Message

From: Morning Consult [reply@e.morningconsult.com]
Sent: 9/19/2018 12:53:13 PM
To: Smidinger, Betsy [Smidinger.Betsy@epa.gov]
Subject: Morning Consult Energy: Interior Finalizes Rule to Ease Restrictions on Methane

By Jacqueline Toth

Top Stories

- The Interior Department finalized its replacement of the previous administration's regulation intended to reduce leaking, venting and flaring of the greenhouse gas methane from oil and gas drilling on federal and tribal land, effectively reinstating decades-old guidelines. Interior officials said the rule replacement reduces costs and regulatory duplication, but the regulation is expected to be challenged in court. (The New York Times)

- In a joint news conference with Polish President Andrzej Duda, President Donald Trump said the United States would ship "a

tremendous amount" of liquefied natural gas to the eastern European country at "a pretty good price." Trump added that the two nations are committed to energy diversity in Europe and reiterated his position against Russia's Nord Stream 2 pipeline project. (Platts)

- Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Chief of Staff Anthony Pugliese corresponded and met with Raheem Kassam, a former editor at the Breitbart news outlet in London who also once advised the right-wing populist politician Nigel Farage, according to documents obtained by a news organization through a federal records request. Pugliese has been scrutinized since reports indicated he stated that FERC, which is an independent and bipartisan agency, is working with the White House to determine which U.S. power plants need federal support. (E&E News)

Chart Review

43% Plurality of Voters Oppose EPA's Proposed Easing of Methane Rule
Jacqueline Toth, Morning Consult

Events Calendar (All Times Local)

WEDNESDAY

Passive House Institute North American Passive House Conference	7 a.m.
Department of Energy's Energy Storage Summit	8 a.m.
U.S.-China Oil & Gas Industry Forum	8 a.m.

Turbomachinery and Pump Symposia	8:30 a.m.
Fifth-Annual Cost-Effective Well Site Facilities Onshore event	8:50 a.m.
Pacific Ocean Energy Trust Ocean Renewable Energy Conference	8:50 a.m.

THURSDAY

Passive House Institute North American Passive House Conference	7 a.m.
U.S.-China Oil & Gas Industry Forum	7:30 a.m.
S&P Global Platts Annual Coal Marketing Days Conference	7:45 a.m.
Fifth-Annual Cost-Effective Well Site Facilities Onshore event	8:50 a.m.
German Marshall Fund roundtable on the digital-energy nexus	8:30 a.m.
Turbomachinery and Pump Symposia	8:30 a.m.
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission meeting	10 a.m.
National Journal discussion on the changing energy grid	11 a.m.
World Resources Institute seminar on excess urban heat	12 p.m.

FRIDAY

Passive House Institute North American Passive House Conference	7 a.m.
S&P Global Platts Annual Coal Marketing Days Conference	7:45 a.m.
Environmental Law Institute event on renewable energy finance	8:30 a.m.

Virginia Offshore Wind Executive Summit	9 a.m.
Global America Business Institute briefing on the versatile test reactor	12 p.m.
Heritage Foundation event on fuel cell company in Delaware	12 p.m.
SAIS talk on the District of Columbia Sustainable Energy Utility model	12:30 p.m.

Data Done Right

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

General

Energy traders and banks back new blockchain platforms
Emiko Terazono, Financial Times

A group of the world's leading energy traders and banks is looking to shake up the centuries-old trade finance industry with the launch of two new platforms underpinned by blockchain technology.

Carlos Curbelo, the Republican who's all in on climate change
Josh Siegel, Washington Examiner

On a water-front plot of paradise in the Florida Keys, Rep. Carlos Curbelo and state and local government officials dug shovels into the sand beneath their feet to symbolize breaking ground on a new affordable apartment complex.

Bayer's Monsanto asks U.S. court to toss $289 million glyphosate verdict
Tina Bellon, Reuters

Bayer AG unit Monsanto on Tuesday asked a California judge to throw out a $289 million jury verdict awarded to a man who alleged the company's glyphosate-based weed-killers, including Roundup, gave him cancer.

A (toxic) dive into Fla.'s red tide
Cecelia Smith-Schoenwalder, E&E News

It's been the summer of slime for Florida, and fall doesn't look much better.

Oil holds near $80, supply concern expected to underpin prices
Amanda Cooper, Reuters

Oil steadied on Wednesday, as concerns that producers may fail to cover a shortfall in supply once U.S. sanctions on Iran come into force outweighed an increase in U.S. inventories.

Oil and Natural Gas

U.K. Corruption Trial to Hear from Big Oil
Mara Lemos Stein, The Wall Street Journal

U.K. prosecutors will call a senior procurement officer from ConocoPhillips as a key witness in the London trial of four individuals charged with bribery to secure business related to the Jasmine gas field in the North Sea.

Enbridge to Buy Units for $7.1 Billion to Simplify Structure
Rachel Adams-Heard et al., Bloomberg

Enbridge Inc. agreed to acquire the shares it doesn't already own in three North American units for about $7.1 billion as the Canadian pipeline giant moves to simplify its corporate structure.

Riverstone Is Planning $900 Million Sale of Abaco Energy
Kiel Porter, Bloomberg

Riverstone Holdings LLC is preparing to sell oilfield services equipment company Abaco Energy Technologies, which could fetch about $900 million, according to people with knowledge of the matter.

US LNG exporters fret China tariff move as they try to market terminals
Harry Weber and Stuart Elliott, Platts

China's decision on Tuesday to hit US LNG imports with a 10% tariff dealt a blow to the prospects of US Gulf Coast export projects that are hoping to start up in the early to mid-2020s, while LNG developers in other countries could get a boost from the news by using the trade war to court Beijing buyers.

California, New Mexico Sue Trump for Axing Methane-Waste Rules
Kartikay Mehrotra, Bloomberg

California and New Mexico are suing the Trump administration to block it from rolling back Obama-era regulations aimed at reducing waste from natural gas exploration on public lands.California and New Mexico sued

the Trump administration on Tuesday over its action to repeal requirements aimed at reducing methane leakage on federal and tribal lands, Atty. Gen. Xavier Becerra said.

43% Plurality of Voters Oppose EPA's Proposed Easing of Methane Rule
Jacqueline Toth, Morning Consult

A 43 percent plurality of voters oppose the Environmental Protection Agency's proposal to make targeted changes to an Obama-era regulation that addresses methane releases from certain oil and gas operations, while about two in three Republicans back the EPA's proposal, according to the latest Morning Consult/Politico poll.

Utilities and Infrastructure

Former FERC staffer calls on Pugliese to step down over emails lauding far-right politicians
Gavin Bade, Utility Dive

A former staffer for a Republican chairman of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) is calling for the agency's chief of staff to resign over reports that he tried to meet with right-wing British politician Nigel Farage and praised populist Italian Deputy Prime Minister Matteo Salvini.

Lawsuit filed against gas company after Massachusetts blasts
The Associated Press

Lawyers filed a class action lawsuit Tuesday on behalf of people who were forced out of their homes for days when dozens of natural gas explosions and fires ripped through three Massachusetts towns.

Southwest Power Pool signs up utilities for its reliability coordinator services
Robert Walton, Utility Dive

Southwest Power Pool (SPP) said Monday it has received commitments from more than a dozen western utilities to be its first customers when it begins offering reliability coordinator (RC) services in December 2019.

FERC Grants CFE International Access to U.S. Markets
Tom Kleckner, RTO Insider

FERC on Tuesday granted Mexican wholesale marketer CFE International's request to sell energy, capacity and ancillary services at market-based rates, clearing the way for the company to compete in U.S. power markets.

As utilities pass along tax savings, consumers may miss out
L.M. Sixel, Houston Chronicle

State regulators have forced utilities in Texas to pass along $333 million in federal tax savings by cutting their electric distribution rates, but consumers may never see a dime of that money.

Renewables

Tesla Criminal Probe Into Musk Tweet Seen Opening Pandora's Box
Tom Schoenberg et al., Bloomberg

All it took to draw the U.S. Justice Department into investigating Tesla Inc. was a single tweet by Chairman Elon Musk. But now that prosecutors have a toehold, they can dig in to look for other signs of misconduct at the electric-car maker.

New Jersey opens biggest offshore wind solicitation at 1.1 GW, expects 2.4 GW more
Iulia Gheorghiu, Utility Dive

The New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (BPU) opened on Monday the largest single-state solicitation of offshore wind in the U.S., for 1,100 MW of capacity.

Coal

Duke Energy Closes Coal-Ash Breach After Spill Flows Into Fishing Lake
Jim Efstathiou Jr., Bloomberg

Duke Energy Corp. has closed the breach of its coal-ash landfill in North Carolina, but not before the spill leaked into a popular fishing lake that hosts regular tournaments for anglers.

Nuclear

Congress Passes Measure to Protect Board that Monitors Nuclear Safety
Rebecca Moss, Santa Fe New Mexican

Congress has moved to block an effort to weaken a federal board that oversees worker and public safety at nuclear facilities, adding language to an appropriations bill to prevent the agency from altering the board's structure.

Climate

Carbon credits may help expand EV charging infrastructure: industry group
Sanjana Shivdas, Reuters

Carbon credits could be used to cut the high costs involved with setting up charging stations for electric vehicles, an industry lobby said on Tuesday.

Opinions, Editorials and Perspectives

Avoiding the Next Black Swan
John Shkor, Morning Consult

The dot-com bubble of 2001 and the 2008 financial crash of the housing market brought the term "black swan" into common usage and taught us to pay attention to nominally unforeseeable events with potentially catastrophic consequences. Today, warnings that the nation's electrical grid is being hacked by hostile entities tell us that wholesale disruption of our electricity supply may be the next black swan.

The Guardian view on clean air zones: cities must be bold
The Editorial Board, The Guardian

The slogan "Think global, act local", popular among environmentalists since the 1970s, is apt when applied to the politics of air. While pollution by greenhouse gases, chiefly CO_2, requires international action, some emissions can be tackled much closer to home.

SunPower Wins Big in Section 201 Trade Case Exclusions
Emma Foehringer Merchant, Greentech Media

The U.S. Trade Representative on Tuesday filed a long-awaited document in the Federal Register detailing exclusions for Section 201 solar trade case tariffs. The exclusions, which are not retroactive, will be officially published on Wednesday.

Tale of four states: America's changing energy mix
Amy Harder, Axios

America's electricity mix has undergone profound changes over the last decade, with natural gas and renewables rising and coal declining.

Shell and Glencore Could Be Winners From Chinese Tariffs
Nathaniel Taplin, The Wall Street Journal

China and the U.S. may not yet be in an all-out trade war, but the trenches are getting wide and deep. The more obvious risks shouldn't blind investors to the opportunities.

Research Reports

Effective Carbon Rates 2018: Pricing Carbon Emissions Through Taxes and Emissions Trading
Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

Decarbonisation keeps climate change in check and contributes to cleaner air and water. Countries can price CO2-emissions to decarbonise their economies and steer them along a carbon-neutral growth path.

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