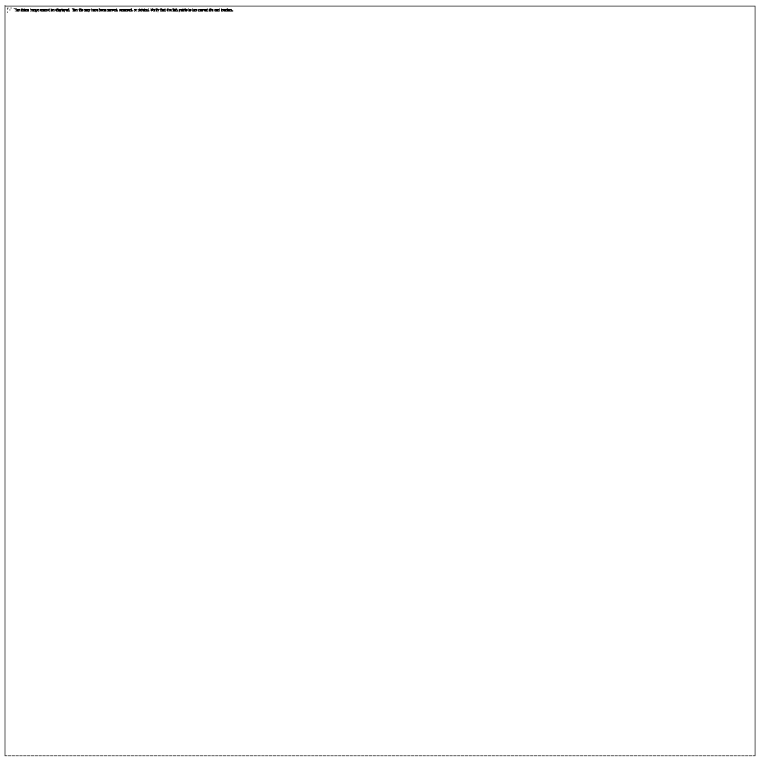
Message

From: Morning Consult [reply@e.morningconsult.com]
Sent: 7/5/2018 12:29:12 PM
To: Smidinger, Betsy [Smidinger.Betsy@epa.gov]
Subject: Morning Consult Energy: Pruitt Reportedly Asked Trump to Name Him Attorney General Temporarily



By Jacqueline Toth

Top Stories

- This spring, Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Scott Pruitt asked President Donald Trump to fire Attorney General Jeff Sessions and let Pruitt lead the Justice Department for 210 days under the Vacancies Reform Act, after which Pruitt said he would go back to Oklahoma and run for office, according to three people familiar with the proposal. In a statement, Pruitt called the report of his proposal "simply false," adding that he has maintained that he wants to see Sessions "succeed in his role." (CNN)

- David Vela, superintendent of Grand Teton National Park in Wyoming, is expected to be Trump's selection to direct the National Park Service in the Interior Department and has already been interviewed for the position, according to multiple sources familiar with the process. Vela, a veteran of the National Park Service, would be the first Hispanic to head the agency. (E&E News)

- Natural resource giant Glencore PLC received a subpoena from the Department of Justice dated July 2, according to the company, for records regarding the firm's compliance in three nations with U.S. corruption and money-laundering laws. The scope of the subpoena, which covers Glencore's operations in the Congo, Venezuela and Nigeria, spans more than a decade, which is indicative of "a relatively thorough investigation," according to Tyler Broda, an analyst with RBC Capital Markets LLC. (The Wall Street Journal)

- Under a deal announced by the two companies, BP PLC will transfer its entire 45.1 percent stake and associated pipelines in the Alaskan North Slope's Greater Kuparuk Area to ConocoPhillips Co. In return, ConocoPhillips will move a 16.5 percent stake in the Clair oil field west of the Shetland Islands of Scotland to BP and will keep a 7.5 percent stake. (Platts)

- Australian diplomat Howard Bamsey abruptly resigned as the second executive director of the United Nations' Green Climate Fund, citing a "difficult" four-day meeting that concluded Wednesday in Songdo, South Korea. Participants in the meeting did not agree to approve any new projects for the fund, according to a statement from Lennart Båge, who chaired the meeting. (Bloomberg)

Chart Review

Petroleum, natural gas, and coal still dominate U.S. energy consumption
U.S. Energy Information Administration

Events Calendar (All Times Local)

THURSDAY

Stanford University talk on human behavior and the environment 7 p.m.

FRIDAY

International Club of DC tribute to Nikola Tesla 7 p.m.

Report: The State of American Travel 2018

Consumer insights on vacationing, transportation, and accommodation. This report features brand tracking data on airlines, hotels, and more.

General

Pruitt directly asked Trump to replace Sessions with him
Kaitlan Collins, CNN

Embattled Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Scott Pruitt directly appealed to President Donald Trump this spring to fire Attorney General Jeff Sessions and let him run the Department of Justice instead, according to three people familiar with the proposal.

Sources: Grand Teton chief is Trump's pick to lead NPS
Rob Hotakainen, E&E News

After leaving the job vacant for nearly 18 months, President Trump is expected to nominate the superintendent of Grand Teton National Park as the 19th director of the National Park Service, according to several sources familiar with the process.

How Trump's Policy Decisions Undermine the Industries He Pledged to Help
Coral Davenport and Ana Swanson, The New York Times

"The assault on the American auto industry is over," President Trump declared last spring in Detroit, promising auto executives that he would throttle back Obama-era regulations on vehicle pollution.

Mexico's new energy policy to be announced in September: AMLO adviser
Platts Staff

The administration of Mexico's president-elect Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador expects to audit upstream contracts and set a position on its energy policy by year's end, one of his top advisers told S&P Global Platts.

Utah oil drillers won pollution break from Pruitt
Emily Holden, Politico

Utah oil and gas producers tried for years to get the EPA to exempt them from smog rules meant to prevent ailments like asthma.

Whistleblower: EPA's Pruitt kept secret calendar to hide meetings
Scott Bronstein et al., CNN

EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt and his aides have kept "secret" calendars and schedules to overtly hide controversial meetings or calls with

industry representatives and others, according to a former EPA official who is expected to soon testify before Congress.

Pruitt ally decides which of his records see the light of day
Anthony Adragna and Emily Holden, Politico

EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt placed a former political fundraising ally in charge of an office that has been slow to release his most sensitive documents - including details about his meetings with industry lobbyists and taxpayer-funded travels across the U.S. and Europe.

Pruitt's thank-you notes go largely to industry
Miranda Green and Timothy Cama, The Hill

About half of the 40 letters and notes sent by Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Scott Pruitt have gone to the heads of prominent industry groups, according to documents released under a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request by the Sierra Club.

Oil Near $74 Amid Trump Tweets, Forecast Drop in U.S. Stockpile
Grant Smith and Sharon Cho, Bloomberg

Oil held near $74 a barrel amid estimates that U.S crude inventories declined for a fourth week, compounding concerns that global markets are growing increasingly tight.

Oil and Natural Gas

BP consolidates UK Clair oil field stake in swap with ConocoPhillips
Nick Coleman, Platts

BP is to increase its stake in the UK Clair oil field west of the Shetland Islands to a more dominant 45.1% in a swap that transfers its stake in Alaska's Greater Kuparak Area to US upstream company ConocoPhillips, the companies said Wednesday.

OPEC/non-OPEC advisory panel to meet July 18, amid quota dispute
Herman Wang, Platts

A six-country advisory committee headed by Saudi Arabia and Russia will meet July 18 as the first step towards reallocating production quotas in the OPEC/non-OPEC supply accord.

Trump renews Opec threat in July 4 tweet
David Sheppard, Financial Times

US President Donald Trump tweeted about Opec on Wednesday amid Independence Day celebrations, to repeat a threat that lower oil prices should be the quid pro quo for the security ties some members of the group enjoy with the US.

China rejects US call to end Iran oil exports
Joel Gehrke, Washington Examiner

China has no plans to cooperate with President Trump's crackdown on the Iranian oil industry, a Chinese diplomat said Tuesday.

China keeps LNG off tariff list for now, could be trade weapon later
Meng Meng and Chen Aizhu, Reuters

China's omission of liquefied natural gas (LNG) from its vast list of U.S. products that face hefty import duties from Friday has preserved a potential weapon should the trade war with Washington deepen.

Global oil markets not to dominate Trump, Putin meeting: report
Nadia Rodova, Platts

Global oil markets will not dominate talks between the US President Donald Trump and his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin on July 16 in Helsinki, but could be considered if the two presidents have time after "much more important topics" are discussed, Putin's spokesman Dmitry Peskov was quoted Wednesday as saying.

Saudi Arabia Promised More Oil. So Why Are Prices Rising?
Stanley Reed, The New York Times

When major oil producers last met in Vienna, they said they would curb rising prices by ramping up production. Why, then, are oil prices still going up?

Shell CEO says setting hard targets for carbon emission would be 'foolhardy'
Ron Bousso, Reuters

Royal Dutch Shell Chief Executive Officer Ben van Beurden said it would be "foolhardy" for the oil and gas producer to set hard targets to reduce carbon emissions that could expose it to legal challenges.

Ghost ships no more: Explorers resume oil, gas search as prices perk up
Florence Tan and Gavin Maguire, Reuters

A growing fleet of ships is scanning oceans in search of new oil and gas fields as energy companies, now with more cash thanks to stronger crude prices, gradually resume spending on seismic services after a four-year downturn.

Utilities and Infrastructure

The Heat Wave Sent U.S. Power Demand Surging to Highest in Years
Tim Loh and Brian K. Sullivan, Bloomberg

The heat wave that has roasted the U.S. East Coast may be slowing down U.S. stock trading and foiling July 4 road trips. But it's the best friend of power market bulls.

Renewables

Elon Musk ordered Tesla engineers to stop doing a critical brake test on Model 3s
Linette Lopez, Business Insider

Tesla CEO Elon Musk appears to have asked engineers at Tesla's factory in Fremont, California, to remove a standard brake test, called the brake-and-roll test, from the tasks Model 3 cars must complete to move through production, according to internal documents seen by Business Insider.

California revives 100-percent carbon-free energy bill
Jonathan J. Cooper, The Associated Press

California lawmakers on Tuesday revived a long-stalled proposal to set a goal of generating 100 percent of the state's energy from carbon-free sources.

Coal

Glencore Shares Tumble After U.S. Subpoena
Scott Patterson, The Wall Street Journal

Glencore PLC said it received a subpoena from U.S. authorities related to compliance with American corruption and money-laundering laws at its operations in Congo, Nigeria and Venezuela-a move that significantly ratchets up government scrutiny of the mining and trading giant.

Nuclear

NRC employees fear reprisals when raising issues, leaked commission study shows
Robert Walton, Utility Dive

A January report assessing aspects of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC) safety culture found employees at the agency fear reprisals and negative consequences for raising concerns or offering differing opinions, according to a review by the Union of Concerned Citizens (UCS).

NRC member rejects Nevada request to sit out Yucca Mountain proceedings
Gary Martin, Last Vegas Review-Journal

A Nuclear Regulatory Commission member whose impartiality on the Yucca Mountain project was challenged by Nevada has refused a request that he recuse himself from any proceedings related to the proposed nuclear waste repository.

Climate

UN's Green Climate Fund at 'Low Point' After Director Resigns
Jess Shankleman, Bloomberg

The head of the Green Climate Fund, set up by the United Nations in the fight against global warming, stepped down abruptly after less than two years on the job, leaving the organization's future in doubt.

Opinions, Editorials and Perspectives

How FERC's New Ruling Is Upending the Country's Biggest Capacity Market
Jeff St. John, GreenTech Media

For more than a year, clean energy advocates have been asking the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to reject market proposals from the country's biggest grid operator, PJM, on the grounds that they could effectively bar state-subsidized clean power from participating in the country's biggest capacity market.

Research Reports

Structural decline in China's CO_2 emissions through transitions in industry and energy systems
Dabo Guan et al., Nature Geoscience

We find that slowing economic growth in China has made it easier to reduce emissions. Nevertheless, the decline is largely associated with changes in industrial structure and a decline in the share of coal used for energy.

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