Message

From: Morning Consult [reply@e.morningconsult.com]
Sent: 7/11/2018 1:26:06 PM
To: Mylott, Richard [Mylott.Richard@epa.gov]
Subject: Morning Consult Energy: Trump Criticizes Germany Over Its Energy Deals With Russia

ENERGY

By Jacqueline Toth

Top Stories

- At the opening of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization summit in Brussels, Trump said that Germany is "captive to Russia," calling it "very sad" that Germany has "a massive oil and gas deal with Russia," appearing to refer to the Nord Stream 2 pipeline which, if completed, will reach from Russia to Germany. The United States and some other members of the European Union oppose the project, saying it could grant Moscow more power over Western Europe. (The Associated Press)

- Envoys from the Departments of State and Treasury met with Saudi Arabian ministries for three days to discuss ways to sever money going into Iran without harming energy markets, according to an unidentified State Department official. The official said the United States is talking with Saudi Arabia and other countries to ensure oil markets have enough supply after the U.S. deadline of Nov. 4 for countries to stop buying Iranian oil or else face U.S. sanctions. (Bloomberg)

- Houston's Cheniere Energy Inc. and Chicago-based financial market operator CME Group Inc. are working on what would be the first futures contract for the physical delivery of U.S. liquefied natural gas, which could reduce the price risk for customers who agree to buy the gas at a set price in the future. The contract would be for gas delivery to Cheniere's Sabine Pass export terminal in Louisiana. (Houston Chronicle)

- As soon as next week, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers intends to start removing three large generators from Puerto Rican power

plants that were installed in November to help bring power to the island after Hurricane Maria, according to the Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority, but the removal of the generators could leave the island vulnerable to power outages this hurricane season. The Federal Emergency Management Agency in May had agreed to leave the generators there until Puerto Rico could purchase them, and PREPA spokesman Jose Blanco said the authority is still determining what to do next. (Reuters)

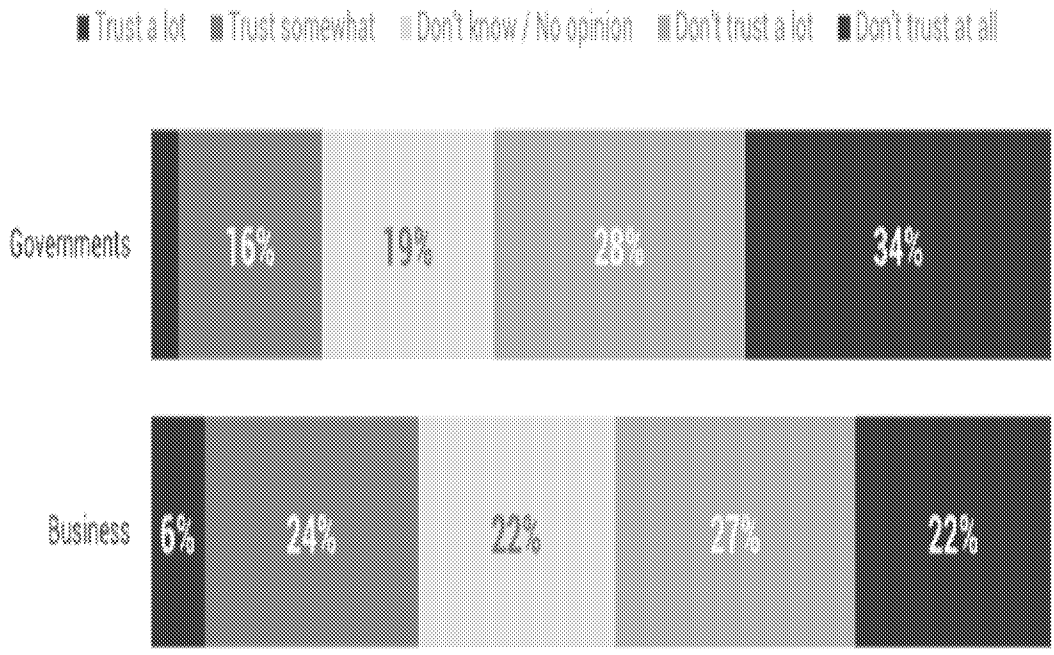
- Norway's oil fund, the largest sovereign wealth fund in the world, sold its holdings of bonds of Warren Buffett's PacifiCorp electric utility and may exclude the billionaire's Berkshire Hathaway Energy Co. and MidAmerican Energy Co. from its portfolio after placing them under observation due to the companies' use of coal. At the end of 2017, the fund owned $129 million in PacifiCorp, $164 million in Berkshire Hathaway Energy bonds and $33 million in MidAmerican. (Financial Times)

Chart Review

Democrats, GOP Have Little Faith Governments Will Combat Climate Change
Morning Consult

In Business We Trust?

How much do you trust the following to combat climate change?



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Poll conducted from June 22-24, 2018, among a national sample of 2,202 adults, with a margin of error of +/- 2%.

Events Calendar (All Times Local)

WEDNESDAY

National Association of County and City Health Officials annual meeting	6 a.m.

US Water Alliance 2018 One Water Summit	6:30 a.m.
DesignLights Consortium stakeholder meeting	7 a.m.
Smart Electric Power Alliance Grid Evolution Summit	7:30 a.m.
InterSolar North America conference	8:30 a.m.
Northeast Clean Energy Council event on the future of energy efficiency	8:30 a.m.
Stanford University course on reservoir simulation	8:30 a.m.
Electrical Energy Storage North America conference	9 a.m.
Senate Environment and Public Works hearing on low-cost federal infrastructure loans	10 a.m.
House Homeland Security hearing on U.S. critical infrastructure	10:30 a.m.
Moms Clean Air Force press conference on climate change	10:30 a.m.
House Water, Power and Oceans Subcommittee hearing on federal power administration legislation water facilities	2 p.m.
Senate National Parks Subcommittee hearing on the Restore Our Parks Act	3 p.m.
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Science Seminar Series	3 p.m.

THURSDAY

National Association of County and City Health Officials annual meeting	6 a.m.
US Water Alliance 2018 One Water Summit	6:30 a.m.

Smart Electric Power Alliance Grid Evolution Summit	7 a.m.
Stanford University course on reservoir simulation	8:30 a.m.
Atlantic Council discussion on President-Elect Andrés Manuel López Obrador	9 a.m.
Electrical Energy Storage North America conference	9 a.m.
InterSolar North America conference	9 a.m.
Bipartisan Policy Center panel on environmental progress in the oil and gas industry	10 a.m.
House Federal Lands Subcommittee hearing on livestock grazing	10 a.m.
Senate Energy and Natural Resources hearing on interstate delivery networks for natural gas and electricity	10 a.m.
Water Power Technologies Office webinar on the Marine Hydrokinetic Advanced Materials project	10 a.m.
Federal agencies webinar on low-cost building automation sensors and controls	12 p.m.
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Science Seminar Series	12 p.m.
Energy Department Better Buildings Residential Network peer exchange call	1 p.m.
Wilson Center event on China's environmental governance	2 p.m.
Coalition for a Resilient DC kickoff	6 p.m.

FRIDAY

Stanford University course on reservoir simulation	8:30 a.m.
InterSolar North America conference	9 a.m.
Electrical Energy Storage North America conference	9 a.m.

Data Done Right

Learn how your organization can harness the power of survey research data.

General

Trump claims Germany 'totally controlled' by Russia
Jonathan Lemire and Jill Colvin, The Associated Press

In a combative start to his NATO visit, President Donald Trump asserted Wednesday that a pipeline project has made Germany "totally controlled" by and "captive to Russia" and blasted allies' defense spending, opening what was expected to be a fraught summit with a list of grievances involving American allies.

Trump pardons ranchers who inspired armed occupation
Jennifer Yachnin and Jeremy P. Jacobs, E&E News

President Trump issued full pardons today to father-and-son ranchers Dwight and Steven Hammond, declaring "justice is overdue" for the pair

whose imprisonment for arson sparked the 2016 occupation of Oregon's Malheur National Wildlife Refuge.

Days after Scott Pruitt resigned, several top aides are also calling it quits at EPA
Juliet Eilperin and Brady Dennis, The Washington Post

Several top aides to former Environmental Protection Agency administrator Scott Pruitt are leaving the agency, less than a week after Pruitt resigned his post amid a slew of inquiries into his spending and management practices.

GOP senators willing to wait for a permanent Pruitt replacement
Anthony Adragna, Politico

Senate Republicans are in no hurry to tackle a bruising confirmation fight to permanently replace Scott Pruitt as head of the Environmental Protection Agency.

Office of Special Counsel opens case file on Zinke's 'Make America Great Again' socks
Marc Rod, CNN

The US Office of Special Counsel has opened a case file on whether Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke violated the Hatch Act when he tweeted a photo of himself wearing socks featuring President Donald Trump's "Make America Great Again" campaign slogan.

Brent oil falls more than $2 after Trump tariff threat, Libya ports reopen
Christopher Johnson, Reuters

Global oil benchmark Brent fell more than $2 a barrel on Wednesday after U.S. President Donald Trump threatened to levy new tariffs on China and Libya announced the reopening of key oil export terminals.

Oil and Natural Gas

U.S. Said to Meet Saudi Leaders to Discuss Iran Oil Sanctions
Nick Wadhams, Bloomberg

U.S. government teams spent three days in Saudi Arabia discussing ways to cut off money flows to Iran without disrupting energy markets as

Washington presses nations to stop buying Iranian oil by Nov. 4, a senior State Department official said.

Cheniere, CME Group partner on futures contract for U.S. LNG
James Osborne and Katherine Blunt, Houston Chronicle

Cheniere Energy is working with financial market operator CME Group to develop a futures contract for the delivery of U.S. liquefied natural gas, the latest in a series of early developments towards what some believe could be a transparent, global LNG market, similar to oil and other commodity markets.

Norway's oil fund sells out of Warren Buffett-owned utility
Richard Milne, Financial Times

The world's largest sovereign wealth fund has taken aim at Warren Buffett's energy companies, excluding one from its portfolio and putting two others under observation because of their use of coal.

US-China trade war could shake up Asia rankings for buyers of American crude
Oceana Zhou, Platts

China's position as top importer of US crude in Asia could be under threat as other major buyers, including South Korea, are keen to take the No. 1 spot if Beijing turns its back on North American oil amid escalating US-China trade war.

China and U.S. Impose Tariffs on Trade Flows That Don't Exist
Dan Murtaugh, Bloomberg

Natural gas, the cleanest and fastest-growing fossil fuel, has found itself in perhaps the oddest corner of the multi-billion dollar trade war between the world's two biggest economies.

Libya to resume oil exports 'within hours'
Heba Saleh, Financial Times

Libya's National Oil Corporation has announced that the country's production and export operations will resume at normal levels "within hours" after General Khalifa Haftar, the military strongman controlling eastern Libya, agreed to allow four export ports to reopen.

Rising Gas Prices Raise Concerns for U.S. Economy
Stephanie Yang, The Wall Street Journal

The highest retail gas prices in years are raising concerns about one of the longest-running U.S. economic expansions on record.

BNSF: Less oil spilled in derailment than previously thought
The Associated Press

BNSF Railway says less oil spilled from derailed tanker cars in northwest Iowa last month than originally believed.

Oil's New Technology Spells End of Boom for Roughnecks
Christopher M. Matthews, The Wall Street Journal

Technology has already transformed labor needs in most of the world's manufacturing. It's now upending the energy business, foretelling the end for one of the last sectors in America where blue-collar workers could depend on jobs paying six-figure salaries.

Blackstone Nears $3 Billion Close on Third Energy Fund
Kiel Porter, Bloomberg

Blackstone Group LP, the world's largest alternative investment firm, is nearing a first close of about $3 billion for its third energy fund, according to people with knowledge of the matter.

Utilities and Infrastructure

U.S. Army Corps to remove generators from Puerto Rico in storm season
Jessica Resnick-Ault, Reuters

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers plans to begin removing mega-generators providing backup power at Puerto Rico's power plants as soon as next week, as the plants are deemed stable, leaving the island vulnerable to power disruptions during hurricane season.

NYPA applies predictive monitoring strategy to transmission assets
Robert Walton, Utility Dive

The New York Power Authority announced Monday it would implement a critical asset performance management (APM) initiative to monitor its more than 1,400 miles of transmission lines.

Renewables

Solar Plan Collides With Farm Tradition in Pacific Northwest
Kirk Johnson, The New York Times

When a company from Seattle came calling, wanting to lease some land on Jeff and Jackie Brunson's 1,000-acre hay and oat farm for a solar energy project, they jumped at the idea, and the prospect of receiving regular rent checks.

German Wind, Solar Power Beat Coal Generation for First Time
Brian Parker, Bloomberg

Germany's wind and solar farms surpassed lignite and hard coal as sources of electricity for the first time during the six months to June, a sign the market is starting to squeeze out the dirtiest fossil fuels.

Coal

Former BP CEO to Steer Glencore's Response to U.S. Subpoena
Scott Patterson, The Wall Street Journal

Glencore PLC Chairman Tony Hayward is heading a new board committee to oversee the Anglo-Swiss mining giant's response to a subpoena by the U.S. Department of Justice, the company said Wednesday.

Nuclear

Navajo Nation urges expansion of radiation exposure law
The Associated Press

From the end of World War II to the mid-1980s, about 30 million ton of uranium ore were extracted from lands belonging to the nation's largest American Indian reservation. Today, across the Navajo Nation, sit dozens of abandoned uranium mines and the high risk to residents of contamination exposure.

Climate

U.S. regulators grappling with self-driving vehicle security
David Shepardson, Reuters

In closed-door meetings last March, U.S. transportation regulators and others grappled with questions about whether police should have the power to disable self-driving cars and whether an automatic alert that a robo-taxi had been in a wreck could violate an occupant's privacy, a report released on Tuesday showed.

Opinions, Editorials and Perspectives

U.S. Must Take the Lead in Carbon Capture and Storage Technologies
Demetrios Karoutsos, Morning Consult

In February, President Donald Trump signed landmark legislation into law offering major tax credits for fossil fuel companies that capture and store or recycle carbon emissions. And while some environmentalists will surely cry foul, the new credits may jump-start a new wave of innovation in carbon capture and storage technologies that could eventually help pave the way for global-scale carbon dioxide mitigation from fossil fuels.

Partisanship shouldn't undermine our fisheries
U.S. Representative Don Young (R-Alaska), The Hill

Partisan rancor may be standard operating procedure for most of Washington, but let's not allow it to unravel the progress we've made for our country's vital fisheries. As my colleagues and my state know, I've been on the frontlines for the fight for our fisheries for over 40 years - and I have no intentions of letting up.

A conservation success is on the line
Fredd Krupp and Gene Karpinski, The Hill

Attacks on our environment by the Trump administration are in the headlines almost every day. But you probably don't know that this week the U.S. House of Representatives is planning to gut the law responsible for one of the greatest conservation success stories of our time: the remarkable rebound of fish populations in U.S. waters.

A trade war threatens the U.S. economy
Jack Gerard et al., Washington Examiner

Taxpayers and businesses alike celebrated in President Trump's first year when he reformed regulations and signed a major tax cut - all designed to spur a new era of prosperity and growth for the U.S. economy.

Research Reports

Implications of Policy-Driven Residential Electrification
American Gas Association

As states and local municipalities pursue "deep decarbonization" of their economies and as the electric grid becomes less carbon-intensive some policy-makers and environmental advocates are looking at mandated residential electrification as one option for reducing residential greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. This AGA study sets out to answer several key questions regarding potential costs and benefits of these residential electrification policies

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