

Message

From: David Lawler [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=██████████]
Sent: 11/08/2020 14:42:19
To: Streett, Mary [██████████@bp.com]; ZZLawler, David [██████████@bp.com]; Botley, Keith [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=██████████]
Subject: RE: Trump to finalize methane rules — BLM officially has new home — Oversight Dems seeks Pebble probe

Redacted - First Amendment

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From: Streett, Mary <██████████@bp.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 11, 2020 5:29 AM
To: ZZLawler, David <██████████@bp.com>; Botley, Keith <██████████@bp.com>
Subject: Fwd: Trump to finalize methane rules — BLM officially has new home — Oversight Dems seeks Pebble probe

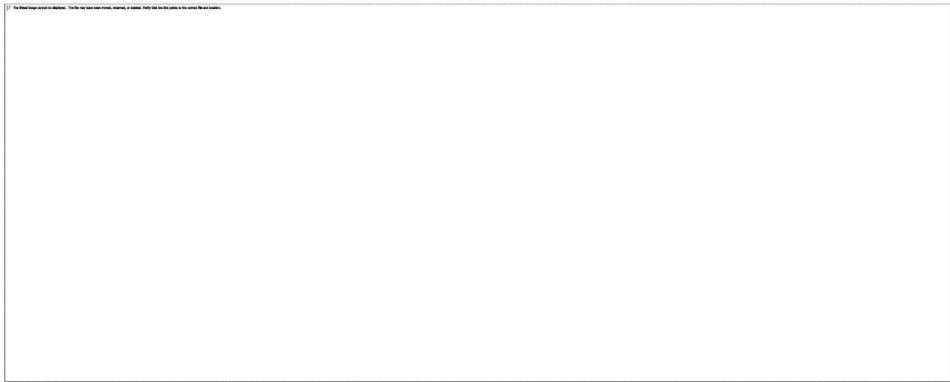
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From: POLITICO Pro's Morning Energy <██████████@politicopro.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 11, 2020 5:46 AM
To: Streett, Mary
Subject: Trump to finalize methane rules — BLM officially has new home — Oversight Dems seeks Pebble probe

Aug 11, 2020

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BY KELSEY TAMBORRINO

Presented by the American Wind Energy Association

With help from Ben Lefebvre and Eric Wolff



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QUICK FIX

- **EPA will soon finalize its repeal of Obama-era limits on methane pollution from new oil and gas wells.**
- **Grand Junction, Colo., was formally designated as home** to the Bureau of Land Management's headquarters on Monday.
- **Three Democrats on the House Oversight Committee called on federal watchdogs** to probe moves under the Trump administration to make it easier to proceed with the proposed Pebble Mine in Alaska's Bristol Bay.

WELCOME TO TUESDAY! I'm your host, Kelsey Tamborrino. Congrats to the U.S. Chamber's Christopher Guith, who got the trivia win for knowing that President George Washington has the most counties named after him throughout the U.S., with at least 30. On to today's question: How many vice presidents have become president? Send your tips, energy gossip and comments to @politico.com.

Check out the POLITICO Energy podcast — all the energy and environmental politics and policy news you need to start your day, in just five minutes. Listen and subscribe for free at politico.com/energy-podcast. On today's episode: Trump's EPA slashes methane regulations

A message from the American Wind Energy Association:

America's vast offshore wind energy resources present an enormous economic growth opportunity to create jobs, spur investment, and deliver large amounts of clean electricity to the country's largest population centers. Policy certainty is essential to realize the tremendous role U.S. offshore wind can play in a post-pandemic recovery. [#SupportOffshoreWind](#)

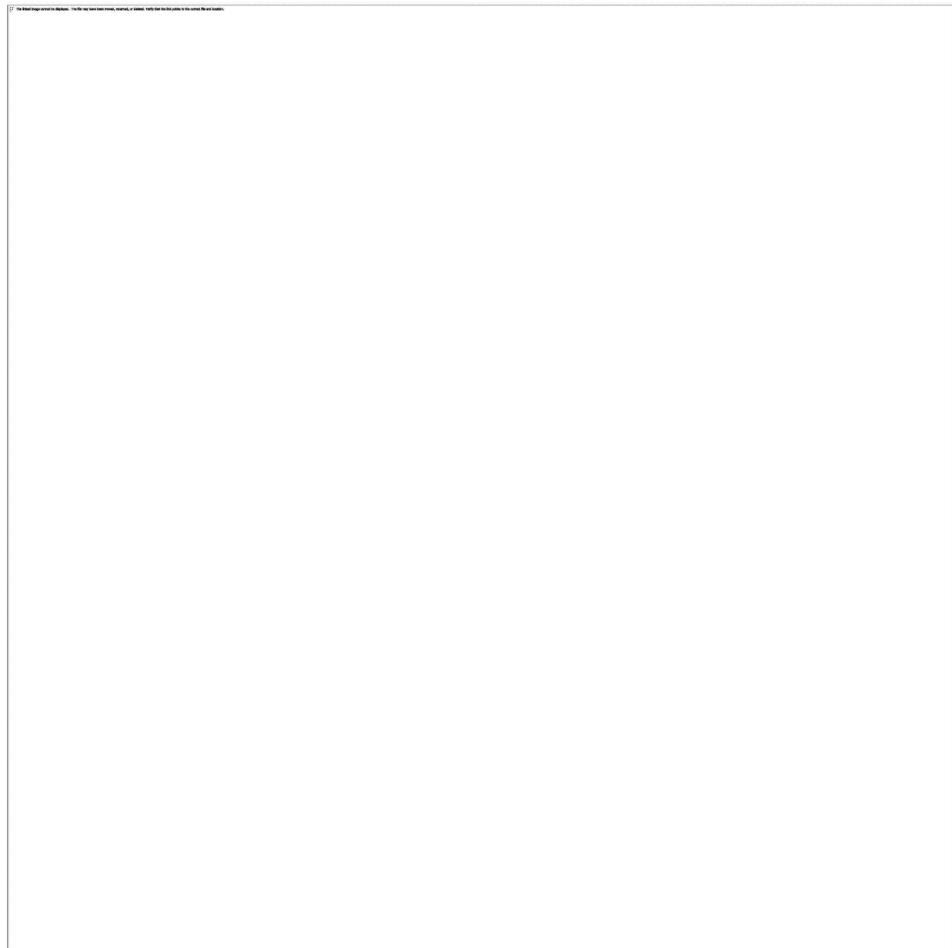
DRIVING THE DAY

COMING SOON: The Trump administration is expected to formally repeal Obama-era limits on methane pollution from newly built oil and gas wells this week, several industry officials confirmed to POLITICO. The [targeted 2016 rule](#) required companies to install stronger pollution-control equipment at any new wells or other production facilities, and to search for and repair leaks.

The Trump administration will undoubtedly tout the rollback as providing relief for an ailing industry, [Pro's Alex Guillén, Zack Colman and Ben Lefebvre report](#). Smaller independent operators have clamored for a repeal, citing the compliance costs. But bigger companies like Exxon Mobil, Shell, BP and Equinor called on the Trump administration to keep most of the rule in place, since they say direct regulation of methane emissions bolsters the case for natural gas as a cleaner-burning fuel than coal for electricity.

"Eliminating these safeguards would ignore the overwhelming body of scientific evidence documenting the urgent need to reduce methane pollution," Peter Zalzal, lead attorney for the Environmental Defense Fund, said in a statement. "And it is also starkly at odds with the broad and diverse set of stakeholders — including some major oil

and gas producing companies — that support retaining and strengthening methane safeguards."



An oil well is viewed near a construction site for homes in Midland, Texas. | Photo by Spencer Platt/Getty Images

What's in the rule? The final rule is expected to maintain EPA's argument from a [2019 proposal](#) that the Obama administration never legally determined whether the oil and gas industry's methane emissions count as a "significant contribution" to air pollution that endangers human health and welfare, a legal hurdle under the Clean Air Act, as Alex, Zack and Ben report. EPA is also expected to lift emissions limits for both methane and volatile organic compounds for the oil and gas industry's transmission and storage sectors.

Location, location: The agency is expected to unveil the changes this week in Pittsburgh. Pennsylvania, of course, is a key battleground state for President Donald Trump's reelection and one of the most

transformed over the past 15 years by the development of fracking. While he has said he has no plans to challenge fracking, Joe Biden has vowed to require "aggressive methane pollution limits for new and existing oil and gas operations" if elected, the trio reports. Democrats might also target the new EPA rollback for nullification under the Congressional Review Act if Biden wins the White House and Democrats take the Senate.

LAUNCHING 8/13: When policymaking in Washington D.C. hits gridlock, states and local government pick up the slack. *The Fifty Coverage Roundup* is a weekly newsletter that gathers stories on how state and local government officials take on larger roles to drive politics and shape federal policy decision-making. *The Fifty Roundup* will be sent to your inbox weekly on Thursdays. [Sign up now on your Settings page.](#)

IN THE COURTS

DAPL CAN WORK IT OUT: A federal judge appeared to open the door to allowing Energy Transfer to continue operating the Dakota Access Pipeline while it appeals an earlier decision that the Trump administration didn't conduct a proper environmental review. D.C. District Court Judge James Boasberg wrote in a motion Monday asking the Corps for its options in the case, and requesting the Corps and the native tribes fighting the pipeline to "discuss in good faith mitigation measures that could lessen the likelihood and severity of any oil leak in or around Lake Oahe."

The motion seems to walk back Boasberg's earlier stance that Energy Transfer had to shut DAPL down while the Corps completed the review, a motion that an appeals court struck down. DAPL's fate continues to be up in the air, but it seems certain that it will continue transporting oil for the next month at least, ClearView Energy Partners said. "The second part of Judge Boasberg's directive may leave the door open to continued operations not just during the pending appeal, but also while the Corps undertakes an Environmental Impact

Statement (EIS), should the pending appeal of Judge Boasberg's rulings to the D.C. Circuit fail," the energy analytics firm wrote in a client note Monday evening.



AROUND THE AGENCIES

BLM HQ OFFICIALLY GOES WEST: Interior Secretary David Bernhardt formally designated Grand Junction, Colo., as the official headquarters for the Bureau of Land Management, capping off a year-long effort that saw tensions rise between the department and Democratic lawmakers. Bernhardt and GOP senators have said the relocation from D.C. to Colorado will allow the agency to be closer to the land it oversees. "This effort will also save a great deal of money that can be reinvested in our field operations," Bernhardt said Monday. BLM said it expects most assigned staff to be on duty in Grand Junction by the end of August.

William Perry Pendley, the controversial nominee for BLM head who currently exercises the authority of director, said in a statement the agency worked hard to ensure that BLM employees unable to move found a job in the Washington, D.C., metro area, and said "the folks

who wanted to move West are — or soon will be — settled in various Western cities."

But House Natural Resources Chair Raúl Grijalva (D-Ariz.), who previously sought to subpoena Interior for more information on the relocation, reiterated his opposition to the move in a statement to ME on Monday, arguing that the move "dismantled" BLM. "In the process, they fulfilled their goal of draining the agency of dedicated experts who know how to manage our public lands for the public good," he said. "Now they'll work to sell off our precious national landscapes to Trump's friends and put polluting industries above the health and safety of communities."

COLORADO GROUP LAUNCHES ANTI-PENDLEY EFFORT:

Environmental advocacy group Conservation Colorado launched a new effort Monday urging Sen. Cory Gardner (R-Colo.) to announce his opposition to Pendley and vote against his nomination. The effort comes as Pendley's nomination awaits a hearing before the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee that will put at least two incumbent GOP senators, Gardner and Steve Daines of Montana, in a tough spot. As part of the launch, Conservation Colorado posted a website focused on Pendley, and ran a full-page print ad in the Grand Junction Daily Sentinel on Sunday that will appear again Aug. 17. Last week, the Montana Conservation Voters released its own new ad, as part of a six-figure buy, urging constituents to tell Daines to "stop Pendley."

TRUMP OFFICIALS ATTEND GOP FUNDRAISERS: Trump family members and administration officials, including Bernhardt and Energy Secretary Dan Brouillette, are in Jackson Hole, Wyo., for two Republican fundraisers, Bloomberg reports. The two department heads were expected to attend a two-day event that began Monday and is hosted by House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy (R-Calif.), called the "Team McCarthy Silver Committee Summit," according to Bloomberg. Donors reported to participate include Javaid Anwar, CEO of Midland Energy; coal magnate Joe Craft; and Western Refining Founder Paul Foster.

Brouillette, by the way, will tour the National Renewable Energy Laboratory in Golden, Colo., with state and local officials on Wednesday, DOE announced. He will also participate in an energy roundtable discussion hosted by the American Petroleum Institute in Denver.

GREENS DEMAND EFFICIENT ACTION ON EFFICIENCY: A half-dozen environmental and consumer groups said they would sue the Energy Department to force it to act on 26 overdue energy efficiency standards. The agency is years past deadline on setting new standards for pool heaters, refrigerators, clothes washers and other appliances. The Natural Resources Defense Council, Sierra Club, Center for Biological Diversity, Consumer Federation of America, the Massachusetts Union of Public Housing Tenants and Public Citizen said updating the standards would avoid 80 million metric tons of CO2 emissions and save consumers \$22 billion annually. DOE during the Trump administration has withdrawn rules to tighten standards on light bulbs and added new standards to allow inefficient but fast-cycle dishwashers.

States, too! California Attorney General Xavier Becerra is leading a group of 16 state attorneys general and New York City in a letter announcing their own intention to sue DOE over the same standards. "The Trump Administration's playbook of delay and deception is robbing our communities of the cost-saving benefits of reduced energy consumption," Becerra said in a statement.

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OVERSIGHT DEMS SEEK PROBE ON PEBBLE MINE REVIEW:

House Oversight Chair Carolyn Maloney (D-N.Y.), Environment Subcommittee Chair Harley Rouda (D-Calif.) and Rep. Jackie Speier (D-Calif.) called on the inspectors general of the Defense Department and the Army to open an investigation into the Army Corps of Engineers' review of the proposed Pebble Mine under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act and National Environmental Policy Act, Pro's Anthony Adragna reports.

"**The Committee is concerned that the Army Corps** expedited the Clean Water Act permitting and NEPA review process at the expense of a thorough scientific review," the lawmakers wrote. "It appears that this timeline is inappropriate for a hardrock mine of this scale, complexity, and potential regional and state environmental, social, and economic impacts — especially during the ongoing coronavirus pandemic." In addition, the lawmakers asked Sean O'Donnell, inspector general of the EPA, to launch a "comprehensive review of EPA's actions surrounding" the proposed determination of the controversial project since the start of the Trump administration.

A message from the American Wind Energy Association:

This week marks American Wind Week - an annual celebration of the ways wind energy is building a future fueled by clean, reliable, affordable electricity and contributing to a strong 21st century economy. The United States has a vast offshore wind energy resource with a technical potential of more than 2,000 gigawatts, nearly double the nation's current electricity use. Harnessing America's offshore wind resources presents an enormous opportunity to create tens of thousands of jobs, revitalize coastal communities, and deliver large amounts of clean energy to the country's biggest population centers. AWEA is the national trade association for the U.S. wind industry, the largest source of renewable energy in the country. We represent 1,000 member companies, 120,000 jobs in the U.S. economy, and a nationwide workforce located across all 50 states. Visit our website to

learn more about the enormous economic benefits offshore wind power will bring to America.

2020 WATCH

SIERRA CLUB OFFICIALLY BACKS BIDEN: The Sierra Club, one of the largest environmental organizations in the country, endorsed Biden for president on Monday. Executive Director Michael Brune said in a statement Biden "has laid out a bold vision of safeguarding our air and water, transitioning to a clean energy economy, and investing in communities that for too long have been left behind and forced to deal with the pollution caused by our reliance on fossil fuels," adding the green group is "committed to continuing to hold Biden accountable" to make his climate plans a reality.

While it's not exactly surprising that the group — which has repeatedly challenged the Trump administration's environmental regulations — would endorse Biden, the endorsement comes with a mobilization of the Sierra Club's 3.8 million members and supporters to help elect Biden and other climate candidates running this fall.

RESEARCH CORNER

30x30 GOAL COULD CUT TONS OF CO2: The "30x30" goal of conserving at least 30 percent of U.S. land and ocean by 2030 is one of the most effective tools to address the climate crisis, argues senior policy analyst Ryan Richards in [new analysis](#) from the left-leaning Center for American Progress. The analysis looked at how much greenhouse gas emissions could be avoided if the United States successfully pursued a 30x30 goal. It found that by avoiding the loss of existing natural areas and increasing the capacity of natural places to sequester carbon, U.S. lands could absorb more than 150 million metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent above today's baseline every year by 2030.

MOVERS AND SHAKERS

— Equinor named **Anders Opedal** its new president and CEO beginning Nov. 2, replacing Eldar Sætre. Opedal most recently was Equinor's executive vice president for technology, projects and drilling. "Together, we will accelerate the development of Equinor as a broad energy company and our growth within renewables," Opedal said in a statement. Earlier this year, Equinor announced it is striving to get to "near zero" emissions by 2050.

— **Angela Kolar** was appointed by Transportation Secretary Elaine Chao to serve a three-year term as an industry representative on the Technical Hazardous Liquid Pipeline Safety Standards Committee, a DOT advisory body. Kolar is Colonial Pipeline's vice president of operations services and chief risk officer.

THE GRID

- "California congressman's Yosemite trip won't be investigated by Interior inspector general," via the Sacramento Bee.
- "Major gas explosion levels Northwest Baltimore homes, killing one and seriously injuring others," via The Baltimore Sun.
- "Sunrun streamlines operations as Q2 installations slow, preps for bigger Q3," via GreenTech Media.
- "Duke Energy to invest in gas distribution, renewables after canceling pipeline," via S&P Global Market Intelligence.
- "Marathon poised for \$1.1 billion tax refund from coronavirus aid," via Bloomberg.
- "Delta Air Lines bought an oil refinery. It didn't go as planned," via The New York Times.

ON THE CALENDAR

10 a.m. EPA Administrator Andrew Wheeler delivers remarks and makes an announcement on the Lower Menominee River.

11 a.m. National Academy of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine webcast on "Long-Term Environmental Trends in the Gulf of Mexico."

Noon Atlantic Council holds Veterans Advanced Energy Week virtual conference.

1 p.m. Clean Energy Group webinar on "Valuing Resilience in Solar+Storage Microgrids: A New Critical Load Tiering Approach."

1 p.m. EPA's Science Advisory Board public teleconference on proposed rule changing cost-benefit analysis requirements under the Clean Air Act.

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