

To: msintetos@blm.gov[msintetos@blm.gov]
Cc: Martha Maciel[mmaciel@blm.gov]; Joseph Stout[j2stout@blm.gov]
From: Jerome Perez
Sent: 2017-11-14T10:17:52-05:00
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Subject: Fwd: Morning Consult Energy: Zinke Says Trump Will Shrink Bears Ears Monument
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Begin forwarded message:

From: Morning Consult <reply@e.morningconsult.com>
Date: November 14, 2017 at 5:05:02 AM PST
To: <jperez@blm.gov>
Subject: Morning Consult Energy: Zinke Says Trump Will Shrink Bears Ears Monument
Reply-To: The Morning Consult <reply-fec81678766c047f-668_HTML-283209-7245018-0@e.morningconsult.com>

By [Iulia Gheorghiu](#)

Government Brief

- In an interview, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke said he believes President Donald Trump will follow his recommendations to trim the controversial Bears Ears National Monument but that it will be larger than the Zion and Bryce national parks combined. The reduction would open hundreds of thousands of acres of land for oil and gas exploration and other uses that are blocked by the monument status, but Bears Ears would still be at least 50,000 acres larger than what state leaders requested. ([The Salt Lake Tribune](#))

- Trump said his 12 day tour of Asia created \$300 billion in sales to companies and several major energy deals. However, many of the agreements are non binding and analysts are uncertain some of the multi billion dollar projects will be realized. ([BBC News](#))
- Fifty seven former Environmental Protection Agency attorneys accused EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt of misrepresenting legal settlement practices and work by the agency and the Justice Department, according to an open letter. The letter came after Pruitt rolled out a policy change last month to curb legal settlements with environmental groups, which critics call "sue and settle." ([The Hill](#))

Business Brief

- Microsoft Corp. pledged at the climate conference in Bonn, Germany to cut its carbon emissions by 75 percent by 2030, compared to 2013 levels. The software giant said it would look to renewable energy to sharply lower its emissions, even as its electricity requirements grow. ([The Associated Press](#))
- General Electric will transform its business to focus on three segments, including supplying power plants with equipment and services. The company could exit the oil and gas industry and its role in renewable energy is somewhat uncertain, the chief executive said, surprising some investors and sending shares to a five year low. ([CNBC](#))
- French oil company Total S.A.'s chief executive said Trump's threat to quit the Iran nuclear deal could derail a \$2 billion investment the company signed four months ago to develop the huge South Pars gas field in partnership with Iran and China's state run oil companies. Iran is currently trying to attract foreign investment to develop its energy sector and could be hit hard by the loss of the Total deal. ([CNN](#))

Chart Review

CO₂ emissions from coal fell by record amount in 2015, led by Texas and Midwest

U.S. Energy Information Administration

Events Calendar (All Times Local)**TUESDAY**

Policy discussion on smart technology in infrastructure hosted by The Hill	8 a.m.
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National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners annual meeting	8:30 a.m.
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Discussion on Venezuela's oil industry hosted by the Atlantic Council	9 a.m.
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Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee hearing on hurricane recovery efforts	9:30 a.m.
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Senate Environment and Public Works clean air subcommittee hearing on 4 bills	10 a.m.
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House Energy and Commerce environment subcommittee hearing on hurricane recover efforts	10 a.m.
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House Natural Resources Committee oversight hearing on recovery efforts for U.S. territories	2 p.m.
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Johns Hopkins University hosts forum on the status of nuclear power in the U.S.	5 p.m.
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WEDNESDAY

Energy Decoded briefing hosted by CQ Roll Call	8 a.m.
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Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee mark up hearing on the budget measure to open up	9 a.m.
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the Arctic refuge for drilling	
National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners annual meeting	9 a.m.
Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works hearing on air emissions reduction innovations	10 a.m.
ITIF hosts discussion on ARPA E's role in clean energy innovation	10 a.m.
House Natural Resources federal lands subcommittee hearing on 4 bills	10:30 a.m.
Nord Stream and European Energy Security conference	2 p.m.

THURSDAY

Brazil's oil and gas industry event hosted by the Wilson Center	10 a.m.
Webinar on electric vehicles hosted by the National Journal	11 a.m.
"Beyond Batteries: Grid interactive Efficient Buildings" hosted by the Alliance to Save Energy	12 p.m.

FRIDAY

NCAC lunch with former FERC Commissioner Tony Clark	12 p.m.
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General

After Trump shrinks Bears Ears, it will still be larger than Zion and Bryce combined, says Interior secretary **Thomas Burr, The Salt Lake Tribune**

Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke says he believes President Donald Trump will trim Utah's Bears Ears National Monument as he recommended but it will still be larger than Zion and Bryce national parks combined. That could mean a dramatic reduction from the current 1.35 million acres to somewhere north of 180,000 acres.

Trump touts big energy deals in Asia **BBC News**

US President Donald Trump wraps up a 12 day tour of Asia on Tuesday which he said created \$300bn (£228bn) in sales to companies in the region and several major energy deals. Energy agreements made up roughly half the total value of deals in China.

Former EPA attorneys slam 'sue-and-settle' policy **Timothy Cama, The Hill**

Dozens of former Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) attorneys are assailing the Trump administration's policy meant to curb legal settlements with environmental groups. The 57 attorneys, who all served in non political career roles, accused EPA head Scott Pruitt of deliberately misrepresenting legal settlement practices and the work of attorneys both at EPA and the Justice Department.

Trump's EPA Chemical Safety Nominee May Be too Toxic Even for Republicans **Sharon Lerner, The Intercept**

Massive conflicts of interest no longer stand in the way of confirmation to the Environmental Protection Agency's highest posts, as Scott Pruitt, the EPA's sworn enemy, demonstrated when he ascended to the agency's top job. Yet Michael Dourson, the industry scientist Trump nominated to head EPA's Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention, may be unable to clear even this low bar.

Oil steady, tempered by caution over rising U.S. output **Amanda Cooper, Reuters**

Oil prices held largely steady on Tuesday as the prospect of further rises in U.S. output offset some of the optimism that OPEC led production cuts would tighten the balance between crude supply and demand. Brent crude futures LCOc1 were at \$63.11 per barrel at 0942 GMT, down 5 cents, while U.S. West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude CLc1 was down 13 cents at \$56.63.

Oil and Natural Gas

Trump could kill Total's Iran gas deal **Zahraa Alkhalisi, CNN**

President Trump's get tough approach to Iran could kill a huge energy investment signed just four months ago. Under the deal, Total (TOT) and China's CNPC agreed to invest billions of dollars in Iran to develop the giant South Pars gas field in partnership with Iran's Petropars.

Saudi Aramco IPO to take place in 2018, Gulf oil minister says

Sam Meredith, CNBC

Saudi Aramco's plan to take a portion of its business public next year will go ahead as scheduled in 2018, Oman's oil minister told CNBC Monday. At an energy industry conference in Abu Dhabi, Oman's Mohammed bin Hamad al Rumhi was pressed for a definitive answer regarding his expectations over Saudi Aramco's potential IPO next year.

Pacific Drilling Files for Chapter 11 Bankruptcy Protection **Tom Corrigan, The Wall Street Journal**

Pacific Drilling SA, an international offshore oil and gas drilling business, filed for bankruptcy Sunday in a bid to restructure about \$3 billion in debt. The company and nearly two dozen affiliates sought chapter 11 protection at the U.S. Bankruptcy Court in New York after failing to reach an out of court deal with lenders earlier this year.

Drilling opponents outline battle plan **Kellie Lunney, E&E News**

Senate opponents of drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge hope to convince their colleagues over the next few weeks that energy development there threatens America's entire wildlife refuge system, primarily for the sake of alleviating Alaska's fiscal crisis. Cantwell is the top Democrat on the Energy and Natural Resources Committee and is leading the charge against drilling in ANWR's 1.5 million acre coastal plain.

Nebraska regulator to announce Keystone XL permit

decision on Nov. 20
Valerie Volcovici, Reuters

The Nebraska Public Service Commission announced Monday it will issue its decision on whether to approve the permit to allow construction of the Keystone XL pipeline on Nov. 20, the last regulatory hurdle for the controversial project. On that day, the five member PSC will take a vote on the decision in Lincoln, Nebraska, which will be open to the public.

Utilities and Infrastructure

GE's energy business could soon look very different
Tom DiChristopher, CNBC

General Electric's footprint in the energy world could soon look substantially different as the conglomerate embarks upon a transformation plan announced on Monday. The company intends to remain in the business of supplying power plants with equipment and services, an industry it dominates alongside German rival Siemens. But GE could exit the oil and gas industry, and its role in renewable energy remains somewhat uncertain.

Puerto Rico Ignored Lawyers' Advice Over Whitefish Energy Contract

Frances Robles, The New York Times

Puerto Rico's electric company disregarded its own lawyers' advice when it signed a \$300 million contract that offered so few protections that it allowed some workers trying to fix the battered power grid to bill for "nearly every waking hour" they were on the island, according to a House panel investigating the troubled contract. Records released on Monday night show that as the contract with Whitefish Energy Holdings was drafted and revised, the rates kept rising.

Renewables

America's 'Renaissance' to Gains for Renewables: Global Energy Trends
Stanley Reed, The New York Times

From the rise of renewable power to the transformation of the United States into a heavyweight producer of oil and gas, the global energy market, normally slow to evolve, is going through major upheaval. That is the assessment of Fatih Birol, the executive director of the International Energy Agency, the organization based in Paris that is publishing its annual World Energy Outlook on Tuesday.

A trio of proposed tariffs echo America's protectionist past
Sarah Gardner and Scott Tong, Marketplace

The U.S. International Trade Commission has sent its recommendations to the White House that imported solar panels and parts get taxed up to 35 percent. The other two involve very different industries, but similar complaints.

Study: Cars can't yet match electric vehicles on efficiency
Eric Lawrence, The Detroit Free Press

A new study by the University of Michigan Transportation Research Institute finds that gas powered vehicles need to average 55.4 miles per gallon in the U.S. in order to produce fewer greenhouse gas emissions than a battery electric vehicle. That's because even most electric cars aren't oil or coal free.

Coal

The Real 'War on Coal' Is in China
Nathaniel Taplin, The Wall Street Journal

Investors hoping strong global growth and favorable U.S. policies will boost coal prices and stocks should keep focused on China instead. Winter is usually China's peak coal season, but this time around environmental inspections, rebounding hydropower, and slowing real estate development are together painting a dire picture for demand.

Company helping to re-train coal miners in computer coding
CBS News

Former miners are heading to the classroom, using many of the same skills they used underground. Manchin helped Mined Minds establish headquarters near the West Virginia Capitol with federal grants, sparking a new initiative to open coding boot camps across the state, which has an unemployment rate of 4.7%.

Nuclear

Study Claims Quark Fusion May Be the Energy Source of the Future
Paul Ratner, Big Think

In a new paper, scientists have envisioned a new power source straight out of Star Trek. While nuclear fusion reactors, which produce energy in the same way as the sun, are still not a viable reality, researchers from Tel Aviv University and the University of Chicago are proposing

quark fusion.

French minister turns up heat on EDF over shift to renewables

Anne-Sylvaine Chassany and David Keohane, Financial Times

France is considering changing the governance of state owned utility EDF to shift its focus from nuclear to renewable energy as Emmanuel Macron's government seeks to cut the country's reliance on atomic power the backbone of its energy policy for five decades. Nicolas Hulot, energy and environment minister, told the Financial Times the country's largest electricity producer needed to embrace a transition towards environmentally friendly energy rather than "resist" it.

Climate

Microsoft pledges to curb carbon emissions despite growth
The Associated Press

Microsoft says it aims to cut carbon emissions generated from its operations by 75 percent by 2030, from 2013 levels. The software giant's pledge Tuesday on the sidelines of global climate talks in Bonn, Germany, reflects the kinds of efforts large businesses are making to help curb climate change, which is largely caused by greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide.

Climate change upped the odds of Harvey's extreme rains, study finds

Chris Mooney, The Washington Post

The extreme rains that inundated the Houston area during Hurricane Harvey were made more likely by climate change, a new study suggests, adding that such extreme flooding events will only become more frequent as the globe continues to warm. In the wake of Harvey, many researchers pointed out that a warmer atmosphere holds more water vapor and that, as a result, a warmer planet should see more extreme rains.

These Climate Skeptics Have The Trump Administration's Ear. Here's Their Wishlist.

Zahra Hirji, BuzzFeed News

Several federal officials attended an energy conference hosted by the conservative Heartland Institute. The group of climate skeptics is celebrating Trump's environmental rollbacks and aiming for even bigger policy changes.

Some state-level policies really do curb energy sector emissions

Megan Geuss, Ars Technica

Researchers studying state level climate policy in the US confirm what high school teachers already know: if you make an assignment voluntary and offer no incentives for completing it, no one's gonna do it. In an assessment of 17 climate and energy policies enacted by US states between 1990 and 2014, researchers from Emory University found that mandatory policies usually had a positive effect on emissions reduction while voluntary policies always had negligible or no effect.

Opinions, Editorials and Perspectives

Whitefish Energy: Our Work in Puerto Rico
Andy Techmanski, Morning Consult

Since Whitefish Energy began its work restoring portions of Puerto Rico's electric transmission and distribution infrastructure six weeks ago, we have made significant progress. Nevertheless, I would like to address some of the misinformation that has circulated regarding Whitefish Energy and our work in Puerto Rico.

The U.S. Is Tackling Global Warming. Even if Trump Isn't
Michael Bloomberg and Jerry Brown, The New York Times

World leaders have been meeting in Bonn, Germany, since last week to discuss carrying out the 2015 Paris climate agreement. Sadly, though not unexpectedly, the White House and federal agencies have largely been absent from the negotiating table.

Cracking down on foreign-made solar panels would make U.S. less secure

Norman Seip, The Washington Post

The U.S. International Trade Commission is proposing tariffs on imported solar energy panels for Trump to approve. But it would be a grave mistake — one that would hurt our national security, cost veterans their jobs and increase power bills for everyday Americans.

Germany Is Burning Too Much Coal
Editorial Board, Bloomberg

Germany is widely seen as a world leader in the fight against climate change. Thanks to its investments in renewable power, wind and solar energy provide a third of its electricity, more than double the U.S. share. Germany's goal to lower carbon dioxide emissions 40 percent by

2020 is significantly more ambitious than that of Europe as a whole or the U.S.

Fuel cell technology proves value in hurricane relief efforts

Ken Blackwell, The Hill

Congress, like most Americans, may not be fully aware of a growing energy source powering industry today, which explains why fuel cell technology isn't being treated fairly. While it's largely out of public view, it was one of the unsung heroes in this year's hurricane disasters.

Study of surface mining, health issues should resume

Editorial Board, The Huntington Herald Dispatch

As the months pass since a U.S. Interior Department agency ordered an independent group to stop work on research about the possible health effects of mountaintop removal coal mining, the decision looks more and more curious. The reason given by the Office of Surface Mining, Reclamation and Enforcement was that the Trump administration, mindful of how taxpayer dollars are used, was halting the project as part of a financial review of any Interior Department studies costing \$100,000 or more.

Research Reports

The Global Status of CCS: 2017

The Global Carbon Capture and Storage Institute

The Global Status of CCS 2017 documents the current status of CCS around the world and the significant operational milestones over the past 12 months. It demystifies common misunderstandings about the technology and identifies where and how it can, and must, be more widely deployed.

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