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From: Hommel, Scott
Sent: 2017-06-20T17:57:45-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: DOI Look Ahead Week of 20 June
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[DOI Cabinet 30 Day Report 6-20-17 \(1\).docx](#)

FYI

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Hommel, Scott** <scott_hommel@ios.doi.gov>

Date: Tue, Jun 20, 2017 at 5:55 PM

Subject: DOI Look Ahead Week of 20 June

To: (b) (6), "McGinley, William J. EOP/WHO"

(b) (6) >, "Mashburn, John K. EOP/WHO"

(b) (6) >, "Flynn, Matthew J. EOP/WHO"

(b) (6) >

Cc: Scott Hommel <scott_hommel@ios.doi.gov>

Gentlemen,
Please see attached.

Scott

MEMORANDUM FOR THE WHITE HOUSE STAFF SECRETARY AND CABINET SECRETARY
Week June 19, 2017

FROM: Scott Hommel, Chief of Staff, U.S. Department of the Interior

SUBJECT: Interior Department Weekly Update for the Week of June 20, 2017

DOI 30-Day Policy Look Ahead

Presidential Initiatives and Awareness

1. **ENERGY WEEK:** As part of Energy Week and to promote the President's America-First Energy Policy, the Secretary is traveling to the Western Governors Association annual meeting to announce a Secretarial Order to promote the exploration and development of federal onshore oil and gas resources and solid mineral resources. At the Energy Dominance summit on Thursday, The Secretary would like to announce a request for information for a new five-year offshore program that considers opening new areas of the Outer Continental Shelf for offshore exploration. This is a significant announcement that could highlight the President's vision for American Energy production.

ATTENTION NEEDED: The Department is on track to publish a proposed rule to rescind the BLM Hydraulic Fracturing Rule this month. The rule is currently under review by OMB, however it would be a missed opportunity to not announce the rule's rescission during energy week.

Timing: June 27-29

Contact: Scott Hommel, Chief of Staff

2. **DOI TO MAKE \$464 MILLION IN PILT PAYMENTS TO 49 STATES.** On June 26, the Department will announce \$464 million to over 1,900 local counties and units of government. Payment-in-lieu-of-taxes are used to help offset lost property taxes due to non-taxable federal lands within their jurisdiction (all 50 states except Rhode Island receive payments). PILT payments may be used for any government purposes, such as firefighting and police protection, public schools and roads and search and rescue operations. The announcement will be made in Nevada. An event is being planned and Congressional and Gubernatorial outreach has occurred.

Timing: June 26 2017

Contact: Jim Cason, Associate Deputy Secretary

3. **USGS CRITICAL MINERALS:** USGS will release a new report presenting resource and geologic information for 23 critical mineral commodities important to our national economy and national security, many of which are sourced entirely outside of the United States. This is the first update since the last assessment undertaken in 1973. The report provides an in-depth look at each commodity's use, distribution of deposit types, and status of production, resources, and reserves. The Department will be developing a rollout event likely in July that will potentially be pitched for White House participation.

Timing: July 2017

Contact: Scott Cameron, Acting Assistant Secretary for Water and Science

4. **NAVAJO GENERATING STATION.** The Department is working to facilitate a path forward to maintain operation of the Navajo Generating Station, which provides baseload electricity for much of the Southwest and directly supports more than 800 local jobs. The Department's Bureau of Reclamation is a part owner of the power generated by the plant and thus the Administration have a role in the ultimate decision associated with the plant. Interior has hosted a series of public listening sessions and meetings on this issue. The current focus is extending the expiring lease between the main operator, Salt River Project, and the Navajo Nation which owns the land. After facilitation by Interior, an agreement in principle was reached on a two-year extension of the lease for the operating life of the power plant through 2019. It should be signed in July. Interior is helping to identify a possible future owner to keep the plant generating power indefinitely.

Timing: July 2017

Contact: Jim Cason, Associate Deputy Secretary

5. **MONUMENT REVIEW:** Last week, the Secretary traveled to the Katahdin Woods National Monument in Maine this week as well as Boston to visit with Fisherman on the Northeast Canyons and Seamounts National Monument on Friday. The Secretary will travel to Oregon, Nevada, and New Mexico in July to look at monuments.

Timing: August 24 (conclusion of review).

Contact: Downey Magallanes, Acting Deputy Chief of Staff

Reports to Congress, Congressional Testimony, and Items of Congressional Interest

1. **SECRETARY ZINKE TO TESTIFY ON THE HILL FOR BUDGET HEARINGS.** The Secretary testified before the House Interior Appropriations subcommittee on the FY18 Budget on Thursday June 8th and is scheduled to appear before the Senate Interior Appropriations Subcommittees (6/21), Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee (6/20) and the House Natural Resources Committee (6/22).

Timing: June 2017

Contact: Micah Chambers, Deputy Director, Congressional Affairs

2. **DEPUTY SECRETARY NOMINEE BERNHARDT IN PROGRESS TOWARD NOMINATION:** Mr. Bernhardt was reported out of committee June 6th and is awaiting a final floor vote. Outreach has occurred to Senate Majority Leader's office. Majority hotlined his nomination with no Republican opposition, but remains opposed by minority.

3. **DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL TO TESTIFY BEFORE HOUSE NATURAL RESOURCES SUBCOMMITTEE:** Tim Spisak (BLM Acting Assistant Director for Energy, Minerals and Realty Management) is scheduled to testify before the HNR Committee on a Helium discussion draft bill.

Timing: 10 am, June 21, 2017

Contact: Micah Chambers, Deputy Director, Congressional Affairs

4. **SENIOR POLITICAL OFFICIAL TO TESTIFY BEFORE HOUSE NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE:** Acting Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals, Kate MacGregor is tentatively scheduled to testify on the BLM Oil and Gas Leasing Program. The hearing will likely focus on the hurdles and barriers to energy development on public lands.
Timing: June 29, 2017
Contact: Amanda Kaster, Policy Advisor, Congressional Affairs

5. **DOI EXPECTS SERIES OF CONTROVERSIAL CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS:** OCL is expecting a series of hearings that are more controversial in nature (Indian Gaming Reform, Land into Trust, Indian Federal Recognition, and Lawsuit Settlement Oversight). None have been officially noticed yet, but they will generate some controversy.
Timing: TBD
Contact: Micah Chambers, Deputy Director, Congressional Affairs

6. **SENATE ENERGY COMMITTEE EXPECTED TO HOLD EXTENSIVE LEGISLATIVE HEARING:** SENR has given DOI notice that they plan to hold a hearing on a series of bills ranging from BOEM to NPS to BLM. The hearing could potentially cover as many as 25 bills but the final list is still being set.
Timing: TBD
Contact: Micah Chambers, Deputy Director, Congressional Affairs

7. **SECRETARY ZINKE INVITED TO THE EVERGLADES BY BIPARTISAN FLORIDA CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION:** Sen. Rubio led a letter to Sec. Zinke inviting him to tour the Everglades as soon as possible. No policy position touted within the letter, other than the importance of the Everglades to Florida. No date has been confirmed, but the Secretary has made it a priority. He would like to discuss the issue with Sen. Rubio over the phone in the immediate future before any trip is scheduled.
Timing: Early Fall, Sen. Rubio has proposed August 24
Contact: Micah Chambers, Deputy Director, Congressional Affairs

Other Significant Rulemakings and Actions

1. **FINAL NOTICE OF SALE FOR COOK INLET OFFSHORE ENERGY LEASES IN ALASKA.** The Department will announce its first sale in Alaska in years (since President Obama canceled the last two sales claiming lack of industry interest). This sale will be the last of the previous five year plan (2012-2017) and will be conducted online.
Timing: June 21
Contact: Kate MacGregor, Acting Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals

2. **FWS REFUGE-SPECIFIC HUNTING AND SPORT FISHING REGULATIONS.** Fish and Wildlife Service will publish a proposed rule and open a 30-day comment period on the 2017-2018 Refuge Specific Hunting and Sport Fishing Regulations. The proposed rule would open various national wildlife refuges to hunting and/or sport fishing for the first time (new hunts) and expand hunting and fishing opportunities at others. The proposal also includes modifications to existing hunting and fishing regulations for refuges and wetland management districts.
Timing: June 2017
Contact: Virginia Johnson, Acting Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks

3. **ONSHORE OIL AND GAS PERMITTING ON FEDERAL LAND.** Throughout June, the Bureau of Land Management will hold online oil and gas lease sales.
 - **Arkansas.** On June 22, BLM-Eastern States will hold an online oil and gas lease sale for 2 parcels totaling 160 acres in AR.**Timing:** June 12-22
Contact: Kate MacGregor, Acting Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals

4. **MOUNTAIN VALLEY PIPELINE:** BLM is a cooperating agency with Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), which is expected to release the Final EIS for the Proposed Mountain Valley Pipeline Right of Way on June 23. The Mountain Valley Pipeline is a natural gas pipeline system that spans approximately 303 miles from northwestern West Virginia to southern Virginia, and would cross 3.4 miles of the Jefferson National Forest in Monroe County, WV and Giles and Montgomery Counties, VA. The Forest Service, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and BLM are cooperating agencies. FERC is the lead agency in preparing the Final EIS. The BLM is the Federal agency responsible for issuing right-of-way (ROW) grants, with concurrence from the USFS and the COE,
Timing: June 23
Contact: Kate MacGregor, Acting Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals

5. **IDAHO POWER LINE RECORD OF DECISION.** The Boardman to Hemingway power line project is a 500 KV electric transmission line, which will run from Oregon to Idaho to provide capacity for exchanging energy between the Pacific Northwest and Intermountain West. The ROD granting the right of way is expected to be finalized this month.
Timing: Late June- Early July 2017
Contact: Kate MacGregor, Acting Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals

6. **BORDER WALL ACTIVITIES:** DOI will facilitate a series of meetings for interagency communication and coordination between the DOI land managers and Customs and Border Protection (CBP). In Texas on June 28-June 29, there will be a planning to discuss proposed geotechnical surveys and possible visits to construction sites with National Wildlife Refuge staff and CBP. In June 29 in Tucson Arizona, a mini-Border Forum will be convened with DOI land managers, USDA Forest Service personnel, and U.S. Border Patrol from the Yuma and Tucson sectors in attendance.
Timing: June 28- 29
Contact: Jim Cason, Associate Deputy Secretary

Legal Decisions

1. **EVERGLADES WATER QUALITY CONSENT DECREE:** The South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) has informed the Department of Justice (DOJ) that it wishes to vacate the 25 year-old consent decree in this case, which governs water quality/pollution control efforts that affect Everglades National Park and A.R.M. Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge. SFWMD has shared a draft motion to vacate, and DOJ is reviewing. DOI's technical experts, working with EPA and the Corps, have prepared an analysis of facts relevant to SFWMD's arguments, and we are currently reviewing a draft. DOJ will need to decide the USG position on the case: U.S. v. South Florida Water Management District (S.D. Fla.) - Everglades Water Quality Consent Decree. The federal agencies expect to brief decision-makers in the upcoming weeks.

Timing: June 2017

Contact: Dan Jorjani, Acting Solicitor

Release of High-Profile Grants

1. **\$3.6 MILLION FOR BATTLEFIELD RESTORATION GRANTS.** The National Park Service will announce \$3,623,162 in available grant funding to acquire land to protect nearly 1,000 acres of Revolutionary and Civil War battlefields in Virginia, Mississippi, New York, West Virginia, and Maryland. These will tentatively be announced at Antietam Battlefield on July 5.
Timing: July 5 2017
Contact: Virginia Johnson, Acting Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks
2. **RECREATIONAL BOATING INFRASTRUCTURE AND MARITIME HERITAGE AND PRESERVATION GRANTS:** DOI plans to announce nearly \$15 million in grants to 40 states for projects to support recreational boating through the Boating Infrastructure Grant program. More than \$9 million of this will go to six states (California, Maine, Michigan, South Carolina, Texas and Washington) for competitive grants, and the remaining \$5 million will go to 39 states, commonwealths, territories and the District of Columbia for a smaller, non-competitive grant program. We will also announce \$1.75 million in grants to be used for maritime heritage education and preservation projects related to the maritime heritage of the United States. Both are tentatively scheduled to be announced during an event in Virginia Beach on July 7.
Timing: July 7 2017
Contact: Virginia Johnson, Acting Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks
3. **\$15 MILLION FOR OUTDOOR RECREATION LEGACY GRANTS.** The National Park Service will announce \$15 million in Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership grant funding for approximately 25 projects. This competitive program supplements the annual Land and Water

Conservation Fund apportionment to states by supporting projects for disadvantaged populations in urban areas.

Timing: June-July 2017

Contact: Virginia Johnson, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Fish, and Wildlife and Parks

Other/Awareness

1. **DOI POSTPONES ADVISORY BOARD MEETINGS.** The Department is continuing to review the charter and charge of the more than 200 boards, committees, and advisory panels ensure they are structured to receive maximum public input and comply with the Federal Advisory Committee Act. The Department spends more than \$10 million to facilitate these boards and many are not meeting their charter obligations, are not meeting regularly, and have little turnover or numerous unfilled positions. Meetings have been postponed until September 2017 following the Department's review unless justified on a case-by-case basis.

Timing: May-September 2017

Contact: Lori Mashburn, White House Liaison

Key Events for Upcoming 30-Days

Major Policy Speeches

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| June 20 | Secretary Zinke Testifies before the Senate Natural Resources Committee: On President's FY2018 Budget Request for Interior Department |
| June 21 | Secretary Zinke Testifies before Senate Appropriations Committee: On President's FY 2018 Budget Request for Interior Department |
| June 22 | Secretary Zinke Testifies before the House Natural Resources Committee: On President's FY2018 Budget Request for Interior Department |
| June 27 | Secretary Zinke to Deliver Remarks at Western Governors Association, in White Fish, Montana |

Travel by Secretary

June 26 **Secertary Zinke travel to** Nevada to announce PILT awards

June 27 **Secretary Zinke travel to** Whitefish for Western Governors Association event and energy week announcement