carbon tax, either. It's a big one.

A Message from Nuclear Matters:

Some of America's existing nuclear energy plants face early closure due to current economic and policy conditions. The industry supports more than 475,000 jobs nationally and provides critical tax revenue locally for roads, schools and other public priorities. We need policymakers to support policies that keep safe and reliable nuclear energy plants working for all of us. Voice your support for policies that drive our national economy and join us at NuclearMatters.com.

Research Reports, Issue Briefs & Case Studies

Global Wind Energy Outlook 2016
Global Wind Energy Council

In the next critical 5-15 years we will answer the question as to whether or not we as a species will have responded to the existential threat of climate change, or whether we spend the second half of this century trying to cope with the disaster we have caused. With new markets developing rapidly across Africa, Asia and Latin America; unprecedented policy stability in the US market; strong and continued commitment from India and China; and the rapidly dropping prices for wind power both on and offshore - on the whole things look very good for the industry.

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