To: Behringer, Caroline[Behringer.Caroline@epa.gov]; Hull, George[Hull.George@epa.gov]; Cohen, Nancy[Cohen.Nancy@epa.gov]; Jones, Enesta[Jones.Enesta@epa.gov]
Cc: Feldt, Lisa[Feldt.Lisa@epa.gov]
From: Deitz, Randy
Sent: Thur 1/30/2014 2:15:44 PM
Subject: RE: Morning Energy, presented by POWERJobs: ENR eyes oil exports – EPW hears from NRC – Report: NSA spied on Copenhagen conference

Thank you for forwarding this Caroline.

From: Behringer, Caroline
Sent: Thursday, January 30, 2014 7:22 AM
To: Hull, George; Cohen, Nancy; Deitz, Randy; Jones, Enesta
Cc: Feldt, Lisa
Subject: Fw: Morning Energy, presented by POWERJobs: ENR eyes oil exports – EPW hears from NRC – Report: NSA spied on Copenhagen conference

Fyi on coal ash.

MERRY CHRISTMAS FOR COAL ASH RULEMAKING? EPA will finish its controversial, long-delayed rulemaking for coal combustion residuals by Dec. 19 under a statute designed for managing non-hazardous waste materials, the agency told a federal district court today. In a consent decree with environmentalists and industry groups, the agency told the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia today that it will finish its regulatory process for coal ash under Subtitle D of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, which covers non-hazardous waste. An agreement to finish a rule is not an agreement, necessarily, to regulate, though that is the likely outcome. The agreement: http://politico.pro/1fdG56t

'Hazardous' reg still on the table, Earthjustice says: EPA could still regulate coal ash as a hazardous waste, according to Earthjustice Vice President Abigail Dillen. But she noted that EPA could still decide to regulate coal ash as a hazardous waste, under Subtitle C of RCRA, since that was one of the two options in its proposed rule. "EPA still has the discretion to go C or D," she said. Industries that use fly ash in consumer products, like cement and wallboard, have argued that a "hazardous" designation could harm their industry. Others in the power industry argue that cleanup of older coal ash ponds would be too expensive, and some lawmakers have pushed back against the federal-government-centric nature of Subtitle C regulations.

Caroline Behringer
Deputy Press Secretary
Office of the Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Office: (202) 564-0098
Cell: (202) 760-1732

From: POLITICO Pro Energy <politicoemail@politicopro.com>

Sent: Thursday, January 30, 2014 6:05:26 AM
To: Behringer, Caroline
Subject: Morning Energy, presented by POWERJobs: ENR eyes oil exports – EPW hears from NRC – Report: NSA spied on Copenhagen conference

By Alex Guillén | 1/30/14 5:56 AM EST

With help from Darius Dixon, Erica Martinson and Kevin Robillard

SENATE ENERGY PANEL EYES OIL EXPORTS: The Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee is jumping into the debate over potentially lifting the U.S. oil export ban during a hearing today. Witnesses include Continental Resources Chairman and CEO Harold Hamm and Dan Weiss of the Center for American Progress. The hearing will offer a chance to get a read on Sen. Mary Landrieu, who is slated to soon take the committee gavel, as well as other panel Democrats — plus whether there's room for bipartisanship on the issue. Our own Darren Goode talked with Hamm yesterday about the ban, which the oil billionaire says is an anachronism of the 1970s Arab oil embargo that should have been lifted long ago, and Weiss, who says lifting the ban will help big oil companies but raise gasoline prices.
http://politico.pro/MgWUom

If you go: The fun starts at 9:30 a.m. in Dirksen 366.

Oil exports good for consumers, economy, API says: The American Petroleum Institute doesn't have anyone testifying at the hearing, but the group is still getting in on the action. API says preliminary results from a new ICF International study suggests that lifting the crude oil ban would add $70 billion in U.S. upstream investments by the end of the decade, leading to a production bump of as much as 500,000 barrels per day. The study also concludes the additional oil on the global market would cut crude prices by as much as a dollar per barrel, according to API.

AND EPW TAKES ON NUKE ISSUES: All five NRC commissioners are traveling to Capitol Hill today to testify before the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee to continue discussing post-Fukushima safety recommendations. But ME expects a decent portion of time will center on an agency decision to take a pass on requiring utilities to expedite the transfer of spent fuel in pools to dry casks. GOP senators are sure to continue to pepper regulators about the timetable for completing work related to Yucca Mountain. This is likely to be Commissioner George Apostolakis' last appearance in the Senate before President Barack Obama decides whether to re-nominate the former MIT professor for full, five-year term — so expect some tea leaf-reading. Either way, the hearing will have to manage a major disruption when the Senate votes on amendments to flood insurance legislation around 11:15 a.m. The hearing starts at 9:30 a.m. in Dirksen 406.

TOP TALKER — NSA REPORTEDLY SPIED ON COPENHAGEN CONFERENCE: The Huffington Post reports: "The National Security Agency monitored the communications of other

governments ahead of and during the 2009 United Nations climate negotiations in Copenhagen, Denmark, according to the latest document from whistleblower Edward Snowden. … The document indicates that the NSA planned to gather information as the leaders and negotiating teams of other countries held private discussions throughout the Copenhagen meeting. '[L]eaders and negotiating teams from around the world will undoubtedly be engaging in intense last-minute policy formulating; at the same time, they will be holding sidebar discussions with their counterparts — details of which are of great interest to our policymakers,' the document states. The information likely would be used to brief U.S. officials, such as Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and Obama, among others, according to the document. …

"The revelation that the NSA was surveilling the communications of leaders during the Copenhagen talks is unlikely to help build the trust of negotiators from other nations in the future. … National Security Council spokeswoman Caitlin Hayden declined to comment directly on the Snowden document in an email to the Huffington Post, but did say that 'the U.S. Government has made clear that the United States gathers foreign intelligence of the type gathered by all nations.'" HuffPo: http://huff.to/LqNqXu. The document: http://bit.ly/1dPIEJj

HAPPY THURSDAY and welcome to Morning Energy. Send your energy news to aguillen@politico.com, and follow on Twitter @alexcguillen, @Morning_Energy and @POLITICOPro.

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EXCLUSIVE TO PROS LATER TODAY: POLITICO Pro will publish a special report on President Barack Obama's executive power maneuvers, with a dozen stories looking at virtually every area of regulation, rule-making and executive action coming from the administration. The special report will dive into the president's State of the Union promises and will reveal a much deeper regulatory and executive power agenda for the final years of Obama's term. Look out for an email later this evening, customized to your policy interests.

A message from POWERJobs: Jobs on our radar this week: Director of Business Development, Department of Energy at SAIC, Energy Resources Manager at Deloitte, and Regulatory Issues Advisor at NRECA. Interested? Apply to these jobs and more at www.POWERJobs.com; finally, a career site made for YOU!

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EPA DEFENDS RESPONSE TO MEDIA IN W.VA. SPILL: EPA has been working to respond in a timely to media requests about the West Virginia chemical spill earlier this month, but the agency's first priority has be emergency response, Associate Administrator for External Affairs Tom Reynolds writes to two journalist groups. EPA took fire last week from the Society of Environmental Journalists and the Society of Professional Journalists, who alleged (http://bit.ly/1hJEwjc) that EPA and the Centers for Disease Control have been "evading" the media. "In the case of the West Virginia chemical spill, the state's Department of Environmental Protection is the lead agency responsible for overseeing and coordinating the response activities," Reynolds writes, adding that the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection is the primary agency on the case. EPA's response: http://politico.pro/1mZm4DD. And the CDC's Jan. 22 response: http://bit.ly/1fd7S6Y

McCARTHY TO ANNOUNCE NEW STORMWATER RUNOFF TOOL, RESEARCH MONEY: EPA will release an update to its National Stormwater Calculator and Climate Assessment Tool that now includes climate models for calculating stormwater runoff, agency chief Gina McCarthy will announce when she keynotes the National Council for Science and the Environment's conference today. McCarthy will also announce $9 million in grants for research into nutrient pollution.

Set your DVR: McCarthy will bookend her day with MSNBC appearances. McCarthy will talk up State of the Union and climate change at 9 a.m. on "The Daily Rundown with Chuck Todd" and on "All In With Chris Hayes" at 8 p.m.

Also on today's radar: President Barack Obama is on his own post-SOTU tour, and today will speak about the economy at a General Electric's Waukesha Gas Engines facility in Wisconsin before heading to Nashville to talk education.

OKLAHOMA WANTS SCOTUS TO TOSS EPA HAZE PLAN: Oklahoma Attorney General Scott Pruitt petitioned the Supreme Court on Wednesday to overturn EPA regulations that would impose costly requirements on three of the state's power plants in order to clear the skies in national parks. Erica Martinson explains: http://politico.pro/Mi0sa2

IPCC TO RELEASE FULL SCIENCE REPORT TODAY: The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change will release the full and final report on the science of climate change today. Pros will remember the IPCC's Working Group I released a summary for policymakers last September (refresher: http://politico.pro/1k8oi3Y). This version includes that summary, plus a technical summary, 14 chapters and six annexes. And the document coming out today is just one part of the IPCC's fifth assessment report; other sections still to come include the effects of climate change and mitigation techniques.

OIL TRAINS CAUSING AMTRAK TRAFFIC, GROUP SAYS: An Amtrak train that runs

from Chicago to the Pacific Northwest regularly suffers eight-to-ten hour delays because of increased traffic from freight trains carrying crude oil, and an advocacy group wants Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx to get involved. "Delays of up to eight to ten hours have plagued the Empire Builder, inflicting extreme inconvenience — often at considerable personal expense — to literally thousands of Amtrak passengers and their families," National Association of Railroad Passengers President Ross Capon wrote to Foxx: http://bit.ly/1a2tIwj

APPA PICKS NEW CHIEF: The American Public Power Association's board has picked Sue Kelly to be the group's new president and CEO when Mark Crisson leaves on April 1. Kelly has been at APPA for a decade and is currently the general counsel and senior vice president for policy analysis.

— The Alliance to Save Energy's Board of Directors has voted Jorge Carrasco, CEO and general manager of Seattle City Light, as a co-chair to replace the outgoing National Grid U.S. President Tom King. Carrasco has been on ASE's board since 2010.

WESTERN GROUP PUSHES JEWELL ON CLIMATE ACTIONS, METHANE LEAKS: Interior Secretary Sally Jewell needs to do more than her predecessors to tackle climate change, make oil and gas drilling safer and mitigate the impacts of development, the Center for Western Priorities says in a report out today making recommendations for Jewell's tenure. It recommends she increase onshore oil and gas royalty rates, utilize more master leading plans on federal lands, write rules for oil and gas producers on plugging methane leaks and give more protections to certain conservation areas. More: http://bit.ly/1b6uYNr

GROUP PUSHES EPA TO REQUIRE OIL, GAS EMISSIONS DISCLOSURE: The Environmental Integrity Project will release a report today saying several hundred oil and gas extraction sites are releasing millions of tons of toxic chemicals each year, but are not required to report those emissions to EPA because of what the group calls a loophole in a disclosure law. EIP says it got the data from state databases, but that the information is incomplete. The group will submit the data to EPA later today, and hopes it moves the agency on a 2012 petition (http://bit.ly/1cvr2GY) to address the issue under the Emergency Planning and Community Right-To-Know Act.

WATCH OUT FOR ENERGY REGULATION WATCH: Our new tipsheet on regulation issues in the energy world is back for its second edition on Friday. Check your inboxes then and in the meantime, visit our interactive regulation tracker: http://politico.pro/JY0iDN, or sign up at the settings page: http://politico.pro/1bCSF0e

QUICK HITS

— The Colorado Public Utilities Commission has set up a special proceeding to consider the costs and benefits of rooftop solar. Denver Post: http://bit.ly/1a2Q692

— A North Dakota oil industry task force promises to cut down on the practice of flaring excess natural gas. New York Times: http://nyti.ms/1ehy81Z

— New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo has ordered state agencies to increase oversight of oil-by-rail. AP: http://nyti.ms/Lc6AQg

— Southern Co. has filed the papers with DOE to finalize its $8.3 billion loan guarantee. Reuters: http://reut.rs/1d8TUAk

— Bird groups have gotten the National Guard to drop plans for a wind turbine in Ohio. News-Messenger: http://ohne.ws/Mi1F12

HAPPENING TODAY

9 a.m. — The National Council for Science and the Environment continues its National Conference and Global Forum on Science, Policy and the Environment. http://bit.ly/1f6BEKs. Hyatt Regency Crystal City at Reagan National Airport

9 a.m. — The Edison Electric Institute, the American Bar Association and the Environmental Law Institute host a conference on Section 111 of the Clean Air Act, dealing with greenhouse gas regulations. http://bit.ly/1cvepvE. 575 7th St. NW

9 a.m. — The Center for American Progress hosts a discussion on "regulatory capture." Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse speaks. http://bit.ly/1a1PPDd. 1333 H St. NW

9:15 a.m. — The Center for a New American Security hosts a discussion on North American energy and Asia-Pacific security. Army Navy Club, 901 17th St. NW

9:30 a.m. — The Partnership for a Better Energy Future, a coalition of groups opposed to EPA's greenhouse gas regulations, holds a launch event. Participants include the heads up the National Association of Manufacturers, American Coalition for Clean Coal Electricity, National Mining Association and the Institute for 21st Century Energy at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. 1615 H St. NW

10 a.m. — The Senate Foreign Relations Committee holds a hearing on civilian nuclear cooperation agreements. http://1.usa.gov/LoUQdW. Dirksen 419

10 a.m. — The Federal Mine Safety and Health Review Commission hears oral arguments in two cases. 1331 Pennsylvania Ave. NW

11 a.m. — The Environmental Integrity Project holds a conference call briefing on what the group calls a loophole letting oil and gas extraction sites in six states to emit toxic chemicals into the air.

1 p.m. — Environmental and other groups holds a conference call on the West Virginia chemical spill.

1 p.m. — A coalition of foundations will hold a press conference call to announce plans to divest from fossil fuels.

1 p.m. — Environment America Research & Policy Center releases a booklet written by people "on the frontlines of fracking."

4:30 p.m. — Johns Hopkins University holds a discussion on the international consequences of the U.S. oil and gas boom. 1717 Massachusetts Ave. NW

THAT'S ALL FOR ME. Have a nice day.

A message from POWERJobs: Tap into the power of POWERJobs for the newest job opportunities in the Washington area from the area's top employers, including Boeing, Deloitte, Evolver and National Association of Realtors. Powered by names you trust — POLITICO, WTOP, WJLA/ABC-TV, NewsChannel 8 and Federal News Radio- POWERJOBS is the ultimate career site with more than 2 million job searches and nearly 17,000 applications submitted this year so far. Connect through Facebook or LinkedIn, search jobs by industry and set up job-specific email alerts using www.POWERJobs.com, the site for Washington's top talent.

Stories from POLITICO Pro

Oil man Hamm wants export ban scrapped

Oklahoma asks SCOTUS to toss EPA haze plan

Climate panel: Warming 'extremely likely' man-made

Oil man Hamm wants export ban scrapped back

By Darren Goode | 1/29/14 2:33 PM EST

Billionaire oil baron Harold Hamm doesn't think much of a decades-old U.S. crude oil export ban or the Obama administration's energy agenda.

The CEO of Oklahoma-based Continental Resources and Mitt Romney's former campaign energy adviser will head to a hearing of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee on Thursday to argue the crude oil ban is an outdated relic of the Arab oil embargo of the 1970s.

Hamm, whose Continental Resources is one of the biggest oil producers in the United States and is the largest acreage owner in North Dakota's Bakken shale field, said the other regulations put in place after the embargo — such as Nixon's price controls and a ban on using natural gas as a boiler fuel — have long since been lifted.

"Here is another one that needs to go away," he told POLITICO on Wednesday. He called the oil export ban "symbolic in nature."

"And we don't have a lot today, perhaps," to export, he said. But there is still a need to move premium light sweet crude oil "to refineries that need it and handle it, and not all of them are here on U.S. shore," he added.

Energy exports have become a hot topic in Washington, and the debate isn't just around oil. Industry players are hoping to build a network of liquefied natural gas plants to ship the fuel abroad, and efforts by the coal industry to develop new West Coast export channels have drawn resistance from green groups.

Environmental and liberal groups oppose lifting the oil export ban. The Center for American Progress argues that putting U.S. oil into a volatile global market would benefit oil companies but increase domestic gasoline prices.

"Selling crude oil at a higher price on the world market would pad the bank accounts of oil companies, but it could also raise gasoline prices at home and increase our imports," said Daniel Weiss, director of climate strategy at CAP who will also be testifying at Thursday's Senate hearing.

Some analysts have said that the fast rising supply of new U.S. oil has benefited U.S. refiners, driving down gasoline prices and undercutting arguments to lift the export ban.

Hamm dismisses that argument.

"It's a fungible commodity and to have a closed market over here for economic reasons makes absolutely no sense," he said.

"Closed societies don't work," he added. "Cuba, North Korea, you name it. You close off the free trade and you're going to starve."

Senate Energy and Natural Resources ranking member Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska) has advocated lifting the ban and suggested she may eventually decide to address that through legislation if the Obama administration doesn't seek to do it.

Panel Chairman Ron Wyden (D-Ore.) has urged caution, noting he wants to make sure lifting the ban wouldn't be bad for consumers.

"My sense is the Senate is just beginning this discussion," Wyden told reporters Tuesday. "I don't think senators are getting up in the morning, most of them, and saying I've got this position and that position."

Wyden is soon expected to leave the helm of the Energy panel to take over the Senate Finance Committee, and his successor as top Energy and Natural Resources Democrat — Louisiana Sen. Mary Landrieu — may be more inclined to side with those seeking to lift the ban. Landrieu told POLITICO this month that she thinks the ban should be reviewed but that she trusts the Obama administration to do so.

The oil industry isn't expecting quick action.

President Barack Obama didn't address exports in his State of the Union address Tuesday night, though he praised natural gas as a way to reduce greenhouse gas emissions as long as sufficient environmental and safety standards are in place for its production.

Hamm said he didn't watch the speech, and he doesn't think highly of the Obama administration's oil and natural gas oversight.

"We've seen diminishing permits and diminishing access to federal lands, particularly through this president's administration to the point that it's just difficult to work on federal lands, and the numbers show it," he said. "And [for Obama] then to take credit for [increased production] is a little bit hard to swallow."

"We've seen everything that the federal government can throw at us thrown at us," he added. "The EPA has been all over oil and gas for a number of years and that's continued to get worse."

Obama also didn't address his upcoming decision on whether to allow construction of the Keystone XL pipeline, which Hamm supports, and the oil man said he isn't betting on Obama ending the wait before the midterm election.

"Similarly a decision was supposed to come down almost two years ago and on the same thing, so frankly I'm not optimistic," he said.

And he isn't waiting for the pipeline project to be approved and built. Hamm expects his company will rely on more rail to get its Bakken shale oil to refineries.

"You just can't wait," he said. "Unfortunately, it's just been a bad situation and hasn't gotten any better."back

Oklahoma asks SCOTUS to toss EPA haze plan back

By Erica Martinson | 1/29/14 5:39 PM EST

Oklahoma Attorney General Scott Pruitt petitioned the Supreme Court on Wednesday to overturn EPA regulations that would impose costly requirements on three of the state's power plants in order to clear the skies in national parks.

At issue is the EPA's Regional Haze Program, a set of regulations that stem from a 1977 congressional addition to the Clean Air Act that was aimed at improving and maintaining visibility on pristine federal lands.

The EPA said Oklahoma's plan wasn't good enough, and it imposed its own in its place. Pruitt disagrees, and he says the EPA is overreaching its authority and requiring $1.2 billion in power plant upgrades that will needlessly boost utility rates by as much as 20 percent.

"This issue is simple: The Clean Air Act gives states the primary authority to design and implement plans to address visibility issues in federal wildlife areas," Pruitt said in a statement Wednesday.

"Our state developed a common-sense plan to address regional haze, but because it continued the use of fossil fuels, the EPA rejected it to further its anti-fossil fuel agenda. We are hopeful the Supreme Court will agree to review our lawsuit so that we can continue the fight to protect the ability of states like Oklahoma to craft state-based solutions as provided by the law."

In Oklahoma, the haze regulations are aimed at protecting the Wichita Mountains, a wilderness area of 8,900 acres, according to the EPA.

Though the rules were added to the CAA in 1977, the EPA didn't set its regional haze regulations until 1999, at which point states were supposed to hand in plans detailing actions they'd take to make sure the Wichita Mountains, the Grand Canyon and 154 other areas of the U.S. would be clear of scene-wrecking air pollution by 2064.

The issue was mostly dormant until persistent legal haranguing by environmental groups, led by the National Parks Conservation Association, moved it forward. Oklahoma filed its plan in February 2010.

But the EPA rejected Oklahoma's plan in December 2011 as too weak — a judgment it issued to many other states' plans as well.

The agency later issued its own plan for three major coal-fired power plants: Oklahoma Gas and Electric's Muskogee Generating Station, Sooner Generating Station, and two units owned and operated by American Electric Power's Public Service Company of Oklahoma.

The EPA's plan requires costly reductions to sulfur dioxide pollution at the plants, which the petition to the Supreme Court says are in northeastern Oklahoma. "The closest is 145 miles from the wildlife refuge, while the farthest is 201 miles away," the petition says.

Oklahoma also argues that the EPA wrongly assumed OG&E was using high-sulfur coal and that it could use cheaper scrubbers that would last longer than is realistic.

Oklahoma challenged the EPA's dismissal of its plan in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 10th Circuit, which ruled 2-1 in favor of the EPA. Now the state is asking the Supreme Court to take a look at the issue.

"States don't merely exist to implement federal policies, despite what the bureaucrats in Washington may think," Pruitt said. He said his office is standing up for states' rights to craft and implement their own policy solutions.back

Climate panel: Warming 'extremely likely' man-made back

By The Associated Press | 9/27/13 7:09 AM EST

STOCKHOLM — Scientists can now say with extreme confidence that human activity is the dominant cause of the global warming observed since the 1950s, a new report by an international scientific group said Friday.

Calling man-made warming "extremely likely," the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change used the strongest words yet on the issue as it adopted its assessment on the state of the climate system.

In its previous assessment, in 2007, the U.N.-sponsored panel said it was "very likely" that global warming was man-made.

One of the most controversial subjects in the report was how to deal with a purported slowdown in warming in the past 15 years. Climate skeptics say this "hiatus" casts doubt on the scientific consensus on climate change.

Many governments had objections over how the issue was treated in earlier drafts and some had called for it to be deleted altogether.

In the end, the IPCC made only a brief mention of the issue in the summary for policymakers, stressing that short-term records are sensitive to natural variability and don't in general reflect long-term trends.

"An old rule says that climate-relevant trends should not be calculated for periods less than around 30 years," said Thomas Stocker, co-chair of the group that wrote the report.

Many scientists say the purported slowdown reflects random climate fluctuations and an unusually hot year, 1998, picked as a starting point for charting temperatures. Another leading hypothesis is that heat is settling temporarily in the oceans, but that wasn't included in the summary.

Stocker said there wasn't enough literature on "this emerging question."

The IPCC said the evidence of climate change has grown thanks to more and better observations, a clearer understanding of the climate system and improved models to analyze the impact of rising temperatures.

"Our assessment of the science finds that the atmosphere and ocean have warmed, the amount of snow and ice has diminished, the global mean sea level has risen and the concentrations of greenhouse gases have increased," said Qin Dahe, co-chair of the working group that wrote the report.

The full 2,000-page report isn't going to be released until Monday, but the summary for policymakers with the key findings was published Friday. It contained few surprises as many of the findings had been leaked in advance.

As expected, the IPCC raised its projections of the rise in sea levels to 10-32 inches (26-82 centimeters) by the end of the century. The previous report predicted a rise of 7-23 inches (18-59 centimeters).

The IPCC assessments are important because they form the scientific basis of U.N. negotiations on a new climate deal. Governments are supposed to finish that agreement in 2015, but it's unclear whether they will commit to the emissions cuts that scientists say will be necessary to keep the temperature below a limit at which the worst effects of climate change can be avoided.

Using four scenarios with different emissions controls, the report projected that global average temperatures would rise by 0.3 to 4.8 degrees C by the end of the century. That's 0.5-8.6 F.

Only the two lower scenarios, which were based on significant cuts in CO2 emissions, came in below the 2-degree C (3.6 F) limit that countries have set as their target in the climate talks to avoid the worst impacts of warming.

"This is yet another wakeup call: Those who deny the science or choose excuses over action are playing with fire," Secretary of State John Kerry said in a statement. "Once again, the science grows clearer, the case grows more compelling, and the costs of inaction grow beyond anything that anyone with conscience or common sense should be willing to even contemplate."

At this point, emissions keep rising mainly due to rapid growth in China and other emerging economies. They say rich countries should take the lead on emissions cuts because they've pumped carbon into the atmosphere for longer.

Climate activists said the report should spur governments to action.

"There are few surprises in this report but the increase in the confidence around many observations just validates what we are seeing happening around us," said Samantha Smith, of the World Wildlife Fund.back

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