Message

From: Morning Consult [reply@em.morningconsult.com]
Sent: 1/11/2021 12:53:25 PM
To: Tapp, Joshua [Tapp.Joshua@epa.gov]
Subject: Morning Consult Energy: Supreme Court to Review Case Involving Biofuel-Blending Waivers

Title

ENERGY

By Lisa Martine Jenkins

Top Stories

- Without comment, the Supreme Court has agreed to review oil refineries' ability to win exemptions from federal biofuel-blending quotas, per an appeal by units of HollyFrontier Corp. and Wynnewood Refining Co. Under the Trump administration, exemptions to the country's Renewable Fuel Standard have soared, prompting biofuel advocates to say the Environmental Protection Agency has been too liberal with the waivers. (Bloomberg)

- Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee Chairman Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska) said she is questioning her place in the Republican party and that President Donald Trump should resign immediately in light of Wednesday's insurrection at the Capitol. The first Republican senator to call for Trump's resignation, the lawmaker told a media outlet that she would not join the Senate's Democratic majority but is in talks with moderates in both parties, including Joe Manchin (D-W.Va.), currently the energy committee's ranking member. (Anchorage Daily News)

- The Russia-controlled natural gas company Gazprom will restart construction in the Baltic Sea section of the controversial Nord Stream 2 gas pipeline to Germany, despite the United States' attempts to thwart the project - which it views as Moscow's

attempt to increase political influence in Europe - via sanctions. (Financial Times)

Chart Review

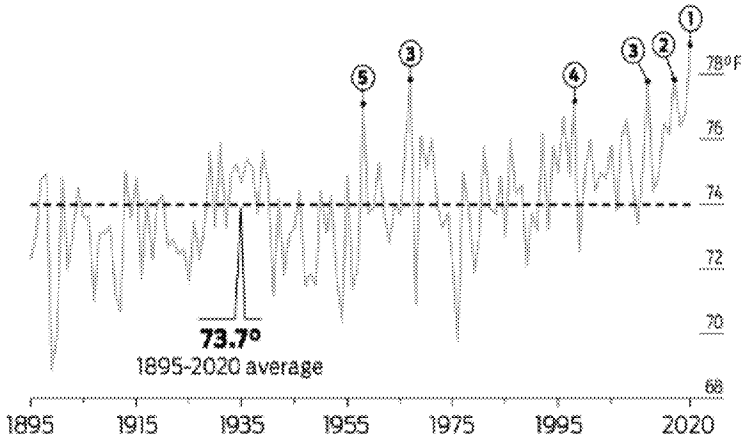
California's 'new climate'
San Francisco Chronicle

Three months in 2020 break records since 1895

Highest average temperatures in California for each month

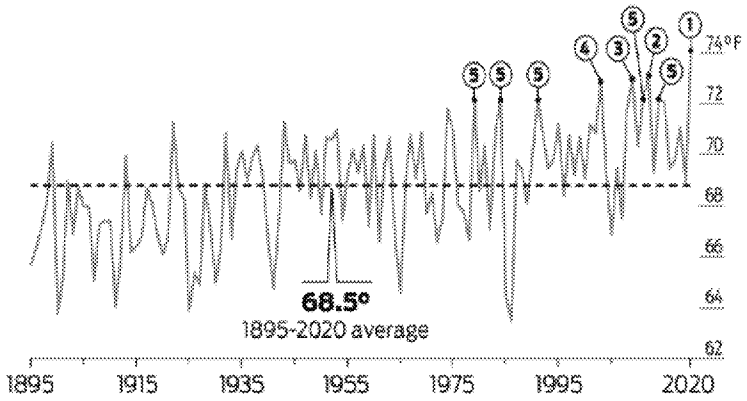
AUGUST

	Average temperature	Year(s)
1.	78.9°	2020
2.	77.9°	2017
3.	77.8°	1967, 2012
4.	77.2°	1998
5.	77.1°	1958



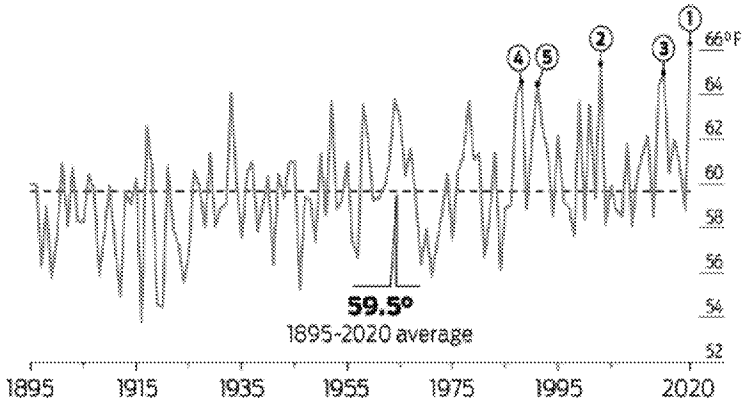
SEPTEMBER

	Average temperature	Year(s)
1.	74.1°	2020
2.	73.1°	2012
3.	73°	2009
4.	72.9°	2003
5.	72.2°	1991, 1979, 1984, 2011, 2014



OCTOBER

	Average temperature	Year(s)
1.	66.3°	2020
2.	65.4°	2003
3.	65°	2015
4.	64.6°	1988
5.	64.5°	1991



Source: NOAA National Centers for Environmental Information

Todd Trumbull / The Chronicle

Events Calendar (All Times Local)

01/11/2021

IEA press conference on new special projects for 2021	2:30 pm

01/12/2021

American Security Project event: Beyond Our Borders: A Discussion on the International Cooperation Needed for Climate Change	3:00 pm

01/13/2021

WRI webinar: Stories to Watch 2021	9:00 am
OEP webinar: Public-Private Partnerships & The Energy Transition	9:00 am
API event: State of American Energy 2021	11:00 am
NCAC-USAEE event with Moody's: Uncertain Future Demand Heightens Business and Credit Risks for Oil & Gas Industry	11:00 am
R Street event: FERC's Order 2222: What's Next for Electricity Markets?	2:00 pm
USEA event: Sustainable Water Management for Decarbonizing Fossil Power Generation	3:00 pm

01/14/2021

WRI event: Science Based Targets for Financial institutions: Target Validation Criteria Deep Dive	9:00 am
WRI event: The Path to a Sustainable Ocean Economy: U.S. Launch of the Ocean Panel Transformations and Report	9:00 am
MIT Energy Initiative and Industrial Liaison: Low-Carbon Fuels Program event	10:00 am

DOE Office of Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy, Better Buildings Residential Network event: A Look Ahead at the Coming Year in Energy Efficiency	1:00 pm
WCEE Virtual Executive Exchange Series: Broadband Access	2:00 pm

View full calendar

The Fastest Growing Brands of 2020

Morning Consult's Fastest Growing Brands of 2020 is the definitive measure of brand growth for both emerging and established brands, showcasing a wide range of companies and products that have accelerated their consumer appeal and awareness in 2020.

Download the report for the full rankings overall and by generation, and for the brands that most increased their brand ID in 2020.

General

Trump moves to loosen mining regulations, approve projects as he exits
Ernest Scheyder, Reuters

Outgoing U.S. President Donald Trump's administration is moving to loosen mining regulations and green light new mineral projects before leaving office this month, with successor Joe Biden unable to reverse some of the changes.

White House intervened to weaken EPA guidance on 'forever chemicals'
Ian Swanson, The Hill

Documents reviewed by The Hill show the White House intervened as the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) was weighing a strict ban on imports of products that contain a cancer-linked compound, substantially weakening the guidance.

Hope grows that Biden will restore US national monuments shrunk by Trump
Graham Lee Brewer, The Guardian

It was one of Donald Trump's most controversial early moves as president: to radically shrink two national monuments in the American west. Now indigenous peoples are hopeful that Joe Biden will undo that decision - and more broadly effect a sea change in how the US treats the interests of tribal nations.

'There's a red flag here': how an ethanol plant is dangerously polluting a US village
Carey Gillam, The Guardian

For the residents of Mead, Nebraska, the first sign of something amiss was the stench, the smell of something rotting. People reported eye and throat irritation and nosebleeds. Then colonies of bees started dying,

birds and butterflies appeared disoriented and pet dogs grew ill, staggering about with dilated pupils.

Green groups sue over Forest Service rule weakening environmental review of its projects
Rebecca Beitsch, The Hill

A coalition of environmental groups is suing the U.S. Forest Service over a rule that weakens environmental analysis of many of its plans and excludes a number of actions from scientific review or community input.

Oil Slips Near $52 on Stronger Dollar as Rally Takes Breather
Saket Sundria, Bloomberg

Oil slipped as the dollar strengthened, with the market taking a breather after a recent rally as investors weigh the potential for U.S. stimulus.

Oil and Natural Gas

Oil companies lock in drilling, challenging Biden on climate
Matthew Brown and Cathy Bussewitz, The Associated Press

In the closing months of the Trump administration, energy companies stockpiled enough drilling permits for western public lands to keep pumping oil for years and undercut President-elect Joe Biden's plans to curb new drilling because of climate change, according to public records and industry analysts.

OPEC crude output cuts should help U.S. shale profits in 2021
Jennifer Hiller, Reuters

A decision by OPEC and allied countries to cut crude production through March delivered a late Christmas present for U.S. shale firms that have slashed costs, but any rise in prices spurred by the unexpected move may be just a modest stocking stuffer.

HSBC Shareholders Ask Bank to Cut Fossil-Fuel Lending Exposure
Alastair Marsh, Bloomberg

A group of HSBC Holdings Plc shareholders have filed a resolution urging the bank to cut its support to the fossil-fuel industry.

State regulatory agency slaps LADWP with violation over methane gas leak at Sun Valley power plant
Lila Seidman, Los Angeles Times

A Southern California regulatory agency slapped the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power with a notice of violation over equipment identified as the source of a multiyear methane gas leak at a Sun Valley power plant.

To environmentalists, low interest in ANWR sales a failure for Trump
Rebecca Beitsch, The Hill

President Trump may have succeeded in selling off rights to drill in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR), but environmentalists largely see the move as a failure, primarily because there was so little interest from oil companies.

Why the Strait of Hormuz Is a Global Oil Flashpoint
Verity Ratcliffe et al., Bloomberg

The Strait of Hormuz, a narrow waterway at the mouth of the Persian Gulf, is rarely far from the center of global tensions. A major shipping route that handles around one-third of the world's waterborne oil, it's closely watched for signs of disruption. Iranian forces have targeted merchant ships traversing the chokepoint several times since early 2019 amid rising tensions with the U.S. and its allies.

The Big Oil Money Behind the Members of Congress Who Fueled the Capitol Attack
Brian Kahn and Dhruv Mehrotra, Earther

On Wednesday, Chevron decried the assault on the Capitol by a mob of violent extremists hellbent on halting a democratic process. "We call for the peaceful transition of the U.S. government," the biggest oil company in the U.S. tweeted. "The violence in Washington, D.C. tarnishes a two-century tradition of respect for the rule of law."

Utilities and Infrastructure

The Tiny Satellites That Will Connect Cows, Cars and Shipping Containers to the Internet
Christopher Mims, The Wall Street Journal

In the shadow of giants like SpaceX, more than a dozen startups are building their own globe-spanning networks of nanosatellites, enabling a new kind of everywhere, all-the-time connectivity for people, animals and assets on Earth.

Renewables

Chinese Solar Companies Tied to Use of Forced Labor
Ana Swanson and Christopher Buckley, The New York Times

A new report shows some of the world's biggest solar companies work with the Chinese government to absorb workers from Xinjiang, programs that are often seen as a red flag for forced labor.

Battery shortage is a risk to burgeoning electric car era
Joann Muller, Axios

The electric vehicle era, barely underway, could soon be stifled by a shortage of batteries and raw materials that will require significant investments in U.S. manufacturing, mining and recycling.

Total to keep up renewables energy investments in 2021, says CEO
Sarah White and Benjamin Mallet, Reuters

Total will be as active in adding renewable energy assets in 2021 as it was last year, Chief Executive Patrick Pouyanne told an Oddo BHF conference on Friday.

Saudi Crown Prince launches zero-carbon city in NEOM business zone
Aziz El Yaakoubi and Marwa Rashad, Reuters

Saudi Arabia's crown prince unveiled plans on Sunday to build a zero-carbon city at NEOM, the first major construction project for the $500 billion flagship business zone aimed at diversifying the economy of the world's largest oil exporter.

Ship Orders Slump 50% With Owners Unsure Which Green Fuel to Use
Elizabeth Low and Jack Wittels, Bloomberg

Ship owners facing looming deadlines to use less-polluting fuels have slashed the number of new vessels on order because they don't know which alternative technology to switch to.

Clean Energy Rally Has Some Analysts Pumping Brakes After Surge
Michael Bellusci, Bloomberg

Alternative energy analysts are warning stock valuations may be too rich after surges from the U.S. election and hopes a Democrat-controlled Congress will put forward industry-friendly legislation.

Blue Wave Unleashes $1 Billion of Demand for Clean-Energy ETFs
Katherine Greifeld, Bloomberg

A Democratic sweep of both houses of the U.S. Congress stoked a record flood of cash into renewable-energy exchange-traded funds this week.

Coal/Nuclear

EPA wraps up rollback of Obama-era coal plant rules
Jean Chemnick, E&E News

EPA's long-delayed carbon rule for new power plants will be final soon, and it could contain significant changes from the proposal, aimed at impeding the ability of President-elect Joe Biden's EPA to regulate industrial sectors other than power generation.

Climate

Flood-hit city heads to Supreme Court over climate damage
Jennifer Hijazi, E&E News

From his covered porch on Baltimore's Frederick Avenue, Scott Harris watched the street in front of his home morph into an unrelenting river. A deluge of brown water surged along his stretch of the road, creating waves under the tires of cars inching through the flood. A chunk of asphalt broke loose and flapped under the water's pressure, while rogue green trash cans were swept away by the current and disappeared around street corners.

Climate, Environment, Clean Cars Emphasized in Newsom Budget
Emily C. Dooley, Bloomberg Law

California Gov. Gavin Newsom's proposed spending plan for the next fiscal year includes billions of dollars for wildfire prevention, clean cars, cap-and-trade programs, and increased oversight of toxic sites.

Energy Protectionism in Mexico Has Made Climate the Victim
Amy Stillman and Max De Haldevang, Bloomberg

The country failed to boost its target of cutting emissions 22% by 2030, capping two years of environmental backsliding.

How indigenous fire management can prevent wildfire disasters
Rebecca Falconer, Axios

Climate scientists and indigenous leaders are urging policymakers to embrace traditional burning to avoid catastrophic wildfires like those experienced in the American West in recent years.

Opinions, Editorials and Perspectives

Deb Haaland's Cabinet Nomination Is a Triumph for Native Americans
Julian Brave NoiseCat, The Nation

We have turned a page in our nation's history-not because the insiders wanted it, but because the people fought for it.

After a record 22 billion-dollar disasters in 2020, US disaster policy needs reform
A.R. Siders et al., Quartz

The year 2020 broke disaster records across the country in destructive and expensive ways. The Atlantic had so many hurricanes, meteorologists ran out of tropical storm names for only the second time. Across the Midwest, extreme storms flattened crops and tore up buildings. Western states repeatedly broke records for their largest wildfires on record. Globally, it was tied for the hottest year on record.

Research Reports

How Big Utilities are Impeding Clean Energy, and What We Can Do About It
John Farrell, Institute for Local Self-Reliance

Monopoly power in the U.S. has reached catastrophic levels, affecting every corner of our economy and society. While this crisis is gaining more attention, particularly in the tech industry, there is much more to understand about how it affects our lives. In this report, we describe the less understood problem of concentrated corporate power in the electricity sector.

MORNING CONSULT

This email was sent by: Morning Consult
729 15th St. NW Washington, DC, 20005, US

Update Email Preferences | Unsubscribe From All