Message

From: Morning Consult [energy@e.morningconsult.com]
Sent: 11/1/2016 12:07:56 PM
To: Duffy, Rick [Duffy.Rick@epa.gov]
Subject: Morning Consult Energy: Paris Backers Not Concerned About Trump; Alabama Pipeline Explosion Kills 1, Causes Gas Prices to Spike

MORNING CONSULT
ENERGY

By Jack Fitzpatrick

Today's Washington Brief

- Supporters of the Paris climate agreement, which goes into effect Friday, say they're confident it can withstand a Donald Trump presidency, despite his promise to "cancel" the agreement. The quick ratification of the agreement was partly due to Trump's threats. (Reuters)

- A Mississippi State University scientist temporarily resigned from a working group with the International Agency for Research on Cancer after the group told researchers its records wouldn't be subject to U.S. public-records requests. He said in an email that MSU had received a public-records request that it "cannot ignore or dismiss." (Morning Consult)

- The Department of the Interior hasn't done enough to improve its staffing issues for oversight personnel for drilling on federal lands and waters, according to a Government Accountability Office report. In response to the 2010 BP oil spill, the department has sought to improve hiring and retention of staff supervising oil and gas drilling. (The Hill)

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Today's Business Brief

- December-delivery gasoline prices rose 15 percent after a Colonial Pipeline Co. pipeline exploded in Shelby County, Ala., killing one and hospitalizing five. The 15 percent intraday gain on gas prices is the largest since December 31, 2008. (Bloomberg News)

- West Texas Intermediate crude oil futures fell 3.8 percent, and Brent crude oil futures were down 2.8 percent, as major oil producers left doubt they could reach a deal to limit output. The official meeting of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries is less than a month away. (MarketWatch)

- Glencore will start mining again at a coal operation in New South Wales, Australia, following the surge in coal prices this year. The mine had been on "care and maintenance" since 2014. (S&P Global Platts)

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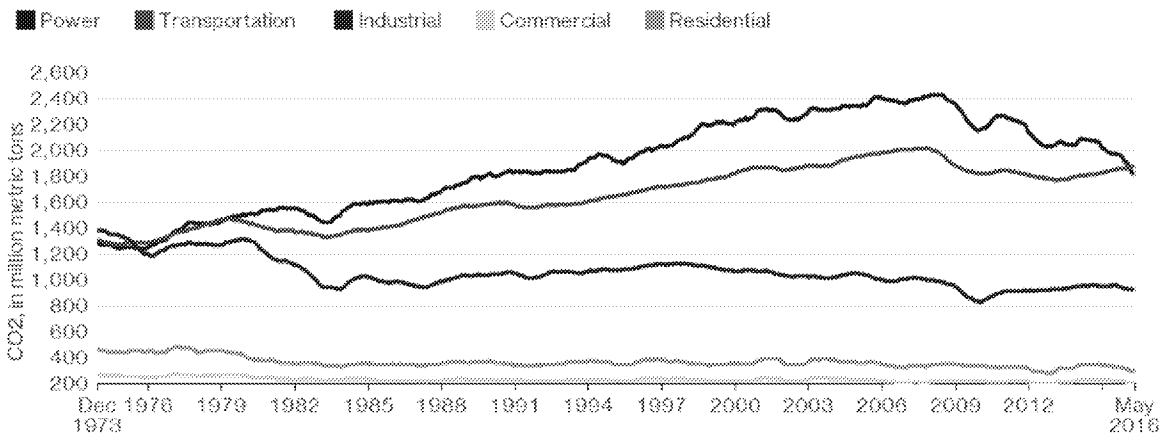
Today's Chart Review

America's Energy Revolution Hits a Historic Milepost
Bloomberg News

Vehicles Speed Ahead

For the first time since 1978, carbon dioxide pollution from transportation has passed emissions from the power sector.



Department of Energy, Energy Information Administration

Bloomberg

Mark Your Calendars (All Times Eastern)

Tuesday

The Energy Times hosts its annual Empowering Customers and Cities conference	**3 p.m.**
Environmental Law Institute hosts discussion on party platforms	**3 p.m.**

Wednesday

Center for Strategic & International Studies discusses options for cutting greenhouse gases	**9 a.m.**
The Energy Times hosts its annual Empowering Customers and Cities conference	**9:10 a.m.**

Thursday

No events scheduled

Friday

No events scheduled

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General

Exclusive: Scientist Briefly Resigned From Cancer Group Over Transparency
Jack Fitzpatrick, Morning Consult

A scientist involved in an international organization researching cancer offered his resignation in April because of uncertainty over whether its documents were subject to U.S. public records laws, according to emails obtained by Morning Consult. The International Agency for Research on Cancer has been under scrutiny since it published a March 2015 report saying the widely used herbicide glyphosate could cause cancer in humans.

America's Energy Revolution Hits a Historic Milepost
Eric Roston, Bloomberg News

The U.S. passed another historic marker in its energy revolution this year. In February, U.S. transportation emitted more carbon dioxide than the fossil-fuel-heavy power sector for the first time since 1978.

Jay Faison's Expensive, Maddening Quest to Save the Planet (And the GOP)
Zachary Mider, Bloomberg Businessweek

When Jay Faison, one of the Republican Party's most generous patrons, flew to Cleveland for its national convention in July, things weren't looking good for anyone concerned about the health of the planet. The month was shaping up to be the hottest in recorded history, and the party was about to nominate a candidate who'd called global warming a hoax invented by China.

Interior Outlines Research Plan for Sagebrush, Sage-Grouse
Jack Fitzpatrick, Morning Consult

The Department of the Interior identified 37 subjects on Monday that it needs to research in order protect the sagebrush ecosystem, a large area throughout the West that is vulnerable to wildfires. Interior released an "actionable science plan," crafted along with the U.S. Forest Service and U.S. Geological Survey, calling for more research on fire, invasive plants, restoration, sagebrush and greater sage-grouse, and climate and weather in "sagebrush sea," a 500,000-square-mile area stretching throughout the western portion of North America.

Bond Market Selloff Resumes After Chinese Data, Gasoline Soars
James Regan and Lukanyo Mnyanda, Bloomberg News

A worldwide slump in government bonds resumed after an unexpected pickup in Chinese manufacturing fueled optimism about the global economy. Emerging-market stocks rallied with copper.

Oil & Natural Gas

GAO faults feds on key response to BP spill
Timothy Cama, The Hill

The Interior Department isn't doing sufficient work to track whether a key response to the 2010 BP oil spill is working, government auditors said. At issue are changes to improve hiring and retention for key staff supervising oil and natural gas drilling activities at the three agencies that oversee drilling on federal land and offshore: the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement and the Bureau of Land Management.

Oil ends at 1-month low as doubts grow over OPEC output deal
William Watts, MarketWatch

Oil futures tumbled Monday after a weekend meeting of major oil producers left doubts over their ability to complete proposed output cuts. West Texas Intermediate crude for December delivery fell $1.84, or 3.8%, to end at $46.86 a barrel. December Brent crude futures benchmark, fell $1.41, or 2.8%, to end at $48.30 a barrel.

With Oil Deal, GE CEO Immelt Revamps His Strategy
Ted Mann, The Wall Street Journal

Jeff Immelt, chairman and chief executive of General Electric Co., is touting the giant industrial company's planned purchase of Baker Hughes Inc. as a way to weather a prolonged slump in the energy industry. But the complex transaction, which will carve out GE's oil-and-gas into a separate publicly traded company, raises questions

about how far Mr. Immelt will go in slimming down its once-sprawling corporate portfolio.

Oil Production Could Have Caused Century-Old California Earthquakes
Annie Sneed, Scientific American

Southern California suffered a number of big earthquakes in the early 1900s, a pattern that prompted experts to declare the state an earthquake hazard. But new work shows some of the biggest temblors might have been caused by oil and gas production, not nature.

Utilities & Infrastructure

1 dead, several severely burned after Shelby County gas line explosion
Carol Robinson, AL.com

Fire departments from across the Birmingham area responded to a gas line explosion in Shelby County that killed one person and severely injured several people Monday afternoon. Earlier reports indicated that seven had been severely burned and many of them transported to UAB.

U.S. Gasoline Jumps Most Since 2008 as Pipe Blast Boosts Premium
Dan Murtaugh and Laura Blewitt, Bloomberg News

Gasoline in New York jumped the most in almost eight years and its premium to crude prices soared 60 percent after an explosion and fire in Alabama shut the largest fuel pipeline in the U.S., killing one person and injuring more. December-delivery gasoline rose as much as 15 percent to the highest level for a front-month contract since June after Colonial Pipeline Co., which carries oil products to New York Harbor from the U.S. refining center in Houston, shut mainlines on the pipe for the second time in two months.

Don't Get Too Used to That Smaller Utility Bill - It Won't Last
Jonathan Crawford, Bloomberg News

U.S. households this year are set to benefit from the first annual drop in average electricity rates since 2002 as surging production from shale deposits including the Marcellus in the East dragged down gas prices. But their respite from higher bills will be limited as rates are set to rebound the most in nine years in 2017, government data show.

The View From Two Sides of the Standing Rock Front Lines
Jack Healy, The New York Times

Work crews are plugging ahead on the 1,170-mile Dakota Access oil pipeline, inching closer and closer to a river crossing that activists view as a critical juncture in their monthslong fight against a $3.7 billion project that they say will threaten water supplies and that Native Americans say violates their right to sacred land. For months now, Mekasi Horinek and Deputy Jon Moll have lived these demonstrations, but they fall on opposite sides of the front lines, reflecting a community that is as divided as, well, oil and water.

Renewables

Con Ed Says Plan to Install Rooftop Solar Panels Will Aid Poor New Yorkers
Patrick McGeehan, The New York Times

More than 10,000 New York City residents are using solar power to reduce their electric bills. But hardly any of those people converting the sun's rays into savings are poor.

Coal

18 Miners Presumed Trapped After Explosion In Chinese Coal Mine
Camila Domonoski, NPR

A gas explosion at a coal mine in China has killed 15 miners, and another 18 miners are missing and presumably trapped underground, Chinese state media report. According to Xinhua, more than 200 rescue workers were at the rural mine near the city of Chongqing, looking for any survivors.

Glencore to restart operations at Australian Integra underground semi-hard coal mine
Kenneth Foo, S&P Global Platts

Anglo-Swiss multinational Glencore will restart mining early next year at the Integra underground coal operation in Australia's New South Wales, which produces high fluidity semi-hard coking coal, the company said Tuesday. The firm is targeting a

2017 semi-hard coal production of 1.3 million mt from the mine that had been on care and maintenance since July 2014.

Nuclear

Japan utilities say no problem with nuclear plants after carbon investigation

Osamu Tsukimori, Reuters

Japan's 11 utilities said on Monday they had found no problems with mechanical resilience of forged steel used in important facilities at their nuclear plants such as reactor vessels. Japan's nuclear regulator had ordered the investigation after France discovered that certain steam generator channel heads made by two different manufacturers - Areva's Creusot plant and Japan Casting & Forging Corp - could contain a zone comprising a high carbon concentration.

US Nuclear Retirements Largely Replaced by Fossil Fuels

Katherine Tweed, GreenTech Media

Low-cost renewables and natural gas are putting some nuclear plants out of business, but it is the latter that is most often replacing the offline nuclear capacity. Wind, solar and energy efficiency do play a role in making up for the lost nuclear power generation, but EIA data shows it is natural gas, and in some cases coal, that is largely making up the difference.

Critics of Cuomo upstate nuclear bailout buy billboard space

Kenneth Lovett, New York Daily News

Critics of Gov. Cuomo's proposed bailout of three upstate nuclear power plants have purchased billboard space on a highway close to the state Capitol in Albany. Food & Water Watch, an advocacy group part of the Stop the Cuomo Tax campaign, is paying for the large billboard against the governor "to shame him into dropping his proposed nuclear bailout plan," a spokesman for the group said.

Climate

Former SEC Chair: Fossil-Fuel Interests Should Disclose Financial Risks of Climate Change
Jack Fitzpatrick, Morning Consult

Companies with investments in oil, gas and coal need to do a better job disclosing the financial risk of climate change to their investors, a former chair of the Securities and Exchange Commission and an Obama administration official said Monday. The physical risks of hurricanes, floods and wildfires aren't much of a mystery, but the financial risks aren't disclosed very well when it comes to the prospect of moving away from fossil-fuel assets as a result of policy or economic changes, said Mary Schapiro, a former chair of the SEC, at an Atlantic Council event.

Backers of Paris climate pact play down Trump threat to deal as election looms
Alister Doyle, Reuters

Backers of a global accord to fight climate change that formally comes into force on Friday say they are confident the deal can survive any legal challenges by U.S. Republican candidate Donald Trump if he wins next week's presidential election. Trump has threatened to reject the accord negotiated by nearly 200 governments, including that of U.S. President Barack Obama.

Feds to set private flood insurance requirements
Sylvan Lane, The Hill

Five regulators are preparing to clarify which private flood insurance policies meet federal requirements. The agencies asked on Monday for feedback on guidelines for banks and lenders to follow when reviewing private flood insurance.

Opinions, Editorials & Perspectives

IARC Scientists Defend Glyphosate Cancer Link; Surprised by Industry Assault
Carey Gillam, The Huffington Post

Don't mess with Monsanto Co. That is the message being delivered right now by the agrichemical industry as it makes a full-fledged assault on the team of international cancer scientists who dared to declare cancerous connections to the widely used herbicide called glyphosate, the chief ingredient in Monsanto's Roundup brand.

Climate Change Is Already Forcing Americans to Move
Christopher Flavelle, Bloomberg View

As global warming causes more extreme weather and sea-level rise, coastal communities around the U.S. are starting to think about whether, and how, to help people move away from the water. But one group of Americans is already being displaced by climate change - not through innovative urban and land-use planning, but official indifference.

Research Reports, Issue Briefs & Case Studies

Hurricane Sandy's flood frequency increasing from year 1800 to 2100
Ning Lin et al., Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences

Researchers combine probabilistic projections of the sea level and storm surge climatology to estimate the temporal evolution of flood hazard. We find that New York City's flood hazard has increased significantly over the past two centuries and is very likely to increase more sharply over the 21st century.

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