Message

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To: Ross, David P [ross.davidp@epa.gov]
Subject: Morning Energy: EPA enforcement in the spotlight — Lands bill on tap — Sunrise plans day of action

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QUICK FIX

— **EPA's enforcement chief will testify today** before a House subcommittee on the agency's enforcement data, which have been under scrutiny from Democrats and environmentalists.

— **The House is poised to clear a broad public lands package today**, sending a permanent reauthorization of the Land and Water Conservation Fund to the president's desk.

— **With debate surrounding a potential vote on the Green New Deal**, House Democrats will hold a series of hearings today on climate change.

WELCOME TO A BUSY TUESDAY! I'm your host, Kelsey Tamborrino. Monday's trivia question appears to be a tough one — no one was able to correctly name William Henry Harrison and John Tyler as the presidents whose fathers ran against each other. Benjamin Harrison V lost a race to John Tyler Sr. for the Virginia House of Burgesses. For today, in honor of the Oscars: Which national park can be seen in the movie "ET: The Extra Terrestrial"? Send your tips, energy gossip and comments to ktamborrino@politico.com. Follow us on Twitter @kelseytam, @Morning_Energy and @POLITICOPro.

DRIVING THE DAY

SEND IN THE RE-ENFORCEMENTS: EPA's enforcement data is the focus of an Energy and Commerce oversight subcommittee hearing this morning. Enforcement chief Susan Bodine will testify at the hearing, which will examine the agency's latest recent enforcement report, among other issues.

The Environmental Integrity Project released its own data analysis this morning. EPA completed 10,612 inspections or evaluations to determine compliance with environmental laws last year — less than 60 percent of the annual average since 2001, according to EIP.

Eric Schaeffer, executive director of EIP and a former director of civil enforcement at EPA, will be among the names testifying today. He pointed to the shrinking size of EPA's enforcement workforce in a statement, noting "those cutbacks are leaving communities ... exposed to public health risks, while letting polluters off the hook for serious violations of the law."

HEARINGS GALORE: House Democrats also have several hearings on climate change today.

— **The House Natural Resources Committee** will hold an oversight subcommittee hearing on industries' role in manipulating science and policy surrounding climate change featuring testimony from a retired NFL player and a national addiction recovery advocate.

— **The Transportation Committee** examines how infrastructure can help mitigate and adapt to climate change.

— **House appropriators will hear** from NASA and the Commerce Department when the subcommittee for commerce, justice and science convenes a hearing on federal climate change research efforts.

A New Road Map for Environmental Sustainability: Join POLITICO for a high-level conversation to discuss what policies and practices are gaining ground to make agriculture more energy efficient and less harmful to the environment, while remaining economically viable. RSVP here.

ALSO ON THE HILL

PUBLIC LANDS ON TAP: The House will consider S. 47 (116), the "Natural Resources Management Act," which includes permanent reauthorization of the Land and Water Conservation Fund, under suspension of the rules today. Passage of the bill, which already cleared the Senate, is expected.

SUNRISE HOLDS DAY OF ACTION: The Sunrise Movement is sponsoring a day of action today across the country, holding office visits, rallies, sit-ins and office takeovers to press both Republicans and Democrats to support the Green New Deal resolution, S. Res. 59 (116). The group said the action will put all senators "on notice" ahead of a vote, which could come as soon as this week. The effort follows a protest in Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell's office Monday that Sunrise said resulted in the arrest of 42 youth activists.

BARRASSO TO TALK CLEAN ENERGY: Senate Environment and Public Works Chairman John Barrasso, who has called the Green New Deal a "raw deal," will keynote a panel discussion on the future of clean energy today before the conservative American Action Forum. Barrasso highlighted an AAF report Monday in a statement that said the Green New Deal would total four times the value of all Fortune 500 companies combined. "Instead, we should promote innovation to reduce carbon dioxide emissions. ... We can lower our emissions without crashing our economy," he said.

SEE IT: Republicans are shifting from attacks on climate science to touting their support for innovation to address the problem amid growing calls for climate change action among voters. POLITICO Pro DataPoint's Patterson Clark breaks down that voter polling data here.

View the full DataPoint graphic here. Want to add DataPoint to your Pro account? Learn more.

MAIL CALL! House Appropriations Interior-Environment Chairwoman Betty McCollum wrote to acting EPA Administrator Andrew Wheeler Monday asking that any written comments or concerns from agency staff be made public regarding a proposed PolyMet copper-nickel mine in Minnesota. The letter follows a Minnesota public records request that McCollum said shows EPA career staff had planned to deliver written comments about the project but apparently did not follow through.

FOR YOUR RADAR: House Natural Resources Chairman Raúl Grijalva over the weekend announced a legislative push to place a permanent moratorium on new mining claims near the Grand Canyon. He'll formally introduce the "Grand Canyon Centennial Protection Act" today, marking the 100-year anniversary of the national park's establishment.

HEARINGS ANNOUNCED: House Financial Services Chairwoman Maxine Waters announced a series of oversight hearings for next month, including a full committee hearing on March 13 on reauthorization of the National Flood Insurance Program and a subcommittee hearing on March 26 on "proposals to improve environmental, social and governance disclosures."

INSIDE THE AGENCIES

FERC ANNOUNCES RELIABILITY CONFERENCE: FERC announced a technical conference focused on reliability of the bulk-power system set for June 27, but no additional details were available.

BUDGET IN SIGHT: The Trump administration plans to call for a 5 percent cut to non-defense spending for fiscal 2020, according to an op-ed from acting OMB Director Russell Vought for RealClearPolitics. The president's upcoming budget request is expected in mid-March, Pro's Caitlin Emma reports, and according to Vought will adhere "to the spending caps already set in law."

ATLANTIC COAST LOSES APPEAL: The 4th Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals denied petitions for a rehearing in the lawsuit challenging approvals for the Atlantic Coast Pipeline, Pro's Ben

Lefebvre reports. The decision keeps construction on hold pending new permit approvals from the Trump administration or a successful appeal to the Supreme Court.

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THE GRID

— "SEC asks judge to hold Tesla's Musk in contempt for violating deal," POLITICO.

— "Plastics: The New Coal in Appalachia?" InsideClimate News.

— "Inslee says tackling climate change would be top priority if he runs for president," NBC News .

— "Evidence for man-made global warming hits 'gold standard': scientists," Reuters.

— "Judge OKs settlement from nation's largest natural gas leak," Associated Press.

— "Goldman Sachs believes oil prices are about to go on a wild ride in 2019," CNBC.

HAPPENING TODAY

9 a.m. — House Appropriations Interior-Environment Subcommittee hearing on FY2020 appropriations for non-tribal programs, 2007 Rayburn.

10 a.m. — Senate Energy and Natural Resources Energy Subcommittee hearing on "The State of the U.S. Territories," 366 Dirksen.

10 a.m. — Rep. Donald McEachin briefing on clean energy and green jobs, 2325 Rayburn.

10 a.m. — House Appropriations Commerce-Justice-Science Subcommittee hearing on "Understanding the Changing Climate System and the Role of Climate Research," H-309.

10 a.m. — House Natural Resources Water, Oceans and Wildlife Subcommittee hearing on "The State of Water Supply Reliability in the 21st Century," 1324 Longworth.

10 a.m. — House Science Energy Subcommittee hearing on "The Future of ARPA-E," 2318 Rayburn.

10 a.m. — House Transportation Committee hearing on "Examining How Federal Infrastructure Policy Could Help Mitigate and Adapt to Climate Change," HVC-210.

10:30 a.m. — House Energy and Commerce Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee hearing on "EPA's Enforcement Program: Taking the Environmental Cop Off the Beat," 2322 Rayburn.

11 a.m. — The American Public Power Association rally and briefing on "Infrastructure funding and hydropower among public power's key legislative priorities," 1127 Connecticut Ave. NW.

Noon — The Federal Real Property Association discussion on "Smart Building Technology," 800 17th St. NW.

12:45 p.m. — House Appropriations Interior-Environment Subcommittee hearing on FY2020 appropriations for non-tribal programs (Part Two), 2007 Rayburn.

1 p.m. — Center for Climate and Energy Solutions webinar on "Northern Exposure: Canadian Action on Climate Change."

2 p.m. — House Natural Resources Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee hearing on "The Denial Playbook: How Industries Manipulate Science and Policy From Climate Change to Public Health," 1324 Longworth.

3 p.m. — American Action Forum discussion on "The Future of Clean Energy," G-11 Dirksen.

THAT'S ALL FOR ME!

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