

Message

From: [REDACTED]/O=EXXONMOBIL/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=[REDACTED]
Sent: 3/15/2017 10:49:18 AM
To: [REDACTED]

Subject: Climate change
Attachments: Climate change divestment.msg; Divestment campaign.msg

The fossil fuel industry's invisible colonization of academia

The Guardian.com (Web), 13/03/2017, Unattributed

at the Center for Energy Economics at the University of Texas at Austin. What's not said is that the Energy Institute she founded at UT Austin is funded by Chevron, ExxonMobil, and other fossil fuel interests including the Koch Foundation, or that she's a partner in a natural gas company. You may notice a pattern. The very experts we assume to

[Link](#)

Greenpeace and allies launch 3 week campaign against fossil fuels

WORLD – Greenpeace and allies has launched a three-week long “Break Free Movement” to publicize its call for global divestment from fossil fuels. Events organized in the last few days included a 1,500 person bicycle ride in Croatia, protests against coal fired power plants in Israel, and a demonstration against coal outside the San Miguel Corporation (SMC) headquarters in the Philippines. Groups supporting the Break Free Movement include Friends of the Earth International (FoEI), 350.org, Global Witness and Rainforest Action Network. Adani-related events are planned in Australia under the twitter handle #StopAdani. See (in English and Croatian) www.greenpeace.org www.breakfree2017.org www.greenpeace.org/zelenakcija.hr

Scottish council pension funds criticized over 'risky' fossil fuel investments

UK – Friends of the Earth (FoE Scotland), Common Weal and the trade union UNISON Scotland claimed Scottish councils were putting their pensioners' future incomes at risk by continuing to invest in fossil fuel companies such as BP and BHP Billiton. The three groups criticized the Scottish council pension funds for investing around GBP1.7 billion in firms "most responsible for climate change", but only GBP234 million in

renewables and social housing.

SIGWATCH comment: ReInvest campaign, which is supported by FoE, Common Weal and the UNISON trade union, claims pension funds' duty to have "long-term investment horizons" makes decisions to invest in fossil fuel firms legally challengeable, although they form a significant part of Scotland's and the world's economy. Also, since the total amount invested by the Scottish councils for pensions is GBP35.43 billion (2016), the amount invested in fossil fuel-related assets constitutes less than five per cent of the total.

See www.foe-scotland.org.uk/reinvest.scot reinvest.scot

MSPs publish recommendations on Climate Change Plan

Organisation: Keep Scotland Beautiful

Type: Press Release

Date: 13 March 2017

We've welcomed the detailed scrutiny reports from the four Parliamentary Committees examining the Scottish Government's draft Climate Change Plan published on 10 March.

Their recommendations for the final plan ahead of a full debate in Parliament next week.

As outlined in [our response to the draft plan](#) we welcomed it and expressed support of the ambition and direction of travel set out in it. However, given the scope and scale of the challenge of climate change, and the wide range of policies and proposals encompassed in the plan, we recognised that there were some areas that require further work. Our full response can be found [here](#).

We remain committed to playing our part in supporting efforts to tackle climate change through behaviour change through our work with communities, including the accredited carbon literacy training we provide for individuals and the support we provide public bodies through [ISM behaviour change work](#).

Kind regards,

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

UK & Ireland Public & Government Affairs
ExxonMobil

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Fax: [REDACTED]
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From: emailednews@email.global.factiva.com [mailto:emailednews@email.global.factiva.com]
Sent: 15 March 2017 05:05
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Climate change

DOW JONES FACTIVA ALERTS

Scheduled Alert

1ST LEAD Tillerson used pseudonym for e-mails about climate change By Gretel Johnston, dpa

dpa International Service in English, Wednesday, 15 March 2017, 02:59 GMT , 556 Words (English)

Trump to drop climate change from environmental reviews: report
EU Insight, Wednesday, 15 March 2017, 251 Words (English)

Tillerson's email alias was prompted by business needs, Exxon says
The Star, Wednesday, 15 March 2017, 00:46 GMT , 419 Words (English)

FNC discusses increased protection for UAE farmers from cheaper imports
The National, Wednesday, 15 March 2017, 694 Words (English)

Tillerson used pseudonym for e-mails about climate change

dpa International Service in English, Wednesday, 15 March 2017, 00:26 GMT , 310 Words (English)

Technology - Schmidt flags promise in new Goodenough battery

Macau Daily Times, Wednesday, 15 March 2017, 500 Words (English)

Readers write: Letters to the editor, March 15, 2017

Alaska Dispatch News, Wednesday, 15 March 2017, 1402 Words (English)

Exxon says Rex Tillerson wasn't trying to hide anything by using an email alias when he was CEO

Business Insider, Tuesday, 14 March 2017, 23:55 GMT , 468 Words (English)

How James Inhofe is upending the nation's energy and environmental policies

Washington Post.com, Wednesday, 15 March 2017, 1839 Words (English)

HK Bourse: Results Announcement From Cgn New Energy Holdings Co. Ltd.

Dow Jones Institutional News, Wednesday, 15 March 2017, 04:03 GMT , 9222 Words (English)

Trump to nominate Goldman Sachs' Donovan as deputy Treasury secretary

Reuters, Tuesday, 14 March 2017, 23:58 GMT , 137 Words (English)

Business News: U.S. to Review Fuel Rules

The Wall Street Journal (Europe Edition), Wednesday, 15 March 2017, 763 Words (English)

Venue change for climate change: Idaho university experts speak at Capitol hearing

The Idaho Statesman, Tuesday, 14 March 2017, 404 Words (English)

Trump's USTR nominee pledges tough enforcement of U.S. trade laws

Reuters, Tuesday, 14 March 2017, 23:27 GMT , 271 Words (English)

IN POLE POSITION

The Independent, Wednesday, 15 March 2017, 1776 Words (English)

MARCH OF THE TARTAN ARMY

Daily Mail, Tuesday, 14 March 2017, 765 Words (English)

Reuters Daybook/Wednesday

Reuters Washington Daybook Report, Tuesday, 14 March 2017, 23:12 GMT , 9341 Words (English)

Tillerson's email alias was prompted by business needs, Exxon says | Reuters

FirstPost, Tuesday, 14 March 2017, 23:00 GMT , 451 Words (English)

Top News Advisory for Tuesday, March 14

The Canadian Press - Broadcast wire, Tuesday, 14 March 2017, 23:16 GMT , 3912 Words (English)

NY AG accuses Rex Tillerson of using alias in climate change emails

CBS News, Tuesday, 14 March 2017, 22:57 GMT , 258 Words (English)

MY TAKE: The many reasons to stop using fossil fuels

The Holland Sentinel, Tuesday, 14 March 2017, 711 Words (English)

Neither Colorado nor Utah deserves Outdoor Retailer show

Denver Post, Tuesday, 14 March 2017, 22:21 GMT , 912 Words (English)

WATCH ON WASHINGTON: As Trump runs wild, what's Melania thinking?

The Examiner, Tuesday, 14 March 2017, 758 Words (English)

Tillerson's Email Alias Was Prompted by Business Needs, Exxon Says

U.S. News & World Report, Tuesday, 14 March 2017, 22:16 GMT , 542 Words (English)

BC-AP News Digest 6:20 pm

The Canadian Press, Tuesday, 14 March 2017, 22:24 GMT , 1487 Words (English)

AP-TX--Texas News Digest 5 pm, TX

Associated Press Newswires, Tuesday, 14 March 2017, 22:11 GMT , 1975 Words (English)

BC-AP News Digest 6:20 pm

Associated Press Newswires, Tuesday, 14 March 2017, 22:22 GMT , 1620 Words (English)

Let's not resist a future where New Mexico leads

The Santa Fe New Mexican, Tuesday, 14 March 2017, 777 Words (English)

Light one off and show the power of nukes

The Santa Fe New Mexican, Tuesday, 14 March 2017, 990 Words (English)

Chalcogens; Findings on Chalcogens Detailed by Investigators at University of Wyoming (The recent progress and future of oxygen reduction reaction catalysis: A review)

Life Science Weekly, Tuesday, 14 March 2017, 396 Words (English)

TEMASEK LIFE SCIENCES LABORATORY LIMITED; Patent Issued for Nitrogen-Fixing Bacterial Inoculant for Improvement of Crop Productivity and Reduction of Nitrous Oxide Emission (USPTO 9580363)

China Weekly News, Tuesday, 14 March 2017, 2377 Words (English)

Trump is poised to issue a sweeping order dismantling Obama's climate plan this week , The order would also lift restrictions on coal leasing and an Obama policy factoring the cost of climate change into federal decisions.

Washington Post.com, Tuesday, 14 March 2017, 960 Words (English)

REUTERS AMERICA NEWS PLAN FOR TUESDAY MARCH 14/WEDNESDAY MARCH 15

Reuters News, Tuesday, 14 March 2017, 21:35 GMT , 2435 Words (English)

Shell's high-tailing is annoying, but there is lots to like ...

Ottawa Citizen, Tuesday, 14 March 2017, 21:23 GMT , 846 Words (English)

Al Gore: There's a 'realistic chance' that Trump won't bail on the Paris climate agreement ; The former vice president thinks President Trump might keep the United States in the climate pact, despite Trump's campaign rhetoric.

Washington Post.com, Tuesday, 14 March 2017, 915 Words (English)

Trump to drop climate change from environmental reviews

The Dickinson Press, Tuesday, 14 March 2017, 20:59 GMT , 281 Words (English)

25 Nordic Bioeconomy Cases for Sustainable Change

EUobserver, Tuesday, 14 March 2017, 21:06 GMT , 1157 Words (English)

BC-APFN-Business News Digest

Associated Press Newswires, Tuesday, 14 March 2017, 21:00 GMT , 1752 Words (English)

Flawed energy forecasts risk huge investor capital

ArabianOilandGas.com, Tuesday, 14 March 2017, 466 Words (English)

BlackRock To Increase Pressure on Climate Change, Board Diversity

FINalternatives, Tuesday, 14 March 2017, 20:23 GMT , 846 Words (English)

News Highlights: Top Energy News of the Day

Dow Jones Institutional News, Tuesday, 14 March 2017, 20:15 GMT , 461 Words (English)

Tillerson said to use email alias 'Wayne Tracker' at Exxon

Oilsands Review, Tuesday, 14 March 2017, 20:17 GMT , 719 Words (English)

Trump to Drop Climate Change From Environmental Reviews: Bloomberg

U.S. News & World Report, Tuesday, 14 March 2017, 20:06 GMT , 361 Words (English)

News Highlights: Top Energy News of the Day

Dow Jones Institutional News, Tuesday, 14 March 2017, 20:00 GMT , 461 Words (English)

Rex Tillerson 'used email alias' at Exxon to talk climate change
BBC, Tuesday, 14 March 2017, 20:02 GMT , 270 Words (English)

Alberta, Mexico Continue Energy Collaboration With New Funding
The Daily Oil Bulletin, Tuesday, 14 March 2017, 1617 Words (English)

BREAKINGVIEWS-Icahn cronyism fits Trump's emerging energy policy
Reuters News, Tuesday, 14 March 2017, 20:00 GMT , 787 Words (English)

Korea expert Robert Kelly speaks after his kids crashed BBC interview
The Age, Tuesday, 14 March 2017, 20:01 GMT , 713 Words (English)

Climate activists carved a clever message into a Trump golf course.
Grist, Tuesday, 14 March 2017, 19:38 GMT , 1251 Words (English)

Trump dropping climate change...
The Hill, Tuesday, 14 March 2017, 19:42 GMT , 375 Words (English)

Climate change

1ST LEAD Tillerson used pseudonym for e-mails about climate change By Gretel Johnston, dpa

dpa International Service in English, Wednesday, 15 March 2017, 02:59 GMT , 556 Words, Copyright 2017. dpa Deutsche Presse-Agentur
(Document DPAEN00020170315ed3f000rt)

Washington (dpa) - US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson used a separate email account with a pseudonym to discuss climate change and other topics during his time chief executive, according to a letter released Tuesday.

Tillerson's use of the pseudonym Wayne Tracker is described in a letter from New York Attorney General Eric Schneiderman's office filed in a case against the multinational giant that Tillerson led from 2006-16. Tillerson, whose middle name is Wayne, apparently used the pseudonym from 2008 to 2015.

In the letter, the attorney general said Tillerson used the email address for important communications, including messages concerning the risk management issues related to climate change that are the focus of his office's investigation.

The company only turned over about 60 documents bearing the Wayne Tracker email address after the attorney general issued a subpoena, and it had not previously separate email account "was a vehicle for Mr Tillerson's relevant communications at Exxon," the letter said.

ExxonMobil confirmed that Tillerson used the Wayne Tracker email while chief executive.

In a statement emailed to dpa, company spokesman Alan T Jeffers said the email address was used "for secure and expedited communications" between select senior and Tillerson "for a broad range of business-related topics."

Jeffers also refuted Schneiderman's claim that the company had not previously disclosed the existence of the email address.

"They've had emails from this account for more than a year," Jeffers said. "The very fact the attorney general's office has these emails is because they were produced subpoena."

The letter, which was sent Monday to New York's Supreme Court, asks the court to schedule a conference "to ensure Exxon's compliance with [the attorney general's]

Jeffers suggested the letter was politically motivated and accused the attorney general's office of expressing its concern "in a sensationalist way designed to prejudice garner press attention."

Schneiderman's investigation is looking into whether ExxonMobil violated New York consumer, business and investor fraud laws in connection with the way it touted its practices regarding climate change.

The attorney general is specifically looking into whether ExxonMobil hid important information about the dangers of climate change.

A key question in the case is the accuracy of ExxonMobil's claims that it engaged in specific, data-driven risk management practices concerning the potential impact of and climate-change regulations, on the company's financial reporting and business operations.

Schneiderman has requested financial data, emails and other papers from the oil giant as part of the investigation.

Schneiderman complained that ExxonMobil has "continuously delayed and obstructed" turning over emails and other documents from its top executives and board members.

Documents relating to the email addresses are relevant to the case and should have been preserved from the outset, the letter added.

Tillerson is due to meet Wednesday with Japanese leaders in Tokyo at the start of his first trip to Asia since becoming secretary of state.

Notebook

Note to editors - Adds background, details

Internet links - [NY Attorney General](<http://dpoq.de/zpzdz>)

Locations - [State Department](2201 C St NW, Washington, DC 20520, USA)



Trump to drop **climate change** from environmental reviews: report

EJ Insight, Wednesday, 15 March 2017, 251 Words, Copyright 2014 Hong Kong Economic Journal All Rights Reserved
(Document EJINST0020170315ed3f0008d)

US President Donald Trump is preparing to sign an executive order that will dramatically reduce the role that **climate change** plays in policy decisions, Bloomberg rep familiar with the matter.

The move is aimed at reversing the former Obama administration's broad approach for addressing **climate change**, under which government agencies were instructed to issue during formal environmental reviews, the report said.

Trump's order will compel a reconsideration of the government's use of a metric known as the "social cost of carbon" that reflects the potential economic damage from according to the report.

It will set in motion some discrete policy changes designed to make coal easier to extract and more enticing to burn.

For instance, the directive will compel the Environmental Protection Agency to undo the Clean Power Plan, an Obama-era rule that forced states to slash the use of cc

It will also reverse an Obama administration order that blocked the sale of new coal-mining rights on federal lands.

Among other changes, the new executive order is expected to instruct regulators to rescind regulations limiting **oil** industry emissions of methane, a particularly potent

The sweeping changes are designed to help Trump fulfill a pledge to "cancel job-killing restrictions" on domestic energy and his repeated promise to put coal miners b Bloomberg said.

-- Contact us at [REDACTED]

RC

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Tillerson's email alias was prompted by business needs, Exxon says

The Star, Ernest Scheyder, Wednesday, 15 March 2017, 00:46 GMT , 419 Words, © 2017
(Document WC80945020170315ed3f000b5)

HOUSTON (Reuters) - U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson, while chief executive of Exxon Mobil Corp, used an alias for emails with employees and board members primary account was jammed with too many messages, the oil company ...

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FNC discusses increased protection for UAE farmers from cheaper imports

The National, Caline Malek and Haneen Dajani, Wednesday, 15 March 2017, 694 Words, © 2017 . Abu Dhabi Media Company, All Rights Reserved. Provided by Syn Albawaba.com company
(Document NATENG0020170315ed3f00001)

Caline Malek and Haneen Dajani

ABU DHABI // Farmers and members of the Federal National Council called for more measures to protect local food prices from competition with cheap imports.

Experts, however, said that such restrictions, proposed at the FNC meeting on Tuesday, could drastically raise food prices and would not solve the problem of water s

FNC members had raised complaints from local farmers, who say their products are getting drowned in the market because of imported products sold at low prices.

"We should talk about the post-oil period. The main sources that nationals can benefit from are farming and hunting," said FNC member Naama Al Sharhan, from Ras

"Today, farmers are suffering from a marketing crisis."

Dr Thani Al Zeyoudi, Minister of **Climate Change** and Environment, said his ministry would continue to support the sale of local produce and address the challenges.

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The ministry soon plans to sign an agreement with Carrefour to market local fruit and vegetables. Similar deals have been arranged with LuLu supermarket and union

"The local produce is competing with international products," he said. "I don't say this from my perspective but from a buyer's perspective, because really, when consumers buy a local product, they want to buy it."

Such produce includes zucchini, cucumbers, tomatoes and eggplants. Dr Al Zeyoudi said the ministry has investments in other countries, and dates are being exported

"We have a plan to increase organic farming," he said.

"Now all our plans are directed towards that field. This is part of the strategy."

Organic farming areas covered 45,890 acres last year, compared with only 2,360 acres in 2009, he said. The ministry has also provided farming equipment, including tractors and hydroponic farming, at half price. Mrs Al Sharhan argued that during the limited production period between the months of November and June, cheap, low-quality imports can overwhelm the market.

She called for a partial ban on imported fruit and vegetables when local production is at its peak.

Abdullah Khalfan, a farmer, described the challenges that he faces when selling his products.

"During the dawning period we are forced to sell a 22-kilogram box of cucumbers for Dh25, which is a great loss for us," he said. "This is unfair competition, because it takes months to produce."

Moreover, the products are sometimes from war-torn countries, which he said imposed health risks. Expensive farming procedures during the hot season exceed revenue, he said.

But agricultural experts questioned the feasibility of a partial imports ban.

"It's OK to do that if you've got a ready domestic supply," said Jeffrey Culpepper, chairman of Agrisecura.

"But it represents 3 per cent annually of all the produce, so if you ban imports, it might encourage more people to invest in local production, but it won't solve the problem."

Locally grown produce is usually expensive because it consumes a large amount of water.

"It's a bit of a contradiction to ban imports because it will increase the cost dramatically on the farmer because of water," Mr Culpepper said.

"This needs to be clarified publicly. Do you want farmers to be more self-sufficient and pay more of their fair share of the cost, or protect them by taxing or banning imports from outside?"

Dr Safdar Mohammed, chairman of agribusiness at UAE University, said such restrictions would cause food prices to skyrocket.

"There are only a few farmers here and they don't produce enough for the local market, so this will hurt the consumer," he said. "We don't have enough water to produce locally, so this will happen?"

"At the same time, you're using scarce water to produce locally, but it's not the right approach.

"Other countries will find another market, the UAE will have a shortage of vegetables with sky-high prices and consumers will say this isn't a good policy."



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Tillerson used pseudonym for e-mails about climate change

dpa International Service in English, Wednesday, 15 March 2017, 00:26 GMT , 310 Words, Copyright 2017. dpa Deutsche Presse-Agentur (Document DPAEN00020170315ed3f0002t)

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In the letter, Attorney General Eric Schneiderman said Tillerson used the email address for important communications, including messages concerning the risk management related to climate change that are the focus of his office's investigation.

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A key question in the case is the accuracy of ExxonMobil's claims that it engaged in specific, data-driven risk management practices concerning the potential impact of and **climate-change** regulations, on the company's financial reporting and business operations.

Notebook

Internet links - [NY Attorney General](<http://dpaq.de/zpzdz>)

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Technology - Schmidt flags promise in new Goodenough battery

Macau Daily Times, Wednesday, 15 March 2017, 500 Words, Copyright © Macau Daily Times
(Document MACDLT0020170315ed3f0000m)

The 94-year-old creator of the lithium-ion battery has invented another breakthrough storage device that's capturing the attention of industry heavyweights.

"John Goodenough, inventor of the lithium battery, has developed the first all-solid-state battery cells," said Alphabet Inc.'s Executive Chairman Eric Schmidt via Twitter. Goodenough's claim that his new battery cells have three times as much energy density as today's lithium-ion batteries is "promising," according to Google's former chief officer.

A new and more powerful generation of batteries may be made entirely from glass, according to the conclusions of Goodenough and his team of researchers published in the Society of Chemistry. They store and transmit energy at temperatures lower than traditional lithium-ion packs and can be made using globally abundant supplies of silicon.

The research could result in "a safe, low-cost all-solid-state cell with a huge capacity giving a large energy density and a long cycle life suitable for powering an all-electric car for storing electric power from wind or solar energy," the researchers wrote in the peer-reviewed journal Energy & Environmental Science.

Energy storage is seen as the missing link in the world's transition to a zero-carbon economy. Batteries can fill power gaps from intermittent solar and wind energy. Co Tesla Inc. and Volkswagen AG have set their sights on lithium-ion to usher in a new generation of plug-in vehicles.

The research conducted by Goodenough and his team, who worked from the University of Texas at Austin as well as at the University of Porto in Portugal, was driven need to reduce fossil fuel consumption and combat climate change.


The researchers are working on several patents and are seeking to collaborate with battery makers "to develop and test their new materials in electric vehicles and en devices," according to a statement by the University of Texas.

"The road from the lab to the factory is a long one," said Julia Attwood, an analyst at Bloomberg New Energy Finance. "Some technologies encounter significant difficu attempt to scale up. It could be a while before we're seeing these materials in electric vehicles or stationary storage."

It took Goodenough about 11 years to see his lithium-ion breakthroughs commercialized by Sony Corp. in 1991, according to a 2015 profile published by Quartz maga began focusing on storage technologies at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology during the 1970s as a potential way of resolving the persistent oil crisis of the er article.

"We believe our discovery solves many of the problems that are inherent in today's batteries," Goodenough said in a statement. "Cost, safety, energy density, rates of discharge and cycle life are critical for battery-driven cars to be more widely adopted." Jonathan Trone, Bloomberg

Alphabet Inc.'s Executive Chairman Eric Schmidt

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Readers write: Letters to the editor, March 15, 2017

Alaska Dispatch News, Alaska Dispatch News, Wednesday, 15 March 2017, 1402 Words, Copyright 2017, Alaska Dispatch News
(Document ANCR000020170315ed3f0012x)

Health care, Trump and the Iditarod.

Murkowski needs to look into

faces of Alaskans at town hall

ADN's recent article about how to contact our congressional delegation included the statement that they generally don't use the town hall format.

My, how times have changed. In past years, Sen. Murkowski hosted town halls around Alaska to criticize the Affordable Care Act and President Obama. She even had wrapping the health care bill in a belt, apparently to illustrate just how dang big and complicated it was.

Now the wind has shifted, and the questions are tougher. Will she vote for (or tacitly approve) the GOP plan to block-grant Medicaid and eliminate health care for thou: Is she for or against Planned Parenthood?

Last year she opposed a hearing and a vote for Obama's U.S. Supreme Court pick. This year, she explained her approval in committee of President Trump's controve by saying all presidential nominees deserve a vote. Why the change?

And what exactly does she think of this new president?

With more state work periods scheduled in mid-March and mid-April, I hope Murkowski will come home to hold open town hall meetings. No matter which way the politi blowing, she needs to look Alaskans in the eyes.

— Bruce Scandling

Juneau

Conservatives rise to climate challenge with CO2 dividends

In a time of such divided politics, it is refreshing to see Congress working together across party lines to address one of the biggest issues facing our generation. The C Caucus is a group composed of 14 Republicans and 14 Democrats, working together to find solutions that will work for our nation.

One of the ideas embraced by fiscal conservatives of both parties is putting a price on carbon dioxide through a fee and dividend program. A group of Republican state James Baker, George Shultz and Henry Paulson, recently published "The Conservative Case for Carbon Dividends" for the Climate Leadership Council, a policy organ subtitled "How a new climate strategy can strengthen our economy, reduce regulation, help working-class Americans, shrink government and promote national securit

The plan would require fossil fuel companies to pay \$40 per ton for the carbon their fuels emit when burned and would return the proceeds as dividends to all America disposable income of the majority of Americans while disproportionately helping those struggling to make ends meet." You can read the plan on the council's website :

Since Alaska is an energy-producing state, its oil, gas and coal industries would be affected. However, leaders in those industries, including our current secretary of st head of Exxon Mobil Corp., Rex Tillerson, have spoken in favor of a carbon tax, because it is much easier to plan for than a regulatory approach.

Individual Alaskans would benefit from the dividends returned by the plan. And all aspects of Alaska — people, economies and ecosystems — would benefit from limit damage to our permafrost, oceans and coasts.

In the last paragraph of the piece, the authors say, "With the privilege of controlling all branches of the government comes a responsibility to exercise wise leadership in the challenges of our era, including global **climate change**." We should encourage our government at all levels to rise to this challenge.

— Martha Raynolds

Fairbanks

HB 115 makes good sense

I support a modest state income tax like the one proposed in House Bill 115.

Adding state worker jobs for the purpose of collecting a state income tax makes good sense to me. Tax-paying voters are more often engaged in legislative and governance about state budget spending and cuts. That's a good thing.

About one-third of Alaska wage earners do not live here and do not fully contribute to our state economy.

Many local governments rely on their existing sales taxes. Adding a state sales tax on top of existing local sales taxes will harm those communities and their governments.

— Sherrell Holtshouser

Anchorage

Protect PFD, tax the income

I was surprised by (and enjoyed) John Havelock's commentary, (ADN, March 8). It was totally out of step with almost all of our executive and legislative branches. Had he had his ideas seriously, I'm sure he'd be running for his life.

I happen to agree with him. It is not really a radical notion that we should pay taxes for things like schools and universities, roads and state buildings, ferries and police to do government. When you buy that ticket, you get a voice. We've shown that citizens who get a free ride tend to resemble spoiled children by acquiring a sense of entitlement. Although our state has some of the highest per capita costs and needs, we are the laggard in paying taxes of any kind. And none of this diminishes the need for **oil tax**.

When we tax ourselves, it should be a progressive tax. Siphoning off part of the dividend or failing to inflation-proof the Permanent Fund is a regressive tax. I agree we should protect the dividend and tax the income.

— Steve Gibson

Homer

'Trumpcare' needs makeover

The effort of Republicans in Congress to promote their health care bill is, to borrow words from a well-known Alaskan, like putting lipstick on a pig.

— Shirley Fraser

Anchorage

Tweets, words confuse voters

On May 18, 2016, my letter to the ADN, appealed to Donald Trump to conduct himself like Dr. Seuss' Horton who said, "I meant what I said, and I said what I meant." It is important for a man seeking the Republican nomination to be reminded of those words of wisdom.

Now he is president and his White House spokespersons Kellyanne Conway and Sean Spicer are appearing on television and print attempting to clarify, interpret and They remind us he often puts quotation marks around his words, may be kidding, etc.

What?

As our president, it is imperative that he be thoughtful, precise, measured and crystal clear when he speaks. We, as Americans, are often confused by his rants and tweets. Leaders whose first language is not English don't often comprehend intonations, nuances or sarcasm. In this age of instant global messaging, President Trump's lack of discipline and further lack of discipline are extremely dangerous.

— Mary Navitsky

Anchorage

Wisdom for White House

I was told by a very wise woman that this is a "put up or shut up world." If President Trump or his advisers have any reliable information there was "wiretapping" of Trump, they should be able to bring that information forward or they should take the wise woman's advice and shut up.

— Ann O'Reilly

Anchorage

Choose health care over nukes

I fully support single-payer health care. However, it needs to be taken a step further. Every U.S. citizen deserves the same quality of health care as a U.S. lawmaker. Use taxpayer dollars to treat our fellow countrymen as human beings instead of commodities. Rep. Paul Ryan would probably have cardiac arrest just thinking about it.

How are we going to pay for this? Well, for starters, instead of investing \$1 trillion to revamp a nuclear weapons arsenal that can extinguish life on Earth, many times over health care! I'm sure there are trillions more in the bloated federal budget that could be diverted for the same purpose. A trillion here, a trillion there, and pretty soon we're spending real money.

What's good enough for the U.S. Congress should be just as good for the people they serve.

— Douglas Hope

Anchorage

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Exxon says Rex Tillerson wasn't trying to hide anything by using an email alias when he was CEO
Business Insider, Ernest Scheyder, Tuesday, 14 March 2017, 23:55 GMT , 468 Words, (c) 2017
(Document WC57216020170315ed3e00031)

Secretary of State Rex Tillerson smiles while greeting the media, accompanied by Japan's Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida, Friday, Feb. 10, 2017, at the State Department
AP Photo/Molly Riley

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How James Inhofe is upending the nation's energy and environmental policies

Washington Post.com, By Juliet Eilperin;Brady Dennis, Wednesday, 15 March 2017, 1839 Words, Copyright 2017, The Washington Post Co. All Rights Reserved.
(Document WPCOM00020170314ed3e006vc)

For more than a decade, Sen. James M. Inhofe has raged against the scientific consensus that humans are fueling **climate change**, calling it "the greatest hoax" ever perpetrated on Americans. The Oklahoma Republican has blasted the Environmental Protection Agency as an "activist organization" that has unfairly burdened everyone from farmer to city dweller.

Now the man critics once dismissed as a political outlier has an unprecedented opportunity to shape the nation's energy and environmental policies. And he has helped bring to the upper ranks of the agency he has derided with several of his closest confidants.

At least half a dozen former aides to Inhofe — and counting — have been hired into top positions at the EPA and the White House. The chief of staff and deputy chief of staff, Administrator Scott Pruitt, a fellow Oklahoman and longtime friend of Inhofe, spent years working for the senator. Pruitt's senior advisers on air, climate and legal issues are also Inhofe alumni. In addition, two former Inhofe aides have become top domestic and international energy and environmental advisers to President Trump.

"It gives me a level of comfort to know that we have a bureaucracy that's actually going to be serving instead of ruling," Inhofe said in an interview this week, describing the new administration as qualified professionals who will protect the environment. "They are going to be very realistic. They're going to do it in a way that will not be punitive. The previous administration was almost looking for ways to punish people."

Comforting is not how many of Inhofe's longtime opponents would describe the changes.

"Inhofe was like the original climate-denier in chief. He was one of the first people spouting this gibberish — fact-free but dangerous gibberish," said Gene Karpinski, president of the League of Conservation Voters. "Now he and his cronies have far more reach and are far more dangerous than they've ever been. . . . That's good news for the polluted and bad news for public health."

Inhofe, 82, has been in the Senate since 1994 and has served as the top Republican on the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee for 12 out of the past 16 years. Of that time, he has been one of the nation's most powerful **climate-change** skeptics, even writing a book in 2012 attacking the science around global warming, which he has accepted as a serious and urgent threat.

His most high-profile assault on climate science — one President Barack Obama mocked multiple times — came on a cold day in February 2015, when he stood on top of a fresh snowball in hand, to suggest that Earth could not be warming in any dangerous way, given the winter weather outside.

Ryan Jackson, Inhofe's former chief of staff, helps account for part of why so many of the senator's aides are now helping guide the administration's policymaking. Jackson helped shepherd Pruitt's nomination, then became the administrator's chief of staff and started tapping his former colleagues for top agency posts.

While nearly every federal department has been undergoing major changes since Trump took office in January, few have seen as rapid and dramatic a shift as the EPA. It scrapped a request for data about methane emissions that could have paved the way for tighter restrictions on more than 15,000 U.S. oil and gas firms, and Trump has directed the agency to roll back a rule designed to protect 60 percent of the nation's water bodies.

On Wednesday, Pruitt is set to announce plans to revisit fuel standards the Obama administration set for cars and light trucks that will be built five years from now. And he is preparing to unwind the centerpiece of Obama's effort to combat climate change — the "Clean Power Plan," which limits carbon dioxide emissions from power plants.

'The Inhofe brigade'

To carry out the changes Trump has promised, namely setting the EPA on a more minimalist course that will constrain federal authority over the environment, the new administration has recruited a group of conservative stalwarts who have spent years working to advance Inhofe's objectives. At times, some of them have worked directly for the mining, oil and gas companies that they are now charged with regulating.

"The Inhofe brigade has landed, secured the beach and is moving inland with precision as well as speed," said Stephen Brown, vice president for government affairs at an oil refiner.

What exactly will that invasion look like?

Those behind it are, for the most part, not nearly as colorful or outspoken as their former boss, even as they share many of his views and objectives.

Congressional aides of both parties described Jackson as one of the most soft-spoken managers on Capitol Hill. Amanda Gunasekara, who will advise the EPA administrator on climate issues, had been working for Inhofe less than a month when he asked her to hand him a snowball on the Senate floor two years ago to prove that global warming would melt winter altogether. Andrew Wheeler, a front-runner to serve as Pruitt's No. 2, served the senator for 14 years before going on to lobby for the coal giant Murray Energy and the Nuclear Energy Institute. A few former Inhofe aides — Wheeler, as well as George Sugiyama and Michael Catanzaro, who is now in the White House — have stayed on before.

Inhofe and his aides have shown legislative savvy. Even as the senator decried the Obama administration's work on carbon dioxide emissions from power plants, men and women who once called smog as burdensome for business and possibly illegal, Inhofe and his staff struck major deals on bipartisan issues including chemical safety, transportation and water.

Joseph Stanko, who heads government relations at the law firm Hunton & Williams, said the combination of Republicans' electoral success last year and the Obama administration's aggressive use of executive authority has given conservatives a rare opening.

"It's a real confluence of there being a philosophical alignment between Senator Inhofe and the administration, the Republicans holding both branches of government and a lack of a better word, opportunity created by the prior overreach," said Stanko, whose clients include Koch Industries, Southern Co. and the Electric Reliability Coordination Authority.

'War' on environmentalism?

Opponents see the Trump administration and the influx of Inhofe staffers to the EPA as the early steps in the dismantling of crucial regulations Obama put in place to combat climate change.

"The EPA was a staunch defender of the environment and supporter of climate action under the Obama administration," said Michael Mann, a climate scientist at Pennsylvania State University. "It is now instead being wielded by the fossil-fuel interests who are running the Trump administration as just another weapon in their war on environmental climate action."

Trump wasn't Inhofe's first, or even second, choice for president last year. Initially, Inhofe endorsed his Senate colleague Marco Rubio (Fla.) in the GOP primaries, then Ohio Gov. John Kasich. But Inhofe then pivoted to Trump and began forging ties with the campaign through his friend and fellow senator Jeff Sessions (R-Ala.), a defense and regulatory issues.

The dominance of Inhofe's staffers reflects not just an ideological shift but the fact that even an administration of outsiders needs some insiders to help run the place. Inhofe is extremely close with his former aides, whom he teasingly calls "has-beens."

Pruitt, like Inhofe, is determined to transfer some of the power his agency has amassed to the states. Earlier this month, a Wall Street Journal columnist described Pruitt's constitutional bent of the late Justice Antonin Scalia, as "an EPA originalist." Privately, according to aides, the administrator relished the moniker. As Oklahoma attorney general, he sued the agency he now heads numerous times, often making the argument that the Obama administration had overstepped its legal authority.

Pruitt, who caused an uproar last week in a CNBC interview when he questioned whether carbon dioxide emissions are the primary driver of climate change, has made a shift to focus the agency on more-traditional pollutants. His goals include minimizing lead exposure from drinking water — an issue on which Inhofe joined forces last year with Barbara Boxer (D-Calif.), despite opposition from House Republicans — and cleaning up contamination in Superfund and contaminated industrial sites.

"Finally, we have someone in there that's not going to be harassing the public with punitive regulations," Inhofe said of Pruitt and his former staffers. "What I want them to be doing — they are supposed to be doing — be concerned about the environment, the water, the air. . . . I'd like to see an EPA there to actually serve people and make life better."

While it will take months to finalize the EPA's budget for the coming fiscal year, the White House is contemplating significant reductions that could complicate Pruitt's transition to the agency. Two people briefed on the matter said the EPA budget proposal could be as low as \$5.6 billion, down from the most recently enacted budget of \$8.1 billion, a 30 percent cut. Deep cuts could prompt unrest among employees, many of whom remain skeptical of the new administration and its motives, and eliminate staffers Pruitt and his team would need to accomplish their priorities.

Those include not just redoing Obama-era rules but possibly reexamining the way the EPA conducts its scientific assessment of health risks and other factors that underpin its regulations.

"When I talk to people on the left, they are both happy that all these Inhofe people are there but also simultaneously scared," said Dimitri Karakitsos, who left his post as committee counsel in October to join the firm Holland & Knight as a partner.

They are relieved, he said, because the new appointees have shown a willingness to broker compromises on thorny issues. But, Karakitsos added, "the reason why I'm scared is because it's a really smart, thoughtful group that's over there," one that is not going to put out rules "on a whim that are easily undone."

A Senate Democratic aide who has worked with many of the former Inhofe staffers agreed. "These are folks who are very capable. They know the agency and its program staffer, who asked for anonymity to speak frankly. "They're smart and hard-working, and they certainly could dismantle the programs if they were asked to do that. But they will react if they're asked to do that."



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HK Bourse: Results Announcement From Cgn New Energy Holdings Co. Ltd.

Dow Jones Institutional News, Wednesday, 15 March 2017, 04:03 GMT, 9222 Words, Copyright © 2017, Dow Jones & Company, Inc.
(Document DJDN000020170315ed3f000a6)

For full details, please click on the following link:

<http://www.hkexnews.hk/listedco/listconews/seh/2017/0315/LTN20170315140.pdf>

Annual Results for the Year Ended
31 December 2016

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE ANNUAL RESULTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 DECEMBER 2016

Revenue for the year ended 31 December 2016 amounted to US\$1,074.4 million, representing a decrease of 6.7% from US\$1,151.9 million for the year ended 31 December 2015.

Profit before tax for the year ended 31 December 2016 amounted to US\$119.9 million, representing a decrease of 26.2% from US\$162.4 million for the year ended 31 December 2015.

Profit attributable to shareholders of the Company for the year ended 31 December 2016 amounted to US\$79.5 million, representing a decrease of 23.5% from US\$103.9 million for the year ended 31 December 2015.

Earnings per Share for the year ended 31 December 2016 amounted to 1.85 US cents, representing a decrease of 23.5% from 2.42 US cents for the year ended 31 December 2015.

The Board recommended a final dividend for the year ended 31 December 2016 of 0.47 US cents per ordinary share (equivalent to 3.64 HK cents per ordinary share), totalling US\$20.2 million (equivalent to HK\$156.2 million), which is based on 4,290,824,000 Shares in issue on 15 March 2017.

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The Board is pleased to announce the annual results of the Group for the year ended 31 December 2016 together with comparative figures for the corresponding period in 2015.

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER
COMPREHENSIVE INCOME OF THE GROUP
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2016

	2016 US\$ ' 000	2015 US\$ ' 000
Revenue	1,074,448	1,151,905
Operating expenses:		
Coal, oil and gas	587,176	729,336
Depreciation of property, plant and equipment	143,429	109,478
Repair and maintenance	38,729	27,889
Staff costs	69,237	62,943

Others	58,480	63,359
Total operating expenses	897,051	993,005
Operating profit	177,397	158,900
Other income	14,281	18,630
Other gains and losses	2,631	(1,652)
Finance costs	(115,172)	(76,799)
Share of results of associates	22,113	63,313
Gain on disposal of a subsidiary	18,675	-
Profit before tax	119,925	162,392
Income tax expenses	(28,893)	(39,978)
Profit for the year	91,032	122,414

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	2016 US\$ ' 000	2015 US\$ ' 000
Other comprehensive (expenses) income		
Items that may be reclassified subsequently to profit or loss:		
Exchange difference arising on translation of foreign	(96,576)	
subsidiaries and associates	-	(77,479)
Share of reserve from an associate		419
Reclassification adjustments for amounts transferred to		

profit or loss		
- release of hedging reserve	(122)	(125)
- deferred tax credit arising on release		
of hedging reserve	29	30
- release of cumulative gain included in profit or		
loss upon disposal of a subsidiary	(4,996)	-
	(101,665)	
Other comprehensive expenses for the year		(77,155)
Total comprehensive (expenses)	(10,633)	
income for the year		45,259
Profit for the year attributable to:		
Owner of the Company	79,472	103,879
Non-controlling interests	11,560	18,535
	91,032	122,414
Total comprehensive (expenses)		
income attributable to:	(13,063)	
Owner of the Company		32,606
Non-controlling interests	2,430	12,653
	(10,633)	45,259
Earnings per Share		
- Basic (US cents)	1.85	2.42
- Diluted (US cents)	1.85	2.42

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
AT 31 DECEMBER 2016

	At 31 December	
	2016	2015
	US\$ ' 000	US\$ ' 000
NON-CURRENT ASSETS		
Property, plant and equipment	2,309,875	2,545,785
Prepaid lease payments	51,642	57,982
Goodwill	167,582	178,967
Interests in associates	161,717	174,472
Amounts due from non-controlling shareholders	439	704
Deferred tax assets	25,927	28,553
Other assets	22,792	35,661
	2,739,974	3,022,124
CURRENT ASSETS		
Inventories	32,519	28,755
Prepaid lease payments	3,379	3,640
Trade receivables	200,911	200,765
Other receivables and prepayments	102,327	130,082
Amount due from non-controlling shareholders	119	2,450
Amounts due from associates	9,235	43,084
Amounts due from fellow subsidiaries	10,511	4,319
Tax recoverable	734	106
	72,398	

Pledged bank deposits		75,045
	326,514	

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Bank balances and cash		342,498
	758,647	830,744

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At 31 December	
2016	2015
US\$ ' 000	US\$ ' 000

CURRENT LIABILITIES

	86,719	
Trade payables		89,778
	127,906	
Other payables and accruals		155,873
	4,341	
Amounts due to fellow subsidiaries		4,647
	5,228	
Amounts due to non-controlling shareholders		6,198
Loan from a fellow subsidiary		
	39,579	
- due within one year		96,422
Advance from a non-controlling shareholder		
	2,203	
- due within one year		7,098
	133,886	
Bank borrowings - due within one year		114,024
	4,717	
Bond payables - due within one year		4,717

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	69	109
Deferred connection charges	620	662
Government grants	4,399	8,738
Tax payable	409,667	488,266
NET CURRENT ASSETS	348,980	342,478
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES	3,088,954	3,364,602
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Advance from a non-controlling shareholder	792	794
- due after one year	450,000	465,459
Loans from fellow subsidiaries	-	100,000
Loan from an intermediate holding company	1,418,324	1,536,606
Bank borrowings - due after one year	349,763	349,386
Bond payables - due after one year	73	152
Deferred connection charges	9,559	10,874
Government grants	48,607	51,778
Deferred tax liabilities	2,277,118	2,515,049
NET ASSETS	811,836	849,553

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At 31 December
2016 2015
US\$ ' 000 US\$ ' 000

CAPITAL AND RESERVES

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Share capital	55	55
Reserves	710,703	741,677
Equity attributable to owner of the Company	710,758	741,732
Non-controlling interests	101,078	107,821
TOTAL EQUITY	811,836	849,553

Revenue and segment information

The Group has three reportable segments as follows:

- (1) Power plants in the PRC - Generation and supply of electricity;
- (2) Power plants in Korea - Generation and supply of electricity; and
- (3) Management companies - Provision of management services to power plants operated by CGN and its subsidiaries.

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The following is an analysis of the Group's revenue and results by reportable segment:

For the year ended 31 December 2016

	Power Plants in the PRC US\$ ' 000	Power Plants in Korea US\$ ' 000	Management companies US\$ ' 000	Total US\$ ' 000
Segment revenue - external	389,922	658,381	26,145	1,074,448
Segment results	106,446	37,994	1,245	145,685
Unallocated other income				1,647
Unallocated operating expenses				(11,687)
Unallocated finance costs				(39,139)
Unallocated other gains and losses				1,306

Share of result of associates	22,113
Profit before tax	119,925

For the year ended 31 December 2015

	Power Plants in the PRC US\$ ' 000	Power Plants in Korea US\$ ' 000	Management companies US\$ ' 000	Total US\$ ' 000
Segment revenue - external	317,640	813,806	20,459	1,151,905
Segment results	91,601	44,938	974	137,513
Unallocated other income				1,163
Unallocated operating expenses				(15,671)
Unallocated finance costs				(22,946)
Unallocated other gains and losses				(980)
Share of result of associates				63,313
Profit before tax				162,392

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The following is an analysis of the Group's assets and liabilities by reportable segment.

	2016 US\$ ' 000	2015 US\$ ' 000
Segment assets		
Power Plants in the PRC	2,019,212	2,271,429
Power Plants in Korea	1,200,218	1,267,300
Management companies	3,841	7,491
Total segment assets	3,223,271	3,546,220
Interests in associates	161,717	174,472
	113,633	

Unallocated		132,176
Consolidated assets	3,498,621	3,852,868
Segment liabilities		
Power Plants in the PRC	1,038,263	1,210,196
Power Plants in Korea	790,370	874,027
Management companies	1,011	3,456
Total segment liabilities	1,829,644	2,087,679
Unallocated		
- Bond payables	354,480	354,103
- Loan from an intermediate holding company	-	100,000
- Loan from fellow subsidiaries	489,579	450,000
- Others	13,082	11,533
	2,686,785	

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Consolidated liabilities		3,003,315
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NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2016

1. GENERAL

The Company is incorporated in Bermuda as an exempted company with limited liability under the Companies Act 1981 of Bermuda and the Shares are listed on the Main Board of the Stock Exchange in October 2014. The registered office of the Company is at Victoria Place, 31 Victoria Street, Hamilton HM 10, Bermuda. The principal place of business of the Company is at 15/F., Harbour Centre, 25 Harbour Road, Wanchai, Hong Kong. Its immediate holding company is CGNPC Huamei, a company incorporated in Hong Kong with limited liability and its ultimate holding company is CGN, a state-owned enterprise established in the PRC.

The consolidated financial statements have been prepared in accordance with accounting policies which conform with IFRSs. In addition, the consolidated financial statements include applicable disclosures required by the Listing Rules and the Hong Kong Companies Ordinance for the year ended 31 December 2016.

2. APPLICATION OF NEW AND REVISED INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL REPORTING STANDARDS (" IFRSs ")

Application of new and revised IFRSs

The Group has applied the following amendments to IFRSs issued by the International Accounting Standards Board (" IASB ") and International Financial Reporting Interpretations Committee (" IFRIC ") for the first time in the current year:

Amendments to IFRS 10, IFRS 12 and IAS 28	Investment Entities: Applying the Consolidation Exception
Amendments to IFRS 11	Accounting for Acquisitions of Interests in Joint Operations
Amendments to IAS 1	Disclosure Initiative
Amendments to IAS 16 and IAS 38	Clarification of Acceptable Methods of Depreciation and Amortisation
Amendments to IAS 16 and IAS 41	Agriculture: Bearer Plants
Amendments to IFRSs	Annual Improvements to IFRSs 2012-2014 Cycle

The application of the amendments to IFRSs in the current year has had no material impact on

the Group ' s financial performance and positions for the current and prior years and/or on the disclosures set out in these consolidated financial statements.

The Group has not early applied any new and revised IFRSs that have been issued but are not yet effective.

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MANAGEMENT DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

I. Operating Results and Analysis

In 2016, the revenue of the Group amounted to approximately US\$1,074.4 million, representing a decrease of approximately 6.7% compared with last year. The profit attributable to the shareholders of the Company amounted to approximately US\$79.5 million, representing a decrease of approximately US\$24.4 million or 23.5% as compared with last year.

In 2016, the profit of the Group amounted to approximately US\$91.0 million, representing a decrease of approximately US\$31.4 million or 25.7% as compared with approximately US\$122.4 million of last year.

Revenue

In 2016, the revenue of the Group amounted to approximately US\$1,074.4 million, representing a decrease of 6.7% compared with approximately US\$1,151.9 million of last year. The decrease in revenue was mainly attributable to decreased revenue of Yulchon I Power Project and Yulchon II Power Project. It was mainly due to the decrease in Korea gas-fired tariffs as a result of the increased supply and decreased gas price in the Korea power market. It is partially offset by an increase in revenue contributed by our wind power and solar power projects acquired in September 2015.

Operating Expenses

In 2016, the operating expenses of the Group amounted to approximately US\$897.0 million, representing a decrease of approximately 9.7% compared with approximately US\$993.0 million of last year. The decrease in operating expenses was mainly due to the decrease in gas price and fuel cost in Yulchon I Power Project and Yulchon II Power Project.

Operating Profit

In 2016, the operating profit, which is equal to revenue minus operating expenses, of the Group amounted to approximately US \$177.4 million, representing an increase of approximately US \$18.5 million or 11.6% compared with

approximately US\$158.9 million of last year. The increase in operating profit was mainly contributed by our wind power and solar power projects.

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Other Income

Other income mainly represented income from sales of scrap materials, interest income and the refund of value added tax. In 2016, other income of the Group amounted to approximately US \$14.3 million, representing a decrease of approximately US\$4.3 million or 23.1% compared with approximately US\$18.6 million of last year.

Finance Costs

In 2016, the finance costs of the Group amounted to approximately US\$115.2 million, representing an increase of approximately US\$38.4 million or 50.0% compared with approximately US\$76.8 million of last year. The increase in finance costs was mainly attributable to the increase in weighted average balances of bank borrowings and loans from related companies for the acquisition of our wind power and solar power projects in the second half of 2015.

Share of Results of Associates

In 2016, the share of results of associates amounted to approximately US\$22.1 million, representing a decrease of approximately US\$41.2 million or 65.1% compared with approximately US\$63.3 million in last year. The decrease in profit of the associates was mainly due to the national tariff reduction in May 2015 and January 2016 for the PRC coal-fired plants, and the increase in standard coal price in the PRC in the second half of 2016.

Gain on Disposal of a Subsidiary

During 2016, the Group disposed its entire equity interest in Sichuan Hexie Electric Power Co., Ltd, an indirect wholly-owned subsidiary of the Company at the material time, at a consideration of RMB220.10 million (equivalent to US\$32.5 million). A gain on disposal of a subsidiary of USD18.7 million was resulted after considering the transaction cost, related cumulative exchange gain

and the net assets disposed of.

Income Tax Expenses

In 2016, the income tax expense of the Group amounted to approximately US\$28.9 million, representing a decrease of approximately US\$11.1 million or 27.8% compared with approximately US\$40.0 million of last year.

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Liquidity and Capital Resources

The Group ' s bank balances and cash decreased from US\$342.5 million as at 31 December 2015 to US\$326.5 million as at 31 December 2016. The decrease was primarily due to repayment of loan from an intermediate holding company in October 2016 and repayment of loan from a fellow subsidiary, partially offset by cash generated from operations.

Net Debt/Equity Ratio

The Group ' s net debt/equity ratio decreased from 2.74 as at 31 December 2015 to 2.55 as at 31 December 2016 due to the decrease in net debt (which equals total debt less available cash) as a result of the repayment of loans from an intermediate holding company and a fellow subsidiary during the year.

Dividend

At the Board meeting held on 15 March 2017, the Board recommended the payment of a final dividend for the year ended 31 December 2016 of 0.47 US cents per ordinary share (equivalent to 3.64 HK cents per ordinary share), totalling US\$20.2 million (equivalent to HK\$156.2 million), which is based on 4,290,824,000 Shares in issue on 15 March 2017. Payout ratio of the proposed dividend is 25%.

Earnings per Share

Year ended 31 December	
2016	2015
US cents	US cents

Earnings per Share,
basic and diluted - calculated based on
the weighted average number of

ordinary shares for the year	1.85	2.42
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Earnings per Share,
basic and diluted - calculated based on
the number of ordinary shares
outstanding at year end

1.85	2.42
------	------

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Year ended 31 December	
2016	2015
US\$ ' 000	US\$ ' 000

Earnings for the purpose of calculating basic and
diluted earnings per Share (profit for the year
attributable to owner of the Company)

79,472	103,879
' 000	' 000

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Weighted average number of ordinary shares
for the purpose of calculating basic and

4,290,824	4,290,824
-----------	-----------

diluted earnings per Share

Number of ordinary shares outstanding

	4,290,824	
at year end		4,290,824

Trade Receivables

	As at 31 December	
	2016	2015
	US\$ ' 000	US\$ ' 000
Trade receivables	202,331	200,954
	(1,420)	(189)
Less: allowance for doubtful debts		
	200,911	200,765

The Group allowed a credit period from 30 to 90 days throughout the year to its trade customers. Over 76% (2015: 99%) of the trade receivables were neither past due nor impaired as at 31 December 2016. The management considers that these receivables have good credit rating according to the credit review policy adopted by the Group.

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The following is an ageing analysis of trade receivables net of allowance for doubtful debts presented based on the invoice dates (which approximated the revenue recognition dates) at the end of the reporting period.

	As at 31 December	
	2016	2015
	US\$ ' 000	US\$ ' 000
0 - 60 days	145,277	199,355
61 - 90 days	8,334	552
Over 90 days	47,300	858
	200,911	200,765

Trade Payables

The following is an ageing analysis of trade payables presented based on the invoice dates at the end of the reporting period.

	As at 31 December	
	2016	2015
	US\$ ' 000	US\$ ' 000
0 - 60 days	80,225	88,154
61 - 90 days	274	140
Over 90 days	6,220	1,484
Total	86,719	89,778

The average credit period for purchases of goods was 44 days (2015: 40 days) for the year ended 31 December 2016. The Group has financial risk management policies in place to ensure all payables are settled within the credit frame.

Financial Position

Non-current assets decreased from US\$3,022.1 million as at 31 December 2015 to US\$2,740.0 million as at 31 December 2016 was mainly due to the depreciation charges for the year.

Current assets decreased from US\$830.7 million as at 31 December 2015 to US\$758.6 million as at 31 December 2016 was mainly attributable to the decrease in bank balances.

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Current liabilities decreased from US\$488.3 million as at 31 December 2015 to US\$409.7 million as at 31 December 2016, which was resulted from the decrease in loan from a fellow subsidiary of the wind power and solar power projects.

Non-current liabilities decreased from US\$2,515.0 million as at 31 December 2015 to US\$2,277.1 million as at 31 December 2016, which was resulted from the decrease in loan from an intermediate holding company as a result of the repayment made during the year.

Bank Borrowings

The Group ' s total bank borrowings decreased from US\$1,650.6 million as at 31 December 2015 to US\$1,552.2 million as at 31 December 2016. Details of bank borrowings are as follows:

	As at 31 December	
	2016 US\$ ' 000	2015 US\$ ' 000
Secured	1,504,115	1,547,952
Unsecured	48,095	102,678
	1,552,210	1,650,630
The maturity profile of bank borrowings is as follows:		
Within one year	133,886	114,024
More than one year but not exceeding		
two years	206,869	136,438
More than two years but not exceeding		
five years	421,880	370,845
Over five years	789,575	1,029,323
	1,552,210	1,650,630
Less: Amounts due for settlement within one		
year shown under current liabilities	(133,886)	(114,024)
	1,418,324	1,536,606

As at 31 December 2016, the Group had committed unutilized banking facilities of US\$752.1 million.

Bond Payables

The Company issued bonds in an aggregate principal amount of US\$350.0 million on 19 August 2013 priced at 99.686% of the principal amount that carries interest at 4% per annum and interest is payable semi-annually in arrears and will become mature on 19 August 2018, unless it is redeemed earlier. The carrying amount of the bond payables was US\$354.5 million as at 31 December 2016.

Loans from Fellow Subsidiaries

Loan from China Clean Energy Development Limited, a fellow subsidiary of the Company, amounted to US\$450.0 million as at 31 December 2016 and 2015, is unsecured, interest bearing at 4.5% per annum and repayable in 2025. It is shown as non-current liability as at 31 December 2016 and 2015.

Loans from CGN Finance, a fellow subsidiary of the Company, amounted to US\$111.9 million as at 31 December 2015, were unsecured, interest bearing from 4.37% per annum to 4.86% per annum. Among which US\$96.4 million were loans repayable within one year and are shown as current liabilities as at 31 December 2015, while the remaining US\$15.5 million was repayable in 2024 and was classified as non-current liability as at 31 December 2015.

All loans from CGN Finance have been repaid in 2016.

During 2016, US\$39.6 million has been advanced from CGNPC Huasheng Investment Limited, a fellow subsidiary of the Company, which is unsecured, interest bearing at 4.05% per annum and repayable in 2017. It is shown as current liability as at 31 December 2016.

Loan from an Intermediate Holding Company

Loan from CGNPC International Limited, an intermediate holding company of the Company, amounted to US\$100.0 million as at 31 December 2015 was unsecured, interest bearing at 4.5% per annum and repayable in 2025. It was shown as non-current liabilities as at 31 December 2015. Early repayment in full was made during the year ended 31 December 2016.

Capital Expenditures

The Group 's capital expenditure decreased by US\$24.2 million to US\$32.9 million in 2016 from US\$57.1 million in 2015.

Contingent Liabilities

As at 31 December 2016 and 2015, the Group had no material contingent liabilities.

Pledged Assets

The Group pledged certain property, plant and equipment, land use rights, bank deposits and restricted cash for credit facilities granted to the Group. As at 31 December 2016, the total book value of the pledged assets amounted to US\$1,191.8 million.

Employees and Remuneration Policy

As at 31 December 2016, the Group had about 1,765 full-time employees, with the majority based in China. The Group provides its employees with salaries and bonuses, as well as employee benefits, including retirement schemes, medical and life insurance schemes.

Employees located in China are covered by the mandatory social security schemes required by local practice and regulations of the PRC, which are essentially

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defined contribution schemes. The Group is required by the PRC law to contribute a certain percentage of the average salaries of the employees to various schemes in accordance with the respective regulatory requirements of each city. The PRC government is directly responsible for the payment of the benefits to these employees.

In Korea, the Group is required by law to contribute 4.5% of the employees' monthly average salaries for the national pension, 3.06% for national health insurance (6.55% of the national health insurance contribution for long term

care insurance), 0.9% for unemployment insurance, 0.86% (Seoul Office)/0.76% (Yulchon)/0.76%(Daesan) for the industrial accident compensation insurance and 0.06% for a wage claim guarantee fund.

In Hong Kong, the Group participates in a mandatory provident fund scheme established under the Mandatory Provident Fund Schemes Ordinance (Cap. 485). Employees contribute 5.0% of their relevant income to the mandatory provident fund scheme and the Group contributes 10.0% of each employee ' s monthly base salary.

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II. Industry Overview

During the year of 2016, the macro-economy of PRC was stable and trended upward in general as economic development remained at a reasonable level, quality and efficiency enhanced, economic structure continued to optimize and the supply and demand of electricity were generally on easing. According to the information published by the National Energy Administration of the PRC, the installed capacity of PRC amounted to 1,646 GW in 2016, representing a year-on-year increase of 8.2%, while electricity consumption amounted to 5,920 TWh, representing a year-on-year increase of 5.0%.

Under the background of reinforcing the energy structure adjustment and marketization reform of the power industry, the clean energy industry of PRC has achieved remarkable development and ranked the first in the world in terms of the installed capacity for photovoltaic, wind and hydro power. In 2016, there were two significant features that defined the development of clean energy in PRC: firstly, clean energy consumption has taken great strides and the proportion of non-fossil energy consumption was expected to reach 13.3%, representing a year-on-year increase of 1.3%; secondly, policies favoring new energy were introduced intensively. The " 13th Five-Year Plan on Renewable Energy Development " issued by the state predicted that, during the period of the 13th Five-Year Plan, PRC ' s new investment on renewable energy will amount to RMB2.5 trillion, among which, the new investment on wind power will be about RMB700 billion and that on various solar energy installations will be about RMB1 trillion. Furthermore, the state published the " Notice in relation to Renewable Energy Consumption in the ' Three North ' Areas " , " Guidance on the Establishment of the Guidance System of Renewable Energy Development and Utilization Objectives " and " Administrative Measures on Guaranteed Buyouts of Renewable Energy Power Generation " and the relevant documents, all of which will provide significant support to the development of renewable energy.

Regarding the Korean market, influenced by global economic uncertainties and crisis emerging from the domestic political environment and large-scale corporations, the economic growth of Korea continued to slow down, resulting in a growth in gross domestic product of 2.7% for 2016. The growth in power demand also lost momentum, which led to issues relating to decreases in capacity factor, utilization hours of power plants and electricity generation, and affected the profitability of Korean gas-fired power generation companies. However, the decrease in natural gas price partially offset the loss from the decline in the system marginal price (SMP).

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III. Business Review

The Group 's portfolio of assets comprises wind, solar, gas-fired, coal-fired, oil-fired, hydro, cogen and fuel cell projects as well as a steam project which are mainly operating in the PRC and Korean power markets with wide geographical coverage and diversified business scope. As of 31 December 2016, the operations in the PRC and Korea accounted for approximately 59.0% and 41.0% of our attributable installed capacity of 4,984.6 MW respectively. Additionally, our business in the PRC covers 9 provinces, an autonomous region and a municipality. Clean and renewable energy projects, namely wind, solar, gas-fired, hydro and

fuel cell projects, accounted for 64.5% of our attributable installed capacity, and conventional energy projects, namely coal-fired, oil-fired and cogen projects, accounted for 35.5% of our attributable installed capacity.

The following table sets out items selected by us from results of the Group (by fuel type):

US\$ million	Gas-fired projects	Coal-fired, cogen and steam projects	Oil-fired project	Hydro projects	Wind projects	Solar projects	Corpor.
For the year ended 31 December 2016							
Revenue	660.4	173.2	28.1	36.7	113.9	36.0	2
Operating expenses	(607.6)	(136.8)	(14.4)	(19.5)	(66.7)	(19.9)	(3)
Operating profit	52.8	36.4	13.7	17.2	47.2	16.1	(

Profit for the year	45.8	48.3	7.7	12.6	12.7	8.5	(4.0)
Profit attributable to the owner of the Company	43.5	39.6	7.7	12.1	12.7	8.5	(4.0)

US\$ million	Gas-fired projects	Coal-fired, cogen and steam projects	Oil-fired projects	Hydro projects	Wind projects	Solar projects	Corporate
For the year ended 31 December 2015							
Revenue	826.2	188.4	28.5	38.8	35.0	14.5	21.0
Operating expenses	(748.7)	(135.3)	(17.6)	(20.7)	(24.0)	(7.4)	(3.0)
Operating profit	77.5	50.1	10.9	18.1	11.0	7.1	(1.0)
Profit for the year	40.3	97.6	4.7	14.6	1.0	3.3	(3.0)
Profit attributable to the owner of the Company	34.9	85.8	4.7	13.3	1.0	3.3	(3.0)

The attributable installed capacity of the Group's power assets from the Group as of 31 December 2016 and 2015 by fuel type are set out as follows:

	As at 31 December	
	2016 (MW)	2015 (MW)
Clean and renewable energy portfolio	1,201.2	1,201.2
Wind	199.0	180.8
Solar	1,677.5	1,775.7
Gas-fired	137.3	137.3
Hydro	3,215.0	3,295.0
Subtotal		
Conventional energy portfolio		

	1,187.6	
Coal-fired		1,187.6
	507.0	
Oil-fired		507.0
	75.0	
Cogen		75.0
	1,769.6	
Subtotal		1,769.6
Total attributable installed capacity	4,984.6	5,064.6

As of 31 December 2016, the attributable installed capacity of the Group ' s power

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plants reached 4,984.6 MW, representing a decrease of 80 MW or 1.6%, which was mainly due to the disposal of Hexie Power Project with an attributable installed capacity of 98.2 MW to an independent third party in 2016. As of 31 December 2016, the consolidated installed capacity of the Group ' s power plants reached 4,212.6 MW.

In terms of business development, leveraging the advantages as the sole global platform for the development and operation of the non-nuclear clean and renewable power generation projects of CGN, the Group focused on enhancing the profitability of its clean and renewable energy portfolio. In 2016, the Laoling Tieying Project of CGN Solar (Dezhou) Company Limited, a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Company located in Tieying Town, Laoling City, Dezhou, Shandong Province started on-grid connection and the total installed capacity reached 15 MW. Meanwhile, the Shangyang Project which was invested, constructed and subsequently operated and managed by CGN Solar (Shenzhen) Company Limited, a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Company, in Pingshan District of Shenzhen also started on-grid connection and commenced power generation in 2016, with a total installed capacity of 2 MW.

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In 2016, the net electricity generated from the consolidated power generation projects of the Group reached 11,836.7 GWh, representing an increase of 14.1% compared with 10,375.7 GWh last year, mainly due to the electricity generated from our wind power and solar power projects. In 2016, the total steam sold by the Group amounted to 2,989,000 tons, representing an increase of 8.6% as compared with that of last year.

Due to the cessation of supply of fuel to Weigang Power Project by its major fuel supplier, Weigang Power Project has ceased operation since the end of June 2016. The management is considering the possible arrangements arising from the cessation of operation, including without limitation the termination of the relevant agreements and the handling of other follow up matters in relation to the cessation.

The following table sets out the average utilization hour applicable to our projects for the Group:

Average utilization hour by fuel type(1)

	For the year ended 31 December	
	2016	2015
PRC Gas-fired Projects(2)	1,168	1,267
Korea Gas-fired Projects(3)	4,832	4,703
PRC Coal-fired Projects(4)	4,036	4,065
PRC Cogen Projects(5)	6,223	5,529
Korea oil -fired Projects(6)	8	13
PRC Hydro Projects(7)	4,287	4,326
PRC Wind Projects(8)	1,409	399
PRC Solar Projects(9)	1,299	516

Notes:

- (1) Average utilization hour is the gross electricity generated in a specified period divided by the average installed capacity in the same period.
- (2) Average utilization hour for the PRC gas-fired projects decrease was mainly due to cessation of operation at Weigang Power Project since June 2016.
- (3) Our Korea gas-fired power projects had higher average utilization hour in 2016 mainly due to higher demand for Yulchon I Power Project.
- (4) Average utilization hour for the PRC coal-fired projects remained stable as compared to last year.
- (5) Average utilization hour for the PRC cogen projects increased in 2016 was attributable to the increased local demand.
- (6) Our Korea oil-fired power project (i.e. Daesan I Power Project) had lower average utilization hour in 2016 since there was a lower demand on oil-fired power plant due to the high Reserve Margin in Korea.
- (7) Average utilization hour for the PRC Hydro Projects decreased mainly due to the decreased in local demand.
- (8) Average utilization hour for the year ended 31 December 2015 for the PRC wind projects represented operations for the four months from September 2015 only. Average utilization hours for the year ended 31 December 2016 for the PRC wind projects in the Shandong province, the Zhejiang province and the Gansu province are 2,045, 1,900 and 1,144 respectively.
- (9) Average utilization hour for the year ended 31 December 2015 for the PRC solar projects represented operations for the four months from September 2015 only. The average utilization hours for the year ended 31 December 2016 for the PRC solar projects in the Western Region (Dunhuang I/II, Jinta, Xitianshan I/II/III, Wulan) and the Eastern Region (Jiaxing, Airport I/II, Shangyang, Laoling Tieying) of the PRC are 1,394 and 945, respectively.

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The table below sets out the weighted average tariffs (inclusive of value-added tax (" VAT ")) applicable to our projects in the PRC and Korea for the Group for the periods indicated:

Weighted average tariff (inclusive of VAT) (1)

	Unit	For the year ended 31 December 2016	2015
PRC Gas-fired Projects	RMB per kWh	0.5298	0.5550
Korea Gas-fired Projects (2)	KRW per kWh	94.2	121.8
PRC Coal-fired Projects (3)	RMB per kWh	0.4273	0.4747
PRC Cogen Projects (3) (4)	RMB per kWh	0.4568	0.4840
PRC Hydro Projects	RMB per kWh	0.3518	0.3455
PRC Wind Projects (5)	RMB per kWh	0.54	0.59
PRC Solar Projects	RMB per kWh	1.10	1.11
Weighted average tariff-steam (inclusive of VAT)			
PRC Cogen Projects (6)	RMB per ton	171.4	178.1

Notes:

- (1) The weighted average tariffs are affected not only by the change in the tariff for each project but also the change in net power generation for each project.

- (2) The weighted average tariff for Korea gas-fired projects was in line with the decrease in Korean gas price and market demand.
- (3) The weighted average tariffs for the PRC coal-fired and PRC cogen projects decreased in 2016 since there have been national on-grid tariff downward adjustments directed by the NDRC in May 2015 and January 2016.
- (4) The weighted average tariff for our PRC cogen projects excludes steam tariff.
- (5) The weighted average tariff for our PRC wind projects decreased in 2016 due to the Group ' s positive efforts in gaining electricity sales through rigorously calculated bids in provinces with severe grid curtailment.
- (6) The weighted average tariff-steam decreased in 2016 was in line with the decrease in PRC coal price.

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The following table sets out the weighted average gas and standard coal and average oil prices (inclusive of VAT) applicable to our projects in the PRC and Korea for the Group for the periods indicated:

	Unit	For the year ended	
		31 December 2016	2015
PRC weighted average gas price(1) (2) (3)	RMB per normal cubic meter (" Nm 3 ")	2.099	2.403
PRC weighted average standard coal price(1) (4)	RMB per ton	565.8	508.8
Korea weighted average gas price(1) (5)	KRW per Nm 3	467.0	598.2

Notes:

- (1) The weighted average standard coal and the weighted average gas prices are weighted based on the consumption of gas or coal in each applicable period.
- (2) The PRC weighted average gas price excludes the gas price for Weigang Power Project, which exclusively uses blast furnace gas.
- (3) Our PRC weighted average gas price in 2016 decreased compared to 2015 due to the directive issued by the NDRC to decreased gas prices at gate stations by RMB0.35 per Nm³ in December 2015, with effect from 20 November 2015.
- (4) The PRC weighted average standard coal price in 2016 increased compared to 2015 due to a general increased in demand in 2016.
- (5) Our Korea weighted average gas price in 2016 decreased compared to 2015 due to decreases in market gas prices, as indicated by the Japanese Crude Cocktail, a measurement of average prices of crude oil imported into Japan and an important determinant of natural gas prices in Korean markets. However, the Yulchon I Power Project power purchase agreement (" PPA ") allows us to contractually incorporate fuel cost fluctuations in the tariff charged to our customers.

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IV. Risk Factors and Management

Risks Relating to the Industry

Our power projects are located in the PRC and Korea, both of which have

undergone, and may continue to undergo, regulatory changes. Governmental regulations affect all aspects of our power project operations, including the amount and timing of electricity generation, the setting of tariffs, compliance with power grid controls, dispatch directives and environmental protection. Regulatory changes in the PRC and Korea can affect, among other things, dispatch policies, clean and renewable energy and environmental compliance policies and tariffs, and may result in a change of tariff setting procedures or mandatory installation of costly equipment and technologies to reduce environmental pollutants.

Further, the solar power projects are highly dependent on solar illumination conditions, and the wind power projects are dependent particularly on wind conditions. Extreme wind or weather conditions could lead to downtime of the wind power projects. Illumination conditions and wind conditions vary across seasons and locations, and could be unpredictable and are out of our control.

Risk Relating to Fuel Cost

The non-renewable energy power projects of the Group require supplies of coal, oil and gas as fuel. Fuel costs represent a significant portion of our operating expenses and the operating expenses of our associates. The extent to which our profit is ultimately affected by the cost of fuel depends on our ability to pass through fuel costs to our customers as set out under the relevant regulatory guidelines and the terms of our PPA for a particular project, as we currently do not hedge our exposure to fuel price fluctuations. Our fuel costs are also affected by the volume of electricity generated because the coal consumption rate of coal-fired and cogen power projects decrease when we generate more electricity as a result of economies of scale. In the PRC, government tariff regulations limit our ability to pass through changes in fuel costs. In Korea, while our Yulchon I Power Project is able to pass through our exposure to fuel price fluctuations through fuel cost pass through provisions in the tariff formula, our Yulchon II Power Project and Daesan I Power Project receive payments based on the SMP, which is influenced by market demand and supply, and may not fully reflect the power plants' respective fuel price fluctuations. Our diversified generation portfolio enables us to diversify the risks that we would face to utilize a single resource for electricity generation. In particular, our exposure to several fuel types mitigates risks such as price increases in or the availability of any particular fuel source.

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Interest Rate Risk

We are exposed to interest rate risk resulting from fluctuations in interest rates on our debt with floating interest rates based on market prevailing rates. We

undertake debt obligations to support asset acquisition and general corporate purposes including capital expenditures and working capital needs. Certain of our indebtedness is calculated in accordance with floating interest rate or interest that are subject to adjustment by our lenders. We periodically review the ratio of

debt with floating interest rates to debt with fixed rates, taking into account the potential impact on our profit, interest coverage and cash flows.

Foreign Exchange Risk

The functional currency of the Company is U.S. dollars, and our reportable profit is affected by fluctuations in foreign currency exchange rates. We collect most of our revenue from our projects in Renminbi and Korean Won, some of which are converted into foreign currencies to (1) purchase foreign-made equipment and parts for repair and maintenance, (2) make investments in certain joint ventures or acquire interests from other companies, (3) pay out dividends to the shareholders of our project companies, and (4) service our outstanding debt. By managing and monitoring the risks of foreign currency, we ensure that appropriate measures are adopted effectively in a timely manner. We have in the past and may in the future enter into foreign currency hedges if and when it becomes economical to do so.

V. Prospects

The clean power generation industry enjoys a promising outlook for various reasons. Firstly, the need to cope with global climate change has become the fundamental drive for the development of renewable energy, which is a global consensus and nations worldwide are setting higher targets for renewable energy development. The PRC government has promised to attain carbon emission peak value no later than 2030 and the proportion of non-fossil energy to primary energy consumption will increase to 20%. By 2020, the cumulative installed capacity of PRC's wind power and solar power is expected to exceed 320 GW, which will be nearly double the capacity at the end of the 12th Five-Year Plan Period. Secondly, there is much room for cost reduction and efficiency enhancement of renewable energy to be achieved by technological advancement. For instance, regarding wind power, there will be the introduction of new low wind speed wind turbines with bigger blades ; and for solar energy, the conversion efficiency of solar cells will continue to increase. Thirdly, the new round of power reform is expected to bring about positive results. With the electricity sales market opening up, the establishment of channel between upstream and downstream players in the energy sector will provide much room for customer-oriented comprehensive service.

Facing the future macro-economic environment, development trend in the power industry as well as the remaining challenges in the PRC and Korean markets which include the decreases in tariff and utilization hours, power restriction, exchange rate and interest rate, the Group will continue to give full play to its role as CGN ' s sole global platform for the development and operation of non-nuclear clean and renewable power generation projects. We will continue to seek acquisition opportunities in relation to high quality clean and renewable power generation projects and continuously acquire clean and renewable power generation projects from CGN. It will also constantly promote its own greenfield and brownfield projects to upgrade its core capacity in the operation and maintenance of the wind power and solar power businesses, thereby enhancing its market competitiveness and profitability to reward shareholders with outstanding performance.

EVENT OCCURRING AFTER THE REPORTING PERIOD

No other important event or transaction affecting the Group has taken place after 31 December 2016.

USE OF PROCEEDS

The Company was listed on the Main Board of the Stock Exchange on 3 October 2014. Net proceeds from the global offering (including the proceeds from the exercise of the overallotment option) were approximately HK\$1,966.1 million (after deducting the underwriting fees and commissions and other listing-related expenses). As at 31 December 2016, the unutilised proceeds of approximately HK\$578.1 million were deposited into short-term deposits.

Use of net proceeds from global offering

Percentage to total amount	Net proceeds (HK\$ million)	Utilised amount (up to 31 December 2016) (HK\$ million)	Unutilised amount (up to 31 December 2016) (HK\$ million)
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Acquisition of clean and

renewable power projects from CGN, the parent company of the Company	70%	1,376.3	1,376.3	-
Acquisition of operational power projects and development of greenfield projects acquired from independent third parties	30%	589.8	11.7	578.1
		1,966.1	1,386.8	578.1

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PURCHASE, SALE OR REDEMPTION OF THE COMPANY ' S LISTED SECURITIES

Neither the Company, nor any of its subsidiaries has purchased, sold or redeemed any of the Company ' s listed securities during the year ended 31 December 2016.

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE CODE

During the year ended 31 December 2016, the Company has complied with all the code provisions of the Corporate Governance Code.

COMPLIANCE WITH MODEL CODE

The Company has adopted its own Code for Securities Transactions by Directors, the stipulations of which are no less exacting than those set out in the Model Code, as a code of conduct for dealing in securities of the Company by the Directors.

Specific enquiries have been made with the Directors, and all Directors confirmed in writing that they have complied with the required standards in respect of securities transactions by the Directors set out in the Model Code and the Company ' s Code during the year ended 31 December 2016.

REVIEW OF ANNUAL RESULTS

The Group ' s annual results for the year ended 31 December 2016 have been reviewed by the audit committee of the Company.

SCOPE OF WORK OF MESSRS. DELOITTE TOUCHE TOHMATSU

The figures in respect of the Group ' s consolidated statement of financial position, consolidated statement of comprehensive income and the related notes thereto for the year ended 31 December 2016 as set out in this announcement have been agreed by the Group ' s auditor, Messrs. Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu, to the amounts set out in the Group ' s audited consolidated financial statements for the year. The work performed by Messrs. Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu in this respect did not constitute an assurance engagement in accordance with Hong Kong Standards on Auditing, Hong Kong Standards on Review Engagements or Hong Kong Standards on Assurance Engagements issued by the Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants and consequently no assurance has been expressed by Messrs. Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu on this announcement.

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FINAL DIVIDEND

The Board recommended a final dividend of 0.47 US cents per Share (equivalent to 3.64 HK cents per Share). As at 15 March 2017, 4,290,824,000 Shares were in issue. If the recommendation is approved, the final dividend of 0.47 US cents per Share (equivalent to 3.64 HK cents) will be payable on Monday, 12 June 2017 to registered Shareholders as at Friday, 2 June 2017.

For the purpose of determining the entitlement to the proposed final dividend, the register of members will be closed from Wednesday, 31 May 2017 to Friday, 2 June 2017, both days inclusive. In order to be qualified for the proposed final dividend, all transfer documents accompanied by the relevant share certificate must be lodged with the Company ' s Hong Kong branch share registrar, Tricor Investor Services Limited at Level 22, Hopewell Centre, 183 Queen ' s Road East, Hong Kong for registration by not later than 4:30 p.m. on Monday, 29 May 2017.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting will be held at Boardroom 6, Mezzanine Floor Renaissance Harbour View Hotel Hong Kong, 1 Harbour Road, Wan Chai, Hong Kong on Wednesday, 24 May 2017 at 9:30 a.m. A circular containing, inter alia, the information required by the Listing Rules concerning (1) re-election of retiring Directors; and (2) grant of general mandates to repurchase Shares and to issue new

Shares, together with the notice of the Annual General Meeting, will be published and despatched to the Shareholders in the manner as required by the Listing Rules on or before 18 April 2017.

For the purpose of determining the entitlement to attend and vote at the Annual General Meeting, the register of members of the Company will be closed from Thursday, 18 May 2017 to Wednesday, 24 May 2017 (both days inclusive), during which period no transfer of Shares will be registered. In order to be qualified for attending and voting at the Annual General Meeting, all transfer documents accompanied by the relevant share certificates must be lodged with the Company's Hong Kong branch share registrar, Tricor Investor Services Limited at Level 22, Hopewell Centre, 183 Queen's Road East, Hong Kong for registration by not later than 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, 17 May 2017.

PUBLICATION OF RESULTS ON THE WEBSITES OF THE STOCK EXCHANGE AND THE COMPANY

This announcement is published on the Stock Exchange's website (<http://www.hkex.com.hk>) and the Company's website (<http://www.cgnc.com>). The 2016 annual report of the Company containing all the information required by the applicable Listing Rules will be despatched to the Shareholders and available on the above websites on or before 18 April 2017.

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DEFINITIONS

" Annual General Meeting "	an annual general meeting of the Company for the year 2017 to be held on Wednesday, 24 May 2017 or any adjournment thereof
" Board "	the board of Directors of the Company
" CGN "	China General Nuclear Power Corporation
	, a state-owned enterprise established in the PRC and the controlling shareholder of the Company
" CGN Finance "	CGN Finance Co., Ltd.
	a company established in the PRC with limited liability

and a wholly-owned subsidiary of CGN

CGNPC Huamei Investment Limited

" CGNPC Huamei " , an indirectly wholly-owned subsidiary of CGN incorporated in Hong Kong with limited liability and the immediate shareholder of the Company

" Company " C G N N e w E n e r g y H o l d i n g s C o . , L t d . , a c o m p a n y incorporated in Bermuda with limited liability, the Shares of which are listed on the Main Board of the Stock Exchange

" Company ' s Code " Code for Securities Transactions by Directors of the Company

" Consolidated installed capacity " the aggregate installed capacity of our project companies that we fully consolidated in our consolidated financial statements only. It is calculated by including 100% of the installed capacity of our project companies that we fully consolidate in our consolidated financial statements and are deemed as our subsidiaries. Consolidated installed capacity does not include the capacity of our associated companies

" Corporate Governance Code " Corporate Governance Code and Corporate Governance Report contained in Appendix 14 to the Listing Rules

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" Daesan I Power Project " a 507.0 MW oil-fired project in Korea

" Directors " the directors of the Company

" Group " the Company and its subsidiaries from time to time

" GW " gigawatt, equal to one million kilowatts

" GWh " gigawatt-hour, or one million kilowatt-hours. GWh is typically used as a measure for the annual energy production of large power projects

" Hexie Power Project " a 98.2 MW gas-fired project in Sichuan, the PRC

" HK\$ " Hong Kong dollars, the lawful currency of Hong Kong

" Hong Kong " The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the PRC

" Korea " the Republic of Korea

" KRW " Korean Won, the lawful currency of the Republic of Korea

" kWh " kilowatt-hour, the standard unit of energy used in the power industry. One kilowatt-hour is the amount of energy that would be produced by a generator producing one thousand watts for one hour

" Listing " the listing of the Shares on the Stock Exchange

" Listing Rules " the Rules Governing the Listing of Securities on the Stock Exchange (as amended from time to time)

" Model Code " Model Code for Securities Transactions by Directors of Listed Issuers contained in Appendix 10 to the Listing Rules

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" MW " megawatt, or one million watts. The installed capacity of power projects is generally expressed in terms of MW

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" NDRC " National Development and Reform Commission of the

PRC

" PRC " or " China "	the People ' s Republic of China, and for the purpose of this announcement, excludes Hong Kong, The Macau Special Administrative Region of the PRC and Taiwan
" Reserve Margin "	the available electricity generation capacity minus the peak electricity demand level divided by the peak electricity demand level
" RMB "	Renminbi, the lawful currency of the PRC
" Share(s) "	ordinary share(s) of HK\$0.0001 each in the share capital of the Company
" Shareholders "	the shareholders of the Company
" Stock Exchange "	The Stock Exchange of Hong Kong Limited
" TWh "	terawatt-hour, or one million megawatt-hours. TWh is typically used as a measure for the annual energy production of a region or a country
" US\$ "	United States dollars, the lawful currency of the United States of America
" Weigang Power Project "	a 50.0 MW blast furnace gas-fired project in Shanghai, the PRC
" Yulchon I Power Project "	a 577.4 MW gas-fired project in Korea
- 32 -	
" Yulchon II Power Project "	a 946.3 MW gas-fired project in Korea
" % "	per cent.

Source: Hong Kong Exchanges & Clearing

(END) Dow Jones Newswires

March 15, 2017 00:05 ET (04:05 GMT)

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Trump to nominate Goldman Sachs' Donovan as deputy Treasury secretary

Reuters, Eric Beech, Tuesday, 14 March 2017, 23:56 GMT , 137 Words, (c) 2017
(Document WCLBA00020170315ed3e0002t)

WASHINGTON U.S. President Donald Trump's administration is preparing to release a wide-ranging executive order to reduce the role that climate change plays in policy, according to a Trump administration official who reviewed a draft of the order.

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Business News: U.S. to Review Fuel Rules

The Wall Street Journal (Europe Edition), By Mike Spector, Wednesday, 15 March 2017, 763 Words, Copyright 2017 Dow Jones & Company, Inc. All Rights Reserved
(Document WSJE000020170315ed3f0001q)

President Donald Trump rattled car executives for months by threatening a stiff border tax on Mexican imports and questioning their commitment to U.S. jobs.

Now, he's granting them a much desired reprieve -- on fuel-economy regulations.

Mr. Trump heads to Detroit Wednesday, a trip coinciding with the expected reversal of an 11th-hour Obama administration decision to lock in tougher targets for tailpipe emissions.

The Environmental Protection Agency, after weeks of industry lobbying, plans to reopen a review of the regulations. The standards call for companies to sell vehicles that get 54 miles a gallon, or roughly 40 mpg in real-world driving, by 2025. They would remain in place while under review.

Auto makers contend the targets, which start toughening in 2022, will be difficult to meet with low gasoline prices steering consumers to higher-emitting and fuel-thirsty sport-utility vehicles. The EPA found auto makers are capable of meeting the standards without relying too much on electric-car technologies, and that the rules would curb consumption and greenhouse-gas emissions, while saving consumers \$92 billion at the fuel pump.

Mr. Trump is set to make remarks from a Ypsilanti, Mich., testing center for connected and self-driving cars. The appearance gives the Motor City -- home to three U.S. auto makers -- an opportunity to spotlight efforts to compete with Silicon Valley on future automobile technology.

Mr. Trump will meet with auto executives and workers and "will discuss how his plans for rolling back federal red tape will lead to more American jobs and higher wages in the automobile sector," White House press secretary Sean Spicer said Tuesday.

For car makers, reconsidering the review of emissions and fuel-economy standards opens the door to potentially rolling back costly environmental regulations after several were targeted in the last few months by Twitter missives from the president over their investments outside the U.S.

Auto makers have spotlighted U.S. commitments, and in some cases changed foreign-investment plans. Mr. Trump in turn touted their moves, even some that had been announced and weren't necessarily responses to his criticisms.

At the same time, auto makers pushed to undo the EPA's final determination, made a week before Mr. Trump was inaugurated, that locked in future emissions targets for light-duty vehicles.

The process hadn't been expected to be completed until April 2018. The agency regulates tailpipe emissions and often expresses future targets in terms of fuel economy.

Senior executives from General Motors Co., Ford Motor Co., Fiat Chrysler Automobiles NV, Toyota Motor Corp. and other manufacturers wrote to Mr. Trump in February when the review reopened, and lobbying groups for the companies followed with letters to Scott Pruitt, Mr. Trump's recently confirmed EPA administrator. Ford CEO Mark Fields met with Mr. Trump directly during a White House breakfast in January with other car executives.

The EPA's final determination on Jan. 13 required "a thoughtful and collaborative decision-making process" but the agency instead "opted for political expediency and rushed the decision," wrote John Bozzella, head of a Washington lobbying group representing foreign car makers with U.S. operations, in a letter asking regulators to reopen the review.

An industry-funded report from Indiana University released last week urged regulators to "reconsider the schedule and explore a variety of refinements" to the current rules. It contends that the rules would boost vehicle prices and threaten 600,000 jobs before losses ebb.

A move to reopen the review is in line with Mr. Trump's pledge to dismantle Obama-era climate-change regulations. Mr. Pruitt last week questioned whether the EPA's carbon emissions standards are justified, and expressed doubt about their contribution to global warming. A day after November's presidential election, a Trump adviser pledged the incoming administration would review the car regulations.

The electric and hybrid cars that auto makers contend are needed to meet the standards currently make up only a sliver of U.S. sales. Mitch Bainwol, head of a Washington group representing a dozen car makers, said in a letter to the EPA's Mr. Pruitt that complying with the current standards would cost the industry \$200 billion.

Any efforts to eventually relax the emissions and mileage standards likely would face lawsuits from environmentalists and consumer groups, with support from congress. "Donald Trump is waging a war on the environment," said Sen. Edward Markey (D., Mass.) during a recent conference call.

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Venue change for **climate change**: Idaho university experts speak at Capitol hearing

The Idaho Statesman, By Rocky Barker, Tuesday, 14 March 2017, 404 Words, © 2017. The Idaho Statesman. All Rights Reserved.
(Document BSID000020170314ed3e001gt)

When Boise legislator Ilana Rubel was told she couldn't have a hearing before the House Energy and Technology Committee, she decided to have a hearing on her own.

The result is an informational hearing on **climate change** that Rep. Rubel will host in the Lincoln Auditorium in the Capitol Wednesday at 3:30 p.m.

Rubel had sought repeatedly to get a hearing in the House Energy Committee, but Chairman Dell Raybould did not consider the issue of **climate change** significant enough for committee time. The Rexburg Republican told Rubel, a Democrat, he would support her having an informational meeting in the larger Lincoln Auditorium.

Rubel accepted his alternative and will bring some of the state's top experts on the causes and effects of **climate change** to the meeting.

"This issue is not just about rising ocean levels and polar bears — it's about crops and jobs in Idaho. Idaho's leaders must assess the risk ahead and take steps to add to their heads in the sand," Rubel said.

These experts include John Abatzoglou, a geography professor at the University of Idaho, Jennifer Pierce, a geosciences professor at Boise State University, Kerrie W. teaches about **climate change** at BSU and Scott Lowe, an economics professor and director of the environmental studies program at BSU.

They will talk about what's happening now, what's ahead, and what we can do about it. The forum will have legislators, scientists and business leaders from around the state discussing how changing climate conditions are affecting agriculture, fire, activity, water, wildlife, recreation and the economy.

Bill Kaage, chief of the National Park Service Division of Fire and Aviation Management, and Kevin King, board member of the Idaho Clean Energy Association, are also expected to speak.

"Taking steps to address **climate change** and plan for its impacts is not only the responsible thing to do, it carries economic benefits for our citizens," Rubel said. "Idaho has no coal or **oil**, but we have a lot of sun, wind and geothermal energy. Developing renewable energy resources will bring jobs and wealth to Idaho."


The hearing will be streamed live: <http://idahoptv.org/INSESSION/> and archived after 24 hours at <http://idahoptv.org/insession/archive.cfm> .

Rocky Barker: 208-377-6484, @RockyBarker

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Trump's USTR nominee pledges tough enforcement of U.S. trade laws
Reuters, Tuesday, 14 March 2017, 23:27 GMT , 271 Words, (c) 2017
(Document WCLBA00020170314ed3e007f0)

WASHINGTON President Donald Trump's nominee for U.S. Trade Representative told U.S. senators on Tuesday that he agrees with Trump's call for an "America First" better-negotiated trade deals and stronger enforcement of U.S....

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IN POLE POSITION

The Independent, ASHLEY COATES, Wednesday, 15 March 2017, 1776 Words, © 2017. Independent Print Ltd. All Rights Reserved.
(Document IND0000020170315ed3f0000b)

Features | New demands on Antarctica threaten its future as a haven for **climate change** science research, Ashley Coates reports

It spreads over 660,000 square miles, is entirely self-financing and has been claimed by Britain since 1908. Yet this vast patch of land, three times the size of the UK, has a small population and is almost entirely covered by permanent sheet ice.

Located between territorial claims by Norway and Chile, the British Antarctic Territory is home to colonies of elephant seal and emperor penguin, as well as its own glacier. Towards the south, the 169,000 square mile Queen Elizabeth Land was named after the Queen at the time of her Diamond Jubilee in 2012. In 2012, renaming infuriated the Argentinian government, for the past 60 years, the Antarctic has been held up as a model of international cooperation.

In the first significant arms control treaty of the Cold War, 12 nations signed up to the 1959 Antarctic Treaty System, agreeing to ban all military activity on the continent and to ensure freedom of scientific endeavours. Any country can now set up a research facility anywhere on the island, while mining activity is banned and strict environmental protocols are adhered to.

Today seven territorial claims resembling slices of a cake stretch from the shore to the South Pole. Unresolved by attempts at international arbitration in the fifties, British claims are overlapped by both Chilean and Argentinian claims. Argentina's claim is entirely overlapped by the British and Chilean claims. South of the Chilean claim is the world's largest land mass, Marie Byrd Land, stretching from 90°W to 150°W and covering an area of 620, 000 square miles.

Although they were signatories to the Antarctic Treaty System, Russia and the United States reserved the right to claim territory at a future date. Despite the potential of a 60-year-old treaty has resulted in an atmosphere focused on learning and cooperation. "Some major scientific breakthroughs have come out of Antarctica," according to Anne-Marie Brady, executive editor of The Polar Journal and professor in political science at the University of Canterbury in New Zealand.

"The privileging of science as the main legitimate activity in Antarctica since the signing of the Antarctic Treaty has been a boon for the scientific community. Their activities serve both political and scientific goals."

Yet there may be trouble on the horizon for Antarctica as a hub for science and as a model for international relations. Antarctica is understood to have significant reserves of oil as well as deposits of coal, chromium and iron ore. According to the US Geological Survey, there could be as many as 36 billion barrels of oil and gas buried under the ice, almost impossible to reach now but potentially accessible as technology continues to improve.

According to Simon Romero of the New York Times, "an array of countries are rushing to assert greater influence here, with an eye not just toward the day those protests expire, but also for the strategic and commercial opportunities that exist right now". A growing number of countries are either opening bases or expanding their existing ones on the continent. China's Great Wall Station sits on King George Island, one of the South Shetlands grouping, and contains an indoor badminton court as well as accommodation for 40 persons.

In 2014, South Korea named their new research base after Jang Bogo, an iconic figure from Korean maritime history who controlled much of the Korean coastline and the ninth century. India's third research station, the Bharati, opened in 2012. "The Antarctic Treaty has never resolved the issue of either sovereignty or access to mining in Antarctica," Anne-Marie Brady highlights. "There is a lack of political trust among many Antarctic states, as well as a deep conflict of values and interests. Now that the technological advances in Antarctic exploration have eased, more and more states are seeking access to Antarctica, putting pressure on the governance structures."

Some of Antarctica's longstanding observers are worried that the spirit in which the Antarctic Treaty System was enacted in 1959 may not be adhered to when the treaty's provisions for the protection of Antarctica's natural resources come up for review in 2048. "I don't think we should assume that every country will agree to further prohibition of mining in Antarctica," Klaus Dodds, professor of geopolitics at Royal Holloway, University of London, and an expert in the politics of the polar regions. "It would be naive to think that the current consensus might not change during this century."

It wouldn't be the first time resource-rich Antarctica has seen countries contesting for the rights to exploit the continent. In 1923, Britain's under-secretary of state for the Colonies, Conservative Leo Amery had entertained the idea of incorporating the entire continent into the British Empire, before competing interests by Chile and Norway put a stop to his expansionism. Alarmed by the new "scramble for the Antarctic", in 1924 the French declared their own claim on the basis of an 1840 expedition by the explorer Jules Dumont d'Urville. In the harsh, glacial landscape, the French claim covers 167, 000 square miles and is known as Adélie Land, after Jules Dumont d'Urville's wife.

Both Britain and France were drawn into the area due to the abundance of baleen whales, the filter-feeding mammals whose oil was an important commodity in the 19th centuries, and was the primary reason for Britain's presence in the South Atlantic. National honour also played a role. Writing in *Pink Ice: Britain and the South Atlantic* tells us that Antarctica in the early 20th century was "synonymous with British exploratory zeal, ingenuity and pride".

Not to be outdone by the established powers, in December 1938, the MS Schwabenland and its 24 crew left Germany on a secret mission to establish a German territory. Arriving on 19 January 1939, the crew laid claim to a significant patch of Queen Maud Land, recently claimed by Norwegians concerned with British domination of both the South Atlantic whaling industry. Located to the east of what is now the British Antarctic Territory, the German expedition marked out their new find by planting Nazi flags and proclaiming the establishment of "New Swabia", named after a region of south-west Germany.

The establishment of "New Swabia" marked the beginning of a short period of militarisation on the continent, with the British establishing permanent bases at Deception Island and Hope Bay, under Operation Tabarin. Named after a Parisian nightclub, the secret expedition aimed to firm up British control over the islands that formed the Falkland Islands Dependencies: namely South Georgia, South Shetland, South Orkney, South Sandwich Islands, as well as the British Antarctic Territory. Although the official explanation for the trip was the deterrence of German U-boats in the area, according to historian and Tabarin expedition member, George James, the real reason was over the potential threat from Argentina.

In 1942, the Argentines made a landing on Deception Island, a small British whaling outpost in the South Shetland Islands archipelago. The Argentinian flag was raised containing a note proclaiming Argentinian ownership of the island was buried in a barrel. For its part, the Chilean government was sufficiently exercised by both Tabarin actions that it launched its own Antarctic expedition in 1947. The Chilean President Gabriel Gonzalez Videla became the world's first head of state to visit Antarctica at Chile's base in Paradise Bay, which was then named after him.

The United States also became interested in Antarctica, both during and after the war. Through the United States Navy Antarctic Developments Program, the Truman administration sought to establish a continuous US presence in the region via a new research base, Little America IV. Today the US does not make an official claim to any part of Antarctica but maintains a string of bases and a multi-million dollar science programme. "The Antarctic Treaty was a Cold War instrument designed to preserve control of the Antarctic oceans by the US and its allies," says Anne-Marie Brady. "It was thought that it would be easier to control the Russians if they were in an international regime than if they weren't. The Treaty kept the peace in the Cold War years, but it is proving inadequate to respond to the challenges of the current era: resource scarcity, climate change, and global order."

The rules that have governed the region and fostered science for decades could now be threatened by competing interests for the resources both under the Antarctic and the Atlantic itself. Antarctica's nutrient rich seas that supported the whale populations hunted by European vessels are now exploited for both fish and krill by Russia, China and others. Its led to disagreement between the nations involved in the region when measures to protect the area's wildlife recently came up for discussion. "What was eventually

small marine protected area in the Ross Sea," says Klaus Dodds. "What the marine protected area saga really revealed was that countries have quite different attitude Antarctic, and in particular its resources."

"Russia and China would take a view that fish stocks should be exploited, that the Antarctic is not special or exceptional and that the country's proposing conservation really trying to strengthen their own sovereignty and security issues."

With Turkey, Iran, Belarus and Colombia also expressing an interest in having expanded roles in Antarctica, Dodds sees the prevailing "Anglosphere" powers increasing developing nations with stated interests in space, scientific and resource interests. "What you have in Antarctica is an old order consisting of Britain, America, Australia increasingly having to share the region with a different group of countries. It's a group of countries that are increasingly making their presence felt in the region and me attitude towards its use in the future."

"We think of Antarctica as a marginal and exceptional place. You should look at Antarctica and you can learn really interesting things about not only how the world work in the future."

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MARCH OF THE TARTAN ARMY

Daily Mail, BY ALEX BRUMMER, Tuesday, 14 March 2017, 785 Words, © 2017 Solo Syndication Limited (trading as Solo Syndication). All rights reserved.
(Document DAIM000020170313ed3e00008)

There is plainly something in the air in Scotland. First, the fund management deal between Standard Life and Aberdeen, then another independence referendum require Sturgeon and now an all-share £2.2bn bid by Aberdeen-based oil services firm Wood Group for Amec Foster Wheeler.

The Wood premium for Amec shares is a modest 15pc or so. Beggars cannot be choosers and Wood's benevolent move may have been preferable to a £500m rights cut at Amec. Troubles at Amec partly stem from its ambitious purchase of Foster Wheeler in 2014 for £2.6bn (at the current exchange rate) just as oil prices collapsed. American adventures have cost it dearly and makes one question the quality of the due diligence.

It may well be that Wood Group's timing turns out to be much better. The oil price has recovered somewhat but as critically, the Trump administration - with its steer a change, its more friendly attitude to carbon fuels and interest in fracking - should be good for Amec, which earns 34pc of its income in the US and is strong on engineering environmental services.

With a 10pc stake in Wood, Martin Gilbert of Aberdeen Asset Management will be a significant player in this deal. The Tartan Army looks after its own. Unlike the Stan deal, there is no question who will be in charge at Wood-Amec with Wood chairman Ian Marchant, chief executive Robin Watson and finance boss David Kemp all keeping mystery, then, as to where most annual cost savings of £110m will come from. Game, set and match, as that other Scottish phenomenon Andy Murray might say.

Tucker return

FINDING suitable chairmen for FTSE 100 companies is hard and it is even tougher if you need formal certification from the Bank of England. Even if the Old Lady finds its own ethical issues in order. HSBC has done well to find Mark Tucker, who ticks most of the boxes, importantly having worked in Asia where HSBC is best in class. If that is done, it is over Tucker's brief sojourn at a fast expanding HBOS well before the crisis. Tucker joins an elite who have been involved in bad banks and gone onto great things. He is a DIY craftsman Sir Ian Cheshire, who is to chair Barclays' ring-fenced bank despite being on the board of Bradford & Bingley.

Tucker has shown his mettle by doubling the share price of AIA, the Pacific offshoot of AIG, and as a former member of the Bank of England's Court and director of Goldman Sachs. Incidentally, Goldman is one of a small number of banks in London which has not bought into the Banking Standards Board which is seeking to improve the behaviour of the City.

The choice of Tucker opens the way for change at HSBC. Current incumbents Douglas Flint and chief executive Stuart Gulliver have faced daunting challenges.

They have been busy jettisoning a past legacy which included some terrible acquisitions including Household in the US, Mexico and the Safra private banks.

It has been bloody and left behind a trail of legal liabilities mounting to pages in the annual report. In simplifying the enterprise some 42,000 jobs have gone. Unfortunately for Stuart Gulliver they also developed a reputation for crying wolf with their attacks on UK bank taxation, Brexit and the rest, threatening to leave these shores. If Tucker can bring order, he will be helpful.

Departure of a chairman makes it easier to move onto a new chief executive with Gulliver also following through on his promise to go. His reputation never fully repaired that at one point his salary was paid through an arrangement which involved the Geneva private bank and Panama so as to disguise it from colleagues.

An internal replacement in the HSBC tradition looks most likely with retail and wealth boss John Flint a leading candidate. Hopes that Lloyds boss Antonio Horta-Osorio would be a surprise. HSBC were almost certainly destroyed by his Singapore shenanigans. Descendants of Calvinist Scots who hold sway at HSBC do not approve.

Sparkling rewards

SHED a tear for chief executive Mark Cutifani of diamond miner Anglo American. Future share awards will be capped at 300pc of salary against 350pc previously limit overall earnings at £13.1m after last year's AGM revolt. As chairman of the pay committee board, Sir Philip Hampton has failed both investors and government ambitious shareholders of boardroom excess.

Should have tried harder.

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Reuters Daybook/Wednesday

Reuters Washington Daybook Report, Tuesday, 14 March 2017, 23:12 GMT , 9341 Words, Copyright 2017 Thomson Reuters. All Rights Reserved.
(Document REUTWR0020170314ed3e001me)

THE REUTERS DAYBOOK

Wednesday, March 15, 2017

The daybook editor is [REDACTED]

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PRESIDENT TRUMP'S SCHEDULE (early schedule)

In Detroit, Nashville and Washington (all times are local)

Departs the White House.

Departs Joint Base Andrews.

12:45 p.m.: Arrives Detroit Metropolitan Wayne County Airport, Gate 27, Detroit, Mich. Open to credentialed press. RSVP by pressrsvp@who.eop.gov by 6 p.m. March 13.

2 p.m.: Delivers remarks at the American Center for Mobility. Note: The president will meet with auto executives and workers and manufacturing suppliers, "highlighting the importance of eliminating burdens from regulations that needlessly hinder meaningful job growth." Ypsilanti, Mich. Open press.

Afternoon: Tapes an interview for Fox News Channel's "Tucker Carlson Tonight." Detroit, Mich. Note: The interview will air on Fox News at 9 p.m. ET.

Afternoon: Departs Detroit Metropolitan Wayne County Airport, Gate 27, Detroit, Mich. Open to credentialed press.

3:45 p.m.: Arrives Nashville. Open to credentialed media. RSVP to pressrsvp@who.eop.gov by 8 p.m. March 13.

Late afternoon/early evening: Lays a wreath at President Andrew Jackson's tomb. The Hermitage, 4580 Rachel's Lane, Hermitage, Tenn.

6:30 p.m. CT: Holds a rally. Nashville Municipal Auditorium, 417 4th Avenue North, Nashville, Tenn. Open press. RSVP by noon ET Tuesday, March 14 to <https://www.donaldtrump.com/schedule/media-request/>

Evening: Departs Nashville.

Evening: Arrives Joint Base Andrews.

Evening: Returns to the White House.

UPDATES

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE'S SCHEDULE (early schedule)

+7:45 p.m.: Delivers remarks and is honored at the 25th annual national gala hosted by The Ireland Funds. Irish Taoiseach (Prime Minister) Enda Kenny also delivers remarks. Note: Pence will speak at the event. To cover Pence's remarks, RSVP to pressrsvp@ovp.eop.gov by 10 a.m. on Wednesday, March 15. The press pre-set is from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. Media re-entry is from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. All press must arrive by 7 p.m. The press check-in is located on the G Street NW entrance of the building. Black tie attire is requested by the hosts of the event. Power will be provided on the press riser.

SECRETARY OF STATE REX TILLERSON'S SCHEDULE (early schedule)

In Tokyo, Japan.

Note: Tillerson will be travel to Japan, the South Korea, and China (March 15-19) to discuss "strategic coordination to address the advancing nuclear and missile threa and reaffirm the administration's commitment to further broaden and enhance U.S. economic and security interests in the Asia-Pacific region." Tillerson arrives in Tokyo continues on to Seoul on March 17, and travels to Beijing on March 18.

FIRST LADY MELANIA TRUMP'S SCHEDULE (early schedule)

No public events are scheduled.

ECONOMIC INDICATORS AND REPORTS

7 a.m.: The USDA issues weekly world rice price.

8:30 a.m.: The Commerce Dept. issues Retail Sales for February.

8:30 a.m.: The Labor Dept. issues Consumer Price Index and Real Earnings for February.

10 a.m.: The Commerce Dept. issues Business Inventories for January.

10:30 a.m.: The Energy Information Administration issues weekly petroleum stocks and output data.

No set time: The Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland issues Median CPI for February.

Noon: The National Oilseed Processors Association issues monthly U.S. soybean crushings.

2 p.m.: The Federal Open Market Committee issues statement on interest rates.

No set time: The Association of American Railroads issues Weekly Traffic of Major Railroads.

4 p.m.: The Treasury Dept. issues Treasury International Capital for January.

SUPREME COURT

Not in session.

CONGRESS

THE SENATE

In session.

Committees

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS -- 10:30 a.m. -- Defense Subcommittee closed briefing on a ballistic missile defense program update. Vice Adm. James Syring, director of Defense Agency, briefs the committee. SVC-217, U.S. Capitol

Contact: [REDACTED]

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS -- 10:30 a.m. -- Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies Subcommittee holds a hearing on STEM (science, engineering and mathematics) education. Sarah Tucker, chancellor of the West Virginia Council for Community & Technical College Education, Charleston, W.Va.; La of K-12 science, technology, engineering and mathematics education for Hillsborough County Public Schools, Tampa, Fla.; Neil Lamb, vice president for educational o HudsonAlpha Institute for Biotechnology, Huntsville, Ala.; and Caroline King, chief policy and strategy officer for Washington STEM, Seattle, Wash., testify. 138 Dirkse

Contact: [REDACTED]

SENATE ARMED SERVICES -- 3:30 p.m. -- Airland Subcommittee holds a hearing on "All Arms Warfare in the 21st Century." Retired Air Force Lt. Gen. David Deptul Mitchell Institute of Aerospace Power Studies; retired Army Col. Douglas Macgregor, executive vice president of the Burke-Macgregor Group; and Paul Scharre, senior of the Center for a New American Security's 20YY Warfare Initiative, testify. 232-A Russell

Contact: [REDACTED]

SENATE BANKING, HOUSING AND URBAN AFFAIRS -- 10 a.m. -- Holds a hearing on "Assessing U.S. Sanctions on Russia: Next Steps." Eric Lorber, senior advisor for Defense of Democracies' Center on Sanctions and Illicit Finance; Rodney Ludema, associate professor of economics Georgetown University, former chief economist Department; and Elizabeth Rosenberg, senior fellow and director of the Center for a New America Security's Energy, Economics and Security Program, testify. 538 Di

Contact: [REDACTED]

SENATE COMMERCE, SCIENCE AND TRANSPORTATION -- 10 a.m. -- Holds a hearing on unmanned aircraft system innovation, integration, successes, and challenges. Lawrence, director of the Federal Aviation Administration's Office of Unmanned Aircraft Systems; Diana Marina Cooper, vice president of legal and policy affairs at Pre Inc., and president of the sUAV Coalition; Ben Fowke, chairman, president and CEO of Xcel Energy; Brendan Schulman, vice president of policy and legal affairs at D. professor of engineering and public policy at UCLA and visiting fellow at the Hoover Institution; and Emilio Gonzalez, director and CEO of the Miami-Dade Aviation De 253 Russell

[REDACTED]

SENATE ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS -- 10 a.m. -- Holds a hearing on "Examining Innovative Solutions to Control Invasive Species and Promote Wildlife Conservation." Testifiers include: David C. Nesvick, chief game warden of the Wyoming Game and Fish Department; Carter Roberts, president and CEO of the World Wildlife Fund; Jim Kurth, acting director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; Jamie Reaser, executive director of the Interior Department's National Invasive Species Council Secretariat; and David Ullrich, chairman of the Great Lakes National Science Commission, testify. 406 Dirksen

Contact: [REDACTED]

ADDS KENY-GUYER

SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS -- 11 a.m. -- Holds a hearing titled, "Six Years of War in Syria: The Human Toll." Doctors Farida, Abdulkhalek, and Rajab from the Syrian Medical Society in Aleppo, Syria; Neal Keny-Guyer, CEO of Mercy Corps; and David Miliband, president and CEO of the International Rescue Committee, testify. 419 Dirksen

Contact: [REDACTED]

Note: To view a webcast of the hearing, go to: <http://www.foreign.senate.gov/>

MOVED TO MARCH 22

SENATE HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR AND PENSIONS -- 1:30 p.m. -- Holds a hearing on the nomination of Alex Acosta to be Labor secretary. Acosta testifies. 425 Dirksen

Contact: [REDACTED]

Note: Committee Chairman Lamar Alexander (R-Tenn.) will attend the president's event in Nashville on Wednesday night.

SENATE HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS -- 10 a.m. -- Meets to vote on the nomination of Elaine Duke to be deputy Homeland Security secretary. Also votes on the "Midnight Rules Relief Act of 2017"; S.585, the "Dr. Chris Kirkpatrick Whistleblower Protection Act"; S.582, the "Office of Special Counsel Reauthorization Act"; S.576, the "Small Business Regulatory Fairness Act"; S.21, the "Regulations from the Executive in Need of Scrutiny Act of 2017"; S.317, the "Taxpayer Right-to-Know Act"; S.500, the "Securing our Agriculture and Food Act"; S.218, the "Social Security Fraud Prevention Act of 2017"; S.188, the "Eliminating Government-funded Oil-painting Act"; H.R.274, the "Modernizing Government Travel Act"; and H.R.366, the "DHS Stop Asset and Vehicle Excess Act." 342 Dirksen

[REDACTED]

SENATE (SELECT) INTELLIGENCE -- 1:30 p.m. -- Holds a closed briefing on "Intelligence Matters." 219 Hart

[REDACTED]

SENATE JUDICIARY -- 10 a.m. -- Holds a hearing on "Vows for Visas: Investigating K-1 Fiance Fraud." Elena Maria Lopez, K-1 Visa fraud victim from Bordentown, N.J.; policy director of the Asian Pacific Institute on Gender-Based Violence, Oakland, Calif.; Jamal Hussain, K-1 Visa fraud victim, Lakewood, Calif.; Greg Nevano, deputy director for the Illicit Trade, Travel, and Finance Division of Homeland Security Investigations for U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement; Matthew Emrich, associate director of detection and national security at U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services; Donald Neufeld, associate director of service center operations for U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services; Daniel Renaud, associate director of the Field Operations Directorate of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services; and David Donahue, principal deputy assistant secretary for consular affairs, testify. 226 Dirksen

[REDACTED]

SENATE JUDICIARY -- 2:30 p.m. -- Crime and Terrorism Subcommittee holds a hearing on "the tools Russia uses to undermine democracies across the globe." Toon van den Brink, visiting fellow with the Center for International Security and Cooperation at the Freeman-Spogli Institute for International Studies, and former president of Estonia (2000-2004); former Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for European and Eurasian Affairs Heather Conley, director of the Europe Program at the Center for Strategic & International Studies, and lead author of "The Kremlin Playbook"; Ben Buchanan, postdoctoral fellow with the Cyber Security Project at the Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs, Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass.; and Kenneth Wainstein, a partner with Cadwalader, Wickersham & Taft LLP, former homeland security adviser to George W. Bush and attorney general for national security, testify. 226 Dirksen

[REDACTED]

Note: To view the hearing, go to: <http://bit.ly/2nmHIZw>

SENATE VETERANS' AFFAIRS -- 2:30 p.m. -- Holds a hearing on "GAO's High Risk List and the Veterans Health Administration." Debra Draper, director of Government Accountability Office's Health Care Team; Michael Missal, inspector general of the Veterans Affairs Department; John Daigh Jr., assistant VA inspector general for healthcare inspection and evaluation; Clancy, deputy VA undersecretary for health for organizational excellence; Jennifer Lee, deputy VA undersecretary for health for policy and services; and Amy Parker, deputy VA undersecretary for operations in the VA Office of Management, testify. 418 Russell

[REDACTED]

THE HOUSE

Meets at 4:30 p.m. to consider the following items under suspension of the rules: H.R. 132, the "Arbuckle Project Maintenance Complex and District Office Conveyance Act of 2017," to "authorize the Secretary of the Interior to amend the Definite Plan Report for the Seedskadee Project to enable the use of the active capacity of the Fontenelle National Recreation Area"; H.R. 267 the "Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historical Park Act of 2017, as amended." The first votes of the week are expected to take place after 6:30 p.m.

Committees

HOUSE ARMED SERVICES -- 4:15 p.m. -- Emerging Threats and Capabilities Subcommittee holds a hearing on "Crafting an Information Warfare and Counter-Propaganda in the Emerging Security Environment." Matthew Armstrong, former member of the Broadcasting Board of Governors and associate fellow in King's Center for Strategic Studies at King's College London; Michael Lumpkin, principal of Neptune; and Timothy Thomas, senior analyst in the Foreign Military Studies Office, Ft. Leavenworth, Kan., testify.

MOVED TO THURSDAY

HOUSE BUDGET -- 10 a.m. -- Meets to markup "Reconciliation Submissions." 1334 Longworth

HOUSE ENERGY AND COMMERCE -- 10:15 a.m. -- Digital Commerce and Consumer Protection Subcommittee holds a hearing on "Disrupter Series: Advanced Material Production." James Tour, professor of chemistry, professor of computer science, and professor of materials science and nanoengineering in Rice University's Smalley Nanoscale Science & Technology; Kevin Murphy, chairman and CEO of Organovo Holdings Inc.; Shane Weyant, CEO and president of Creative Pultrusions, Inc.; Hotchkiss, a distinguished professor of CEE, CEMR, director of the Constructed Facilities Center and director of West Virginia University's Center for Integration of Composites into Infrastructure; Afsaneh Rabeii, professor in North Carolina State University's Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering, testify. 2123 Rayburn

HOUSE ENERGY AND COMMERCE -- 10 a.m. -- Energy Subcommittee holds a hearing on "Modernizing Energy Infrastructure: Challenges and Opportunities to Expand Generation." Chuck Hookham, director of NBD Services, CMS Energy, on behalf of the American Society of Civil Engineers; Kieran Connolly, vice president of general management for Bonneville Power Administration; Ramya Swaminathan, CEO, Rye Development, on behalf of the National Hydropower Association; and Dave Steiner, stewardship director for American Whitewater, on behalf of the Hydropower Reform Coalition, testify. 2123 Rayburn

ADDS WITNESSES

HOUSE NATURAL RESOURCES -- 10 a.m. -- Water, Power and Oceans Subcommittee holds a hearing on "Examining the Creation and Management of Marine Mammal Sanctuaries." John Bruno, professor in the University of North Carolina's Department of Biology, Chapel Hill, N.C.; Chett Chiasson, executive director of the Greater Lakes

Commission, Galliano, La.; Brian Hallman, executive director of the American Tunaboat Association, San Diego, Calif.; and Jon Mitchell, mayor of the City of New Bedford.

MOVED FROM TUESDAY

HOUSE RULES -- 3:30 p.m. -- Meets to formulate a rule on H.R.1367, to improve the authority of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to hire and retain physicians and other medical personnel at the Department of Veterans Affairs; H.R.1259, the "VA Accountability First Act of 2017"; and H.R.1181, the "Veterans 2nd Amendment Protection Act." H-313, U.S. Capitol.

ADDS WITNESSES

HOUSE WAYS AND MEANS -- 10 a.m. -- Human Resources Subcommittee holds a hearing on "Reauthorization of the Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home V Program." Beth Russell, nurse home visitor for Penn Medicine Lancaster General; Rosa Valentin, client of Penn Medicine Lancaster General; Eric Bellamy, home visit Children's Trust of South Carolina; and Diana Rauner, president of The Ounce of Prevention Fund, testify. 1100 Longworth

ADVISORIES

(TOURISM/ECONOMY) ADVISORY -- At 8:30 a.m., the Bureau of Economic Analysis releases statistics on "what Americans and foreigners spent on travel." The release includes fourth quarter figures and the overall totals for 2016.

Note: Go to: <https://www.bea.gov>

(FED/INTEREST RATES) ADVISORY —At 9 a.m., the Federal Open Market Committee, the policy-making arm of the Federal Reserve, holds a closed meeting. Seco

Location: Federal Reserve Board of Governors, 20th Street and Constitution Avenue NW

Note: At 2 p.m., the committee will release its monetary policy decisions. At 2:30 p.m., Fed Chair Janet Yellen holds a news conference following a closed two-day meeting of the Open Market Committee. 1801 K Street NW, B-1 Level [REDACTED]

(CRIME/SESSIONS) ADVISORY — At 10 a.m., Attorney General Jeff Sessions on Wednesday in Richmond delivers a speech to federal, state and local law enforcement officials about "efforts to combat violent crime and restore public safety."

Location: SunTrust Building, 919 E. Main Street, 4th floor auditorium, Richmond, Va.

Contact: 202 514-2007

[REDACTED] There will be a camera pre-set by for K9 Sweep at 9:15 a.m. The final access time: 9:40 a.m.

+(PENTAGON/MIDEAST-CRISIS) ADVISORY -- At 11 a.m., Air Force Col. John Dorrian, spokesman for the Combined Joint Task Force - Operation Inherent Resolve, will give a Pentagon briefing (live via teleconferencing from Baghdad) to provide an update on operations.

Location: The Pentagon, Briefing Room (room 2E973)

Note: The briefing will be streamed live on www.defense.gov/live.

(HEALTHCARE/HISPANICS) ADVISORY — At 11 a.m., the National Hispanic Leadership Agenda (NHLA) holds a conference call to discuss "the potential impact of the Affordable Care Act on the Latino community." Participants include Hector Sanchez, chairman of NHLA and executive director of the Labor Council for Latin American Advancement; chairman of NHLA's Health Committee, and president and CEO of the National Hispanic Medical Association; Jessica Gonzalez-Rojas, co-chairman of NHLA's Health Committee, executive director of the National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health; Brent Wilkes, NHLA treasurer and national executive director of the League of United Latin American Citizens; Janet Murguia, co-chairman of NHLA's Economic Empowerment and Labor Committee, and president and CEO of the National Council of La Raza; and Maria Teresa Lopez, NHLA Board member and president and CEO of Voto Latino.

Note: RSVP for call-in information. For details, go to: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSt5TZfQl4MiQmQDB6_IHsSoBcoz_hYzzB5o1KDolozKvuv2rA/viewfc

(STATE/LAW/TRADE/TRUMP) ADVISORY -- At 11:30 a.m., the American Society of International Law holds a webinar on "International Law and the Trump Administration." Participants include former Commerce Undersecretary for International Trade Grant Aldonas, senior fellow and adjunct professor in the Georgetown University Law Center Institute of International Economic Law; and former Deputy U.S. Trade Representative and Acting U.S. Trade Representative Miriam Sapiro, partner and head of Finsbury Washington D.C. Office.

Contact: 202-939-6000

Note: Webinar information is available at <https://www.asil.org/100days>

(TRUMP/BUDGET) ADVISORY -- At noon, the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities (CBPP) holds a conference call to discuss "President Trump's FY2018 'skinny' and broader fiscal agenda." Robert Greenstein, CBPP president; and Sharon Parrott, senior counselor and senior fellow at CBPP, speak.

Contact: [REDACTED]

Note: RSVP at http://www.cbpp.org/press-call-what-to-expect-from-president-trumps-upcoming-fy18-skinny-budget?utm_source=CBPP+Email+Updates+for+Media&utm_campaign=f11d51bab9-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2017_03_13&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_af36662643784505 for call-in information.

+(MD/HOGAN) ADVISORY -- At 2 p.m., Gov. Larry Hogan (R-Md.) on Wednesday holds a news conference in Annapolis.

Location: Maryland State House, Governor's Reception Room, Annapolis, Md.

Contact: 410-974-2316

(HEALTHCARE/STATES) ADVISORY -- At 2 p.m., the Commonwealth Fund holds a conference call to discuss a new report, "Aiming Higher: Results from the Commonwealth Scorecard on State Health System Performance, 2017 Edition," showing that states which expanded Medicaid made the biggest strides in covering people and ensuring system performance at Commonwealth. Participants include David Blumenthal, president of Commonwealth; Sara Collins, vice president of health care coverage and access at Commonwealth; David Radley, tracking health system improvement at Commonwealth; Douglas McCarthy, senior research director at Commonwealth; and Susan Hayes, senior research associate at Commonwealth.

Contact: [REDACTED]

Note: RSVP required for call-in information.

+(MD/PG COUNTY/BUDGET) ADVISORY -- At 2:30 p.m., Prince George's County Executive Rushern Baker on Wednesday holds a news conference in Upper Marlboro, Md., to discuss the county government's FY2018 budget.

Location: Prince George's County Administration Building, 14741 Governor Oden Bowie Drive, Upper Marlboro, Md., first floor, Media Room

Contact: Scott Peterson, 240-619-9400

(ISLAM/RIGHTS) ADVISORY -- At 8:30 p.m., United for Peace and Justice hosts a conference call titled, "Take Action to Stop Islamophobia." Participants include Abe director of the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee; Shannon Al-Wakeel, executive director of the Muslim Justice League; George Friday of the Movement to Islamophobia; Donna Nevel, founding member of the Network Against Islamophobia; and Mary Zerkel, coordinator of the American Friends Service Committee's Wage

Contact: [REDACTED]

Note: RSVP at <http://www.unitedforpeace.org/2017/03/10/countering-islamophobia-briefing-call-rsvp>

+(TRUMP-HEALTHCARE/PRICE) ADVISORY -- At 9 p.m., CNN hosts a health care forum in New York with HHS Secretary Tom Price. CNN's Wolf Blitzer and Dana discussion. Price "will address questions from Americans affected by the GOP's proposed changes -- including shifting tax credits, the potential for rolling back Medicaid individual mandates."

Location: CNN studios, 10 Columbus Circle, New York

Contact: [REDACTED]

GENERAL NEWS EVENTS

MORNING

8 a.m. -- (CYBERSECURITY/OUTLOOK) EVENT -- The Financial Times holds its Cyber Security Summit with the theme "Is America Losing the Cyber War?" Participants: Alperovitch, co-founder and chief technology officer at CrowdStrike; Jamil Farshchi, chief information security officer at the Home Depot; Jeanette Manfra, senior counsel to the Homeland Security Secretary; and William Saito, special adviser to the prime minister of Japan.

Highlight

9:10 a.m.: Acting Assistant Attorney General for National Security Mary McCord delivers keynote remarks on "the protection of national assets."

Location: National Press Club, 14th and F Streets NW, Ballroom

Contact: [REDACTED]

8 a.m. -- (COMMUNICATIONS/GARDNER/CUBAN) DISCUSSION -- Sen. Cory Gardner (R-Colo.); Columbia, S.C. Mayor Stephen Benjamin (D) and billionaire entrepreneur Cuban on Wednesday discuss "Get Connected: The Future of Communication," at a forum presented by Charter Communications

Location: 1011 Fourth Street NW

Contact: 703-239-4243

Note: Doors open at 7:30 a.m. RSVP at <https://axiosgetconnected.splashthat.com/>

ADDS SENATORS AT LUNCH; ADDS BREAKFAST SPEAKERS

8 a.m. — (HISPANICS/CRUZ/HENSARLING) EVENT — The U.S. Hispanic Chamber of Commerce holds its annual legislative summit. Second of three days

Schedule

+8 a.m.: House Small Business Chairman Steve Chabot (R-Ohio) and Maryland Lt. Governor Rutherford (R) deliver remarks the "State of Hispanic Small Business Br Ballroom

9:30 a.m.: Mayoral plenary municipal CEOs. Grand Ballroom

11 a.m.: Workshop titled, "How Hispanic-Owned Businesses Can Succeed Via Federal Government Contracting."

11 a.m.: Workshop titled, "The New Regulatory Climate and Impacts on American Small Business."

+12:15 p.m.: Sens. Ted Cruz (R-Texas), Cory Gardner (R-Colo.) and Dean Heller (R-Nev.); and Rep. Ron DeSantis (R-Fla.) deliver luncheon remarks.

12:45 p.m.: House Financial Services Chairman Jeb Hensarling (R-Texas) delivers remarks on "the Financial CHOICE Act, the plan to replace the Dodd-Frank Act."

2:30 p.m.: Workshop on "Capital Solutions Discussing Corporate and Federal policies that benefit Hispanic and minority small businesses."

5:15 p.m.: "At the Table Speaker Series: Latinas Will Run." Grand Ballroom

6:30 p.m.: Networking reception.

Location: Mayflower Hotel, 1127 Connecticut Avenue, NW

Contact: [REDACTED]

Note: Register at <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSewEJNJ8TGEMbllhK9zN2es3DXAmFYGzsBkzzSBjeI9pABpXw/viewform>

CANCELED

CONFIDENTIAL

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8 a.m. -- (TRUMP/INSURANCE/DUFFY) EVENT -- Indiana State University's Networks Financial Institute holds its 13th annual Insurance Public Policy Summit, with the theme "Landscape: Insurance Imperatives After the Federal Elections." Participants include Rep. Sean Duffy (R-Wis.); former Gov. Tim Pawlenty (R-Minn.), CEO of the Financial Roundtable; Leigh Ann Pusey, CEO of the American Insurance Association; Eugene Scalia, partner at Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher; Tom Sullivan, associate director of the System; Christopher Whalen, senior managing director and head of research at the Kroll Bond Rating Agency; Eric Cioppa, vice president of the National Association of Insurance Commissioners; and Charles Chamness, president and CEO of the National Association of Mutual Insurance Companies.

Location: Reagan Building and International Trade Center, 1300 Pennsylvania Avenue NW

Contact: [REDACTED]

Note: Register at <http://www.indstate.edu/business/NFI>

8:30 a.m. -- (PRESCRIPTIONS/BIOSIMILARS) BRIEFING -- The Atlantic holds a briefing on "The Next Drugs: The Future of Biosimilars."

Location: The Newseum, 555 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Knight Broadcast Studio

Contact: [REDACTED]

Note: Register at <https://www.theatlantic.com/live/events/the-next-drugs-biosimilars/2017>

8:30 a.m. -- (CYBERSECURITY/WARNER) FORUM -- Government Executive holds its fourth annual 'FireEye Government Forum' on cyberthreats titled, "Operational New Era."

Highlights

9:15 a.m.: Rear Adm. Gene Price, deputy commander of U.S. Fleet Cyber Command, delivers remarks on "A DOD Perspective."

10 a.m.: National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency Deputy Director for Cybersecurity Matt Connor, Marti Eckert, chief information security officer at the Social Security Administration, Steve Frank, CTO for cyber at the CIA; Mitchell Komaroff, director of the Defense Department Cybersecurity Implementation and Acquisition Integration Office; and Joe CIO in the Washington, D.C. Office of the Chief Technology Officer.

11:10 a.m.: Sen. Mark Warner (D-Va.) delivers remarks on "The Hill Perspective."

11:35 a.m.: Gov. Rick Snyder (R-Mich.) delivers remarks on "A State and Local Perspective."

Location: J.W. Marriott, 1331 Pennsylvania Avenue NW

8:30 a.m. -- (BLACKS/RIGHTS/BUTTERFIELD) CONFERENCE -- The Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies holds a conference on "Reflections on the Imp Reconstruction Amendments." First of two days

Highlight

8:30 a.m.: Rep. G.K. Butterfield (D-N.C.) delivers remarks.

12:15 p.m.: Discussion on "The State of Black America 150 Years After Emancipation."

Location: National Archives, 700 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, McGowan Theater

Contact: 202-789-3500, info@jointcenter.org

9 a.m. -- (POLITICS/TRUMP) DISCUSSION -- The Washington Post holds a discussion on "The First 100 Days: Halftime Report," providing an analysis of President Trump through his first 100 days in office.

Location: The Washington Post, 1301 K Street NW

Contact: [REDACTED]

Note: Register at https://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/post-live/?utm_term=.399891611893

9 a.m. -- (CYBER/THREATS) EVENT -- The Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) holds its Cyber Disrupt 2017 Summit.

Highlights

9 a.m.: White House Deputy National Security Adviser Thomas Bossert delivers keynote address.

11 a.m.: State Department Cyber Issues Coordinator Chris Painter delivers remarks on "Should We Wait for Norms?"

1:15 p.m.: John Launchbury, director of the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency's Information Innovation Office, participates in a discussion on "Future of Security on the Internet."

Location: CSIS, 1616 Rhode Island Avenue NW

Contact: [REDACTED]

Note: Media must RSVP to [REDACTED]

9 a.m. -- (BUDGET/DEFENSE) DISCUSSION -- The American Enterprise Institute (AEI) holds a discussion on "The Defense Budget and Emergency War Spending: Is It Worth the Cost?" Participants include former Associate Office of Management and Budget Director for Defense and International Affairs Steve Kosiak; Michael O'Hanlon of the Brookings Institution; Roger Zakheim, visiting fellow at AEI; and Mackenzie Eaglen, resident fellow at AEI.

Location: AEI, 1789 Massachusetts Avenue NW

Contact: [REDACTED]

Note: Registration requested. The event will be streamed live at <http://www.american.com/watch/aei-livestream>

9 a.m. -- (ENERGY/NUCLEAR) CONFERENCE -- The Nuclear Regulatory Commission holds its 2017 Regulatory Information Conference, through March 16.

Highlight

9 a.m.: Retired Navy Adm. Robert Willard, president and CEO of the Institute of Nuclear Power Operations, delivers remarks.

Location: Bethesda North Marriott Hotel and Conference Center, 5701 Marinelli Road, North Bethesda, Md.

Contact: 301-415-7000

Note: Register at <https://www.nrc.gov/public-involve/conference-symposia/ric/reservations.html>

9:30 a.m. -- (MARINES/BAILEY) DISCUSSION -- The Center for a New American Security (CNAS) holds a forum with Deputy Marine Corps Commandant for Plans, Programs and Operations Lt. Gen. Ronald Bailey, who discusses "current operations, current and future amphibious capabilities, and modernization and growth in 2017 and beyond."

Location: CNAS, 1152 15th Street NW, Suite 950

Contact: [REDACTED]

Note: The event is by invitation only. RSVP required at <https://www.cnas.org/events/a-roundtable-discussion-with-ltgen-ronald-bailey>

+10 a.m. -- (GOVT TRANSPARENCY/DEMS/SENATE) NEWS CONFERENCE -- Sens. Amy Klobuchar (D-Minn.), Ben Cardin (D-Md.), Sheldon Whitehouse (D-R.I.), and Richard Blumenthal (D-Conn.) hold a news conference to call for "increased government transparency and accountability in an age of 'alternative facts'." Participants include Fredrickson, president of the American Constitution Society; Norm Ornstein, resident scholar at the American Enterprise Institute; Ann Ravel, former chair and commissioner of the Federal Election Commission; and Rob Weissman, president of Public Citizen, also attend. Topics include "heightened attacks on independent journalists and judges, influencing politics, and growing concerns about conflicts of interest."

Location: The Capitol, room S-221

Contact: [REDACTED]

CANCELED

10 a.m. -- (JAPAN/DISASTER/RECOVERY) DISCUSSION -- The Woodrow Wilson Center's (WWC) Asia Program holds a discussion on "Disaster Recovery and Reg Lessons from Japan's Experiences." Participants include Manpei Hayashi, researcher at the Asia Pacific Institute of Peace; and Roger-Mark De Souza, director of pop environmental security, and resilience at WWC.

Location: WWC, One Woodrow Wilson Plaza, Ronald Reagan Building, 1300 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Sixth Floor

Contact: [REDACTED]

Note: Register at <https://www.wilsoncenter.org/events>

+10:30 a.m. -- (HEALTHCARE/HOUSE/DEMS) NEWS CONFERENCE -- Democratic Caucus Chairman Joe Crowley (D-N.Y.), House Democratic Caucus Vice Chair Calif.) and House Budget ranking Democrat Rep. John Yarmuth (D-Ky.) on Wednesday hold a news conference to discuss the Congressional Budget Office score of the Care Act and the budget.

Location: The Capitol Visitors Center, HVC-Studio A

Contact: [REDACTED] or [REDACTED]

Note: To view the event go to: <https://www.facebook.com/HouseDemocrats>. At 5:30 p.m., House Democrats will hold a closed caucus meeting in room HVC 215 of the Center.

10:30 a.m. -- (ECONOMY/PRISON/RACE) DISCUSSION -- The Economic Policy Institute (EPI) holds a discussion titled, "How Mass Incarceration Contributes to the Gap." Participants include Leila Morsy, research associate at EPI; Richard Rothstein, research associate at EPI; Glenn Loury, professor at Brown University; Ames Gr the Brennan Center for Justice; Valerie Strauss, education reporter at the Washington Post.

Location: EPI, 1225 I Street NW, Sixth Floor

Contact: [REDACTED]

Note: Register at <http://www.epi.org/events> - Webcast at <http://epi.org/121546>

+11 a.m. -- (SCOTUS/GORSUCH/SCHUMER) EVENT -- Senate Democratic Leader Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.) on Wednesday holds a news conference with "people r by federal appellate judge Neil Gorsuch's decisions. Next week, the Senate Judiciary Committee is scheduled to hold hearings to consider Judge Gorsuch's nomination Court.

Location: The Capitol Visitors Center, room SVC-215

Contact: [REDACTED]

11 a.m. -- (ABORTION/WATERS) DISCUSSION -- The Center for American Progress (CAP) holds a discussion on "At the Crossroads of Economic and Reproductive Maxine Waters (D-Calif.); Lisa Cook, associate professor of economics and international relations at Michigan State; Angela Ferrell-Zabala, director of strategic partne Parenthood Federation of America; Silvia Henriquez, co-director of All Above All; Loretta Ross, former national coordinator and co-founder of SisterSong Women of Color Justice Collective; Monica Simpson, executive director of SisterSong Women of Color Reproductive Justice Collective; Heidi Williamson senior policy analyst at CAP; ; president and CEO of CAP.

Location: CAP, 1333 H Street NW, 10th Floor

Contact: [REDACTED]

Note: RSVP at <https://www.americanprogress.org/events/2017/03/08/427700/crossroads-economic-reproductive-justice/?evlc=rsvp>

+11:15 a.m. -- (RUSSIA/INTEL/HOUSE) EVENT -- House Intelligence Committee Chairman Devin Nunes (R-Calif.) and ranking Democrat Rep. Adam Schiff (D-Calif.) availability to discuss the committee's Russia investigation.

Location: The Capitol Visitors Center, outside room HVC-304

Contact: Patrick Boland (Schiff), 202-225-3278

+11:30 a.m. -- (SECURITY/JUSTICE) NEWS CONFERENCE -- Acting Assistant Attorney General for National Security Mary McCord holds a news conference to announce security enforcement action."

Location: Justice Department, 950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW

Contact: [REDACTED]

11:30 a.m. -- (US-MIDEAST/DEFENSE) DISCUSSION -- The Center for Strategic and Budgetary Assessments (CSBA) holds a discussion on a new report, "Contain, Defeat - A Defense Strategy for a Troubled Middle East." Participants include Thomas Mahnken, president of CSBA; Eric Edelman, counselor at CSBA; Hal Brands, senior advisor at CSBA; and Whitney McNamara, analyst at CSBA.

Location: CSBA, 1667 K Street NW, Suite 900

Contact: [REDACTED]

Note: Register at <https://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/eventReg?ccidk=a07edwmf1s88cd7bf0e&oseq=&c=9ff0ebc0-3088-11e5-93e8-d4ae529a848a&ch=a11e5-94b6-d4ae529a848a>

AFTERNOON

MOVED FROM TUESDAY

Noon -- (JAPAN/HEALTH/DISASTERS) SEMINAR -- The East-West Center in Washington and the Sasakawa Peace Foundation hold a seminar on "New Voices from Japan: Discussions on Disaster Recovery, Strengthening Global Health, and Anti-Globalization," with Manpei Hayashi, research at the Asia Pacific Institute of Research; Haruhiro Fukuda, Ph.D. candidate at the University of Tokyo; and Terumasa Tomita, assistant professor at Meiji Gakuin University.

Location: East-West Center in Washington, 1819 L Street NW, 6th floor

Contact: [REDACTED]

Note: A light luncheon will be served. Register at <https://www.eastwestcenter.org/events/east-west-center-events>

Noon -- (HEALTHCARE/ECONOMY) BRIEFING -- The National Center for Policy Tax Analysis' Tax Analysis Center holds a briefing on a score of "the economic and health impacts of the American Health Reform Act."

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Location: 2103 Rayburn House Office Building

Contact: [REDACTED]

Note: RSVP required.

Noon -- (IRAN/MCCAIN/SHAHEEN) BRIEFING -- The Organization of Iranian-American Communities holds a Capitol Hill briefing on "Human Rights and Democracy in Iran" with Senate Armed Services Chairman John McCain (R-Ariz.); Sen. Jeanne Shaheen (D-N.H.); former Sen. Joseph Lieberman (I-Conn.); former White House Homeland Security Advisor Stephen J. Townsend; and former assistant secretary of state for political military affairs Lincoln Bloomfield.

Location: 325 Russell Senate Office Building

Contact: [REDACTED]

Note: RSVP required to Senate.Advocacy@oiacus.org

Noon -- (HEALTH/RESEARCH/BATES/LUPUS) DISCUSSION -- Research!America hosts its annual members meeting. Participants include actress Kathy Bates, spokeswoman for the Lymphatic Education and Research Network; Rep. David McKinley (R-W.Va.); Virgil Dickson, Washington bureau chief at Modern Healthcare; Christopher Collins, rheumatologist at MedStar Washington Hospital Center; Sue Dillion, global therapeutic head at Janssen R&D; Allie Gutshall, patient advocate at the Lupus Foundation of America. The panel discussion on "the progress and opportunities with lupus research featuring experts in lupus research and clinical care."

Location: Willard Hotel, 1401 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Willard Room

Contact: [REDACTED]

Note: RSVP required by March 14.

Noon -- (CHINA-TAIWAN/RIGHTS) DISCUSSION -- The Global Taiwan Institute holds a book discussion on "Hong Kong in the Shadow of China." Participants include Richard A. Bush, director of the Brookings Institution Center for East Asian Policy Studies.

Location: Global Taiwan Institute, 1836 Jefferson Place NW

Contact: [REDACTED]

Note: RSVP by March 13 at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/book-talk-hong-kong-in-the-shadow-of-china-by-richard-bush-tickets-32503061592?aff=es2>

Noon -- (US-JAPAN/TRUMP) DISCUSSION -- The Hudson Institute holds a discussion on "U.S.-Japan Relations: Moving Forward After the Historic Washington/Mar-i
Participants include Katsuyuki Kawai, special adviser to Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe; and Kenneth Weinstein, president and CEO of Hudson.

Location: Hudson Institute, 1201 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Suite 400

Contact: [REDACTED]

Note: Register at <https://www.hudson.org/events>

Noon -- (STATE/PATENTS/RIGHTS) DISCUSSION -- The George Washington University (GWU) Law School holds a discussion on "Injecting International Human Ri
Rights Intellectual Property Discourse." Participants include J. Janewa Osei-Tutu, professor at Florida International University College of Law.

Location: GW Law School, 2000 H Street NW, Burns Building, First Floor, Great Room

Contact: 202-994-6467

Note: Register at <https://www.law.gwu.edu/injecting-international-human-rights-natural-rights-intellectual-property-discourse>

Noon -- (US-KOREA/DIPLOMACY) DISCUSSION -- The Business Council for International Understanding (BCIU) holds a discussion with Se Woo Pyo, defense attac
of the Republic of Korea.

Location: TBA

Contact: [REDACTED]

Note: RSVP to attend and to receive event location.

Noon -- (EUROPE/TECH/DEVELOPMENT) DISCUSSION -- The Information Technology and Innovation Foundation (ITIF) holds a discussion on "How to Boost the E
Impact of European Innovation Policy." Participants include Andreas Larsson, counselor of science and innovation for the Head of Office Swedish Agency for Growth f
the Embassy of Sweden; Georg Schulte, state secretary for German Federal Ministry of Education and Research; and Stephen Ezell, vice president of global innovati

Location: ITIF, 1101 K Street NW, Suite 610

Contact: [REDACTED]

Note: RSVP at <https://itif.org/events/2017/03/15/how-boost-economic-and-social-impact-european-innovation-policy>

Noon -- (ENVIRONMENT/INDIANS/FILM) EVENT -- The Woodrow Wilson Center's (WWC) Environmental Change and Security Program holds a film screening and c
"Between Earth and Sky," examining **climate change** through the lens of impacts to native Alaskans. Participants include Michael Sfraga, director of the Polar Initiati
Parker, senior editor in the WWC Environmental Change and Security Program.

Location: WWC, One Woodrow Wilson Plaza, Ronald Reagan Building, 1300 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Sixth Floor

Contact: [REDACTED]

Note: Register at <https://www.wilsoncenter.org/events>

Noon -- (CONSERVATIVES/BOOK) DISCUSSION -- The Heritage Foundation holds a book discussion on "The Deplorables' Guide to Making America Great Again," a
Starnes of Fox News Radio; Becky Norton Dunlop, fellow at Heritage.

Location: Heritage Foundation, 214 Massachusetts Avenue NE

Contact: 202-675-1761, lectures.seminars@heritage.org

Note: RSVP at <http://www.heritage.org/conservatism/event/the-deplorables-guide-making-america-great-again>

Noon -- (COLLEGE/HUNGER/HOMELESS) DISCUSSION -- The George Washington University (GWU) holds a discussion on "College Student Hunger and Homeles
Highlights

Noon: Former Deputy Agriculture Secretary Kathleen Merrigan, executive director of sustainability at GWU, delivers opening remarks.

12:10 p.m.: Sara Goldrick-Rab, founder of the Wisconsin HOPE Lab, delivers remarks on "Hungry, Homeless and in College - A New National Study."

Location: GWU, 2201 G Street NW, Duques Hall, Room 151

Contact: [REDACTED]

Note: Register at

<http://browse.calendar.gwu.edu/EventList.aspx?fromdate=3/15/2017&todate=3/15/2017&display=Day&type=public&eventidn=14159&view=EventDetails&information>

1 p.m. -- (MEXICO/ELECTION/OBRADOR) NPC NEWSMAKER -- The National Press Club on Wednesday hosts a newsmaker program with Mexican presidential candidate Andrés Manuel López Obrador.

Location: National Press Club, 14th and F Streets NW, Lisagor Conference Room

Contact: Lindsay Underwood, 202-662-7561 or lunderwood@press.org

1:30 p.m. -- (GOVT/ACCESS/TESTER/AWARD) CEREMONY -- The American Library Association (ALA) Washington Office holds a ceremony to present the 2017 J. Edgar Hoover Award to Sen. Jon Tester (D-Mont.) given "to honor individuals or groups who have championed, protected and promoted public access to government information and to know at the national level." ALA Past President Sari Feldman participates. The event includes a panel discussion titled, "Accessing Information in the Trump Administration."

Location: The Newseum, 555 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Knight TV Studio

Contact: [REDACTED]

Note: RSVP to Shines@alawash.org. For a livestream, go to: <http://www.newseum.org/live/>

2 p.m. -- (TAXES/HOUSING) DISCUSSION -- The Bipartisan Policy Center (BPC) holds a discussion on "Possible Impacts of Tax Reform on Housing." Participants include David Iacono, president of Capital Policy Analytics; Danielle Hale, managing director of housing research at the National Association of Realtors; Michael Novogradac, managing partner at Novogradac & Company; Diane Yentel, president and CEO of the National Low Income Housing Coalition; and Lorraine Woellert, financial services reporter at Politico Pro.

Location: BPC, 1225 I Street NW, Suite 1000

Contact: [REDACTED]

Note: Register at <http://bipartisanpolicy.org/events/possible-impacts-of-tax-reform-on-housing/>

2 p.m. -- (INDIANS/INFRASTRUCTURE) DISCUSSION -- The Senate Indian Affairs Committee, the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee and the House Committee hold a roundtable discussion on "Building Native America Together: Infrastructure Innovation and Improvements for the New Administration and Indian Country." Participants include Delbert Rexford, special assistant and adviser to the president of Ukpik Inupiat Corporation; Edward Manuel, chairman of the Tohono Oodham Nation; Leanne Geronzi, councilman on the Eastern Shoshone Tribe of the Wind River Reservation; William Rudnicki, tribal administrator of the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community of Minnesota; Floyd, principal chief of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation; Ryan Rusche, tribal attorney for the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead Reservation; Jon St. Louis, facilities manager of the Oglala Sioux Tribe Education Agency; and Darrell Shay, vice chairman of the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes.

Location: G-50 Dirksen Senate Office Building

Contact: [REDACTED]

Note: To view the event online, go to <https://www.indian.senate.gov/>

2:30 p.m. -- (FED/YELLEN) NEWS CONFERENCE -- Federal Reserve Board Chairwoman Janet Yellen holds a news conference following a closed two-day meeting of the Federal Reserve's Open Market Committee.

Location: 1801 K Street NW, B-1 Level

Contact: [REDACTED]

Note: TV broadcast will be pooled. For a webcast go to: www.federalreserve.gov. Doors open at 1 p.m. Attendance is limited to one reporter per press outlet. Reporter must provide e-mail with full name, date of birth, and Social Security number (or passport number and name of issuing country) to PressConferences@frb.gov by 5 p.m. on March 13. Attendance is required to attend. Regular (non-enhanced) driver's licenses and ID cards issued by Maine, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, and Washington will not be accepted for entry. The ID presented at the time of entry must match the name used for registration.

2:30 p.m. -- (FINANCE/HEALTHCARE) EVENT -- The Chamber of Digital Commerce, and Georgetown University's Center for Financial Markets and Policy hold the "Blockchain Summit," through March 16.

Highlight

3:20 p.m.: Panel discussion on "The Future of Healthcare."

Location: Georgetown University, 37th and O Street NW, Hariri Building, Lohrfink Auditorium

Contact: press@digitalchamber.org

Note: Register at <https://digitalchamber.org/events/dc-summit-2017.html>

2:30 p.m. -- (CANADA/CLIMATE) EVENT -- The Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) holds the launch of the "Climate Change and National and Corporate Perspectives" series, focusing on "country and corporate perspectives on pathways for pursuing a climate change strategy." Participants include Canadian Minister of Environment and Climate Change Catherine McKenna; and Sarah Ladislau, director of the CSIS Energy and National Security Program.

Location: CSIS, 1616 Rhode Island Avenue NW

Contact: [REDACTED]

Note: RSVP to [REDACTED]

3 p.m. -- (STATE/ANTI-SEMITISM) DISCUSSION -- The Georgetown University Center for Jewish Civilization holds a discussion on "Rising Anti-Semitism: Are We Back to the 1930s?" Ira Forman, former U.S. special envoy to monitor and combat anti-Semitism speaks.

Location: Georgetown University, 3700 O Street NW, Intercultural Center, Washington D.C.

Contact: [REDACTED]

Note: RSVP at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/rising-anti-semitism-are-we-back-to-the-1930s-tickets-31328480328?aff=es2>

3 p.m. -- (US-JAPAN/MISSILE/DEFENSE) BRIEFING -- The Missile Defense Advocacy Alliance (MDAA) holds a briefing on "Cooperating with Japan on Missile Defense." Adm. Johnny Wolfe, program executive for Aegis Ballistic Missile Defense; Shuji Maeda, political counselor at the Embassy of Japan; and Riki Ellison, chairman and CEO of MDAA.

Location: The Capitol Visitors Center, room SVC-210

Contact: [REDACTED]

Note: Register at <http://missiledefenseadvocacy.org/advocacy/events/cooperating-with-japan-on-missile-defense>

3:30 p.m. -- (RUSSIA-GEORGIA/BOOK) DISCUSSION -- The Kennan Institute for Advanced Russian Studies holds a book discussion on "Familiar Strangers: The Geopolitics of Russia and the Evolution of the Soviet Empire." Author Erik Scott, assistant professor at the University of Kansas, speaks.

Location: Woodrow Wilson Center, One Woodrow Wilson Plaza, Ronald Reagan Building, 1300 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, fifth floor auditorium

Contact: [REDACTED]

4 p.m. -- (POLITICS/DUTCH/POPULISM) DISCUSSION -- The American Enterprise Institute (AEI) holds a discussion titled, "The End Of The Wave? Dutch Elections and Populist Progress," with former U.S. ambassador to the Netherlands Timothy Broas; Frank Heemskerk, executive director at the World Bank Group Board; Yascha Mounk, German Marshall Fund Transatlantic Academy; Kathleen McNamara, professor at Georgetown University and scholar at American University; Danielle Pletka, senior advisor for foreign and defense policy studies at AEI; and Stan Veuger, resident scholar at AEI.

Location: AEI, 1789 Massachusetts Avenue NW

Contact: 202-862-5829 or mediaservices@aei.org

Note: RSVP at <http://www.aei.org/events/the-end-of-the-wave-dutch-elections-and-a-brake-on-populist-progress/>

4:30 p.m. -- (GOVT/LABOR/RACE) DISCUSSION -- American University's (AU) School of Public Affairs holds a 'Fed Talk' discussion on "Diversity and Inclusion," with chief of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives' Office of Diversity and Inclusion; Zina Sutch, director of the Office of Personnel Management Office of Inclusion; federal agency attorney Antonio San Martin; and John Burden, director of the Interior Department's Office of Civil Rights.

Location: The Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, 1779 Massachusetts Avenue NW

Contact: [REDACTED]

Note: Register at https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/PQSY8SY?utm_source=2017+Key+FED+Talks+Speaker+Series+&utm_campaign=FED+Talks&utm_medium=em

5 p.m. -- (ECONOMY/LABOR/BENEFITS) DISCUSSION -- The Aspen Institute holds a discussion on "Finding Steady Ground: A Conversation on Work and Wealth." Lata Reddy, vice president of corporate social responsibility at Prudential Financial; Juan Salgado, president and CEO of Instituto del Progreso Latino; Paul Osterman Nanyang Technological University; Justine Zinkin, CEO of Neighborhood Trust; Tom Shapiro, professor of law and social policy at Brandeis University; Melanie Trotter, reporter; and Elliot Gerson, executive vice president of policy and public programs and international partners at Aspen.

Location: Aspen Institute, 1 Dupont Circle NW, Suite 700

Contact: [REDACTED]

Note: RSVP at <https://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/eventReg?oidk=a07edvm877x7891055a&oseq=&c=&ch=>

EVENING

6 p.m. -- (SCIENCE) EVENT -- The National Academy of Sciences (NAS) holds a screening of the film "The Crowd and the Cloud," and a discussion on "the power in the digital age." Participants include writer-producer Geoff Haines-Stiles; and former NASA Chief Scientist Waleed Abdalati, director of the University of Colorado's () Institute for Research in Environmental Studies.

Location: NAS, 500 Fifth Street NW

Contact: 202-334-2000

Note: Register at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/special-preview-screening-the-crowd-the-cloud-tickets-32475181141>

6 p.m. -- (LEGAL/PUBLIC DEFENDERS) LECTURE -- The George Washington University Law School holds a lecture on "The Sixth Amendment in Crisis and the Role of the Defender." Participants include Jonathan Rapping, founder of Gideon's Promise and visiting professor of law at Harvard University.

Location: The George Washington University Law School, 2000 H Street NW, Faculty Conference Center, Fifth Floor, Burns Law Library

Contact: [REDACTED]

Note: RSVP at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/jon-rapping-the-sixth-amendment-in-crisis-and-the-role-of-the-public-defender-tickets-32298576913?aff=es2>

6:30 p.m., approx. -- (HOUSE/GOP/Ryan) EVENT -- House Speaker Paul Ryan (R-Wis.), House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy (R-Calif.), House Majority Whip Steve Lujan (R-N.M.) and House Conference Chair Cathy McMorris Rodgers (R-Wash.) hold a press availability with Capitol Hill reporters.

Location: The Capitol, room HC-8

Contact: [REDACTED]

ADDS PARTICIPANTS; ADDS NOTE

6:30 p.m. -- (US-CHRISTIANITY/BOOK) DISCUSSION -- The Trinity Forum and the Pepperdine University School of Public Policy sponsor a book discussion on "The Strategy for Christians in a Post-Christian Nation," with the book's author Rod Dreher, who "argues that American Christians should embrace a way of life modeled by built separatist Christian communities focused on prayer, hospitality and worship." Dreher says that lifestyle "will create a vibrant Christian counterculture that can address political issues." CNN analyst and author Kirsten Powers and Peter Wehner, senior fellow at the Ethics and Public Policy Center, will respond to Dreher's arguments.

Location: National Press Club, 14th and F Streets NW, Ballroom

Contact: [REDACTED]

+Note: Press should RSVP to Alyssa Abraham. The general public can register at: <https://www.tff.org/civicrm/event/register?reset=1&id=181> The cost is \$25, which includes hors d'oeuvres reception.

6:30 p.m. -- (STATE/TRUMP) DISCUSSION -- The Council on Foreign Relations (CFR) holds a discussion on "the election, transition and presidency of Donald Trump." Participants include Robert Lind, associate professor at Dartmouth College; Walter Russell Mead, professor at Bard College; and Gideon Rose, editor of Foreign Affairs.

Location: CFR, 1777 F Street NW

Contact: [REDACTED]

Note: RSVP to DCpressRSVP@cfr.org by 5 p.m. on March 14.

6:30 p.m. -- (POLITICS/DEMS) EVENT -- The Woman's National Democratic Club (WNDC) hosts an event to welcome Democratic National Committee (DNC) Chair and DNC deputy chair Rep. Keith Ellison (D-Minn.) and other DNC leaders. DNC Vice Chair Grace Meng; and DNC Executive Committeewoman Christine Pelosi, daughter of Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.), also attend.

Location: WNDC, 1526 New Hampshire Avenue NW

Contact: [REDACTED]

ADDS NOTE; ADDS TIME FOR PENCE'S REMARKS

7 p.m. -- (IRISH/PENCE/KENNEY) EVENT -- Vice President Mike Pence is honored and Irish Taoiseach (Prime Minister) Enda Kenny delivers remarks at the 25th annual event hosted by The Ireland Funds. Attendees include Irish Ambassador Anne Anderson; John Fitzpatrick, chairman of the Ireland Funds America; and Kieran McLoughlin, CEO of Worldwide Ireland Funds. Former Senate majority leader George Mitchell (D-Maine) also speaks at the black-tie event. The group's mission is "to harness the power of a philanthropic network of friends of Ireland to promote and support peace, culture, education and community development across the island of Ireland and among Irish people around the world."

Highlights

+7:45 p.m.: Vice President delivers remarks.

Location: The National Building Museum, 401 F Street NW

Contact: Christopher Harvin, 800-413-3335 or Susan O'Neill, 301-320-8232 or IFGala@ONeillEvent.com

+Note: A reception starts at 6 p.m. Pence will speak at approximately 7:45 p.m. To cover Pence's remarks, RSVP to pressrsvp@ovp.eop.gov by 10 a.m. on Wednesday. Press pre-set is from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. Media re-entry from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. All press must arrive by 7 p.m. The press check-in is located on the G Street NW entrance of the building. Black-tie attire is requested by the hosts of the event. Power and audio mics will be provided on the press riser.

7 p.m. -- (HEALTH/BIDEN/BATES) EVENT -- Research!America holds its 21st annual Advocacy Awards Dinner. Participants include actress Kathy Bates, spokespersons for the Lymphatic Education and Research Network; Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Chairman Lamar Alexander (R-Tenn.); National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases Director Dr. Anthony Fauci; and others.

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Director Anthony Fauci; Leland Hartwell, director of the Arizona State University Center for Sustainable Health; and Phillip Sharp, professor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's Institute for Integrative Cancer Research.

Highlight

Former Vice President Joe Biden delivers remarks.

Location: Mellon Auditorium, 1301 Constitution Avenue NW

Contact: [REDACTED]

Note: RSVP by March 14.

7 p.m. -- (CHINA/DIPLOMACY/BOOK) DISCUSSION -- Politics and Prose Bookstore hosts a book discussion on "Everything Under the Heavens: How the Past Helps Push for Global Power," with author Howard French, former China Bureau chief for the New York Times.


Location: Politics and Prose Bookstore, 5015 Connecticut Avenue NW

Contact: [REDACTED]

The Reuters Daybook

March 15, 2017

REUTERS

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Tillerson's email alias was prompted by business needs, Exxon says | Reuters

FirstPost, Ernest Scheyder, Tuesday, 14 March 2017, 23:00 GMT , 451 Words, © 2017
(Document WC61260020170314ed3e006hd)

HOUSTON U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson, while chief executive of Exxon Mobil Corp (XOM.N), used an alias for emails with employees and board members because his account was jammed with too many messages, the oil company said ...

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Top News Advisory for Tuesday, March 14

The Canadian Press - Broadcast wire, Tuesday, 14 March 2017, 23:16 GMT , 3912 Words, (c) 2017 The Canadian Press. All rights reserved.
(Document BNW0000020170314ed3e00k2a)

TOP NEWS ADVISORY

Tuesday, March 14

7:15 p.m. ET

Here are the latest Top News stories from The Canadian Press. All times are Eastern unless otherwise stated. Coverage plans are included when available. Entries are updated as news develops. Contact the National Desk at 416-507-2150 or mainslots@thecanadianpress.com.

TOP NEWS NOT HIGHLIGHTED ON THE PREVIOUS ADVISORY AT 2:30 P.M.:

Get tough on Canada, Trump pick told

USTR-Cda

WASHINGTON — In a possible preview of upcoming NAFTA negotiations, U.S. lawmakers Tuesday urged a get-tough approach with Canada in several areas, including trade management systems that limit imports of poultry and dairy. Lawmakers who will be involved in the negotiating process made clear at a confirmation hearing for Donald Trump's pick as U.S. Trade Representative that they envision more substantive changes than the minor "tweaking" the president recently spoke of regarding Canada. PHOTO. Moves Business and National Security

Injuries, chemical spill in Highway 401 crash

Highway-401-Crash

LEEDS — A crash involving at least 30 vehicles on a major highway east of Toronto caused a chemical spill on Tuesday, prompting police to evacuate the area. Police reported killed in the crash that happened in poor weather at about 2 p.m. ET near Lansdowne, Ont. People in need of medical attention were sent to hospitals in King PHOTO. Will be updated.

Syncrude says fire at oilsands upgrader site

Syncrude-Fire

FORT MCMURRAY — Syncrude Canada emergency crews and RCMP are responding to an explosion and fire at an upgrader at one of the company's oilsands sites McMurray in northern Alberta. There was a big plume of black smoke at the Mildred Lake upgrader complex Tuesday afternoon but the smoke was dissipating, said Wi Syncrude Canada spokesman. Will be writethru. Moves national and business. GUARD against duplication. With Syncrude-Fire-QuickFacts.

SkipTheDishes says sorry to job applicant

SkipTheDishes-Job-Interview

WINNIPEG — SkipTheDishes is apologizing to a woman and offering to reschedule a second job interview that was cancelled after she asked about wages and benefit Winnipeg tweeted a screenshot Sunday of an email exchange with Victoria Karras, a talent acquisition co-ordinator with the online food delivery company. Moves natic GUARD against duplication

More harsh words in border-crossing spat

Border-Crossers-Pallister

WINNIPEG — The war of words between Manitoba and the federal government escalated Tuesday as Premier Brian Pallister urged federal Public Safety Minister Ralph Goodale for himself how asylum-seekers are straining provincial resources."Mr. Goodale needs to get closer to the people who are providing the services and he'll understand where they are," Pallister said. PHOTO.

Battle over prayers at private school continues

Prayer-Decision-Appeal

CALGARY — An Alberta private school that five years ago was found to have discriminated against two Muslim students by not allowing them to pray is running much faster than it always has, says the school's founder."We haven't changed a thing," said Neil Webber, president of Webber Academy in Calgary.

Grocery stores, food banks team up in Quebec

Que-Food-Bank-Program

MONTREAL — Quebec food banks and some of the province's grocery stores are teaming up to ensure that perfectly edible food will end up in the hands of those who need it, not at local landfills.The supermarket recovery program is being dubbed the first of its kind in Canada and follows a pilot project launched a few years ago in Montreal which yielded promising results.

Health minister apologizes for 'sewer rats' remark

Alta-Legis-Sewer-Rat

EDMONTON — Alberta's deputy premier is apologizing for a comment in which she accused the Opposition Wildrose party of hanging out with "sewer rats."Sarah Hoffman said she was sorry on the record in the legislature on Tuesday and repeated her apology later outside the house.

Ottawa's orca recovery plan criticized

Endangered-Orca-Recovery

The federal government has released a recovery plan for an endangered population of killer whales likely to be in the path of increased oil tanker traffic off British Columbia's coast. But environmental groups say the plan doesn't have enough concrete measures to bring orca numbers in the southern Georgia Strait back to healthy levels. PHOTO

Alberta eyes adopting central standard time

Alta-Time-Change

EDMONTON — The days of Albertans changing their clocks twice a year could soon be coming to an end. NDP backbencher Thomas Dang has put forward a private member's bill that would put Alberta on central standard time year round. Will be written through

Ceci says front-line spending to continue

ALTA budget-Ceci

EDMONTON — Finance Minister Joe Ceci says Thursday's budget will continue to focus on spending for front-line services, but will also show how Alberta is working to lower the deficit. Ceci says while the economy shows signs of rebounding, Albertans still need help, and he says that makes a deficit budget inevitable. PHOTO. Will be written through

Halifax cabbie's licence has expired

Taxi-Driver-Assault

HALIFAX — A cab driver who was acquitted of sexually assaulting an intoxicated woman in the back of his taxi no longer has a licence to drive a cab in the Halifax area. Rawl's taxi driver's licence expired on Friday, according to Halifax Regional Municipality spokesman Brendan Elliott. Moves Atlantic and National; please guard against

WADA to stay based in Montreal

WADA-Montreal

MONTREAL — The World Anti-Doping Agency says it is keeping its headquarters in Montreal until at least 2021. WADA director general Olivier Niggli made the announcement in Lausanne on Tuesday. PHOTO. Moves National and Sports; guard against duplication

Cuteness overload: Name the Puppy contest

BRITE-RCMP-Puppies

INNISFAIL — Mounties need help to name their new puppies. The Name the Puppy 2017 contest is held yearly to name 13 German shepherd fur balls that will grow up to be police dogs. PHOTO.

Quebec budget to be tabled March 28

BudgetQue

QUEBEC — Quebec's 2017-18 budget will be tabled on March 28. Finance Minister Carlos Leitao made the announcement today and said it will be his third consecutive year. PHOTO. Moves Business and National; guard against duplication

N.S. jobs subsidies missing top targets

NS-Payroll-Rebates

HALIFAX — Just one in three potential jobs announced by Nova Scotia's economic development agency through its payroll rebate program actually materialized over the last year, a figure rekindling debate over the impact of the incentives. Data obtained by The Canadian Press covering April 1, 2013, until mid-February this year show 2,176 people were hired, compared to the possible 6,575 approved for subsidies in that timeframe — 33 per cent of those possible among companies that had active files in the time period. Moves (B) Business and National; Guard against duplication.

TOP NEWS FROM PREVIOUS ADVISORY AT 2:30 P.M.:

NEWS NOW:

Uncertainty about U.S. intentions hangs over G20 finance ministers

Cda-Trump

OTTAWA - Canadian Finance Minister Bill Morneau expects to be a popular person when he meets his G20 counterparts in Germany this weekend. That's because he will meet with high level Trump administration officials and might help dispel some of the uncertainty towards U.S. fiscal and trade policy that pervades the G20. 600 words. By I PHOTO.

Home prices post record February increase

Home-Price-Index

TORONTO — Canadian home prices posted a record jump for the month of February, fuelled by the Toronto, Hamilton and Vancouver markets. The Teranet-National composite house price index gained 1.0 per cent for the month, the largest February increase in the 18-year history of the index. PHOTO. Moves Business and Nation duplication

All eyes on budget for high-tech job strategy

Federal-Budget-Skills

OTTAWA — Expectations are running high that next week's federal budget will provide a more detailed federal strategy — and perhaps more cash — to help post-secondary students gain real-life work experience in emerging, employee-starved fields. In last year's budget, Ottawa committed \$73 million over four years to fund an initiative aimed at ensuring that what is being taught inside the classroom is better aligned with the tech-related needs of the job market. Moves National and Business, guard against duplication

Asylum claim rise needs response: IRB

Asylum-Claims

OTTAWA - The head of the Immigration and Refugee Board says they're doing what they can to cope with a growing number of asylum claims in Canada, but insists they need to take action as well. The rapid pace of the increase in new claims over the last few months in particular means the board is on track to receive 30,000 claims in the number of claims it faced just four years ago. 600 words. By Stephanie Levitz. PHOTO.

Professor hunts 'ghost hunters'

Paranormal-Investigators

VANCOUVER - Geography professor Paul Kingsbury and his graduate students at Simon Fraser University have studied ghost hunters, alien abductees and Sasquatch as part of a multi-year research project on paranormal investigators. Their work has found that the main goal of paranormal investigators is not to prove the existence of ghosts but to offer peace of mind or closure to those seeking answers. By Laura Kane. 450 words. Moves National. PHOTO, AUDIO.

Sex-toy maker settles intimate data lawsuit

Sex-Toy-Suit

A Canadian vibrator maker accused of secretly tracking the intimate habits of thousands of its customers through a smartphone app has agreed to spend \$5 million to settle a lawsuit in the United States. Under the deal, Ottawa-based Standard Innovation will pay those who bought its We-Vibe sex toy before Sept. 26, 2016, up to US\$199 each. The vibrator controlled via its We-Connect application will get up to US\$10,000 each — although the actual amounts in both cases are likely to be much lower.

Ontario university's decision to remove scale from gym raises questions

University-Gym-Scale

An Ottawa university has raised eyebrows and ire by opting to remove the scale from its primary athletic facility. Carleton University pulled the scale out earlier this month to focus away from weight and onto a more holistic view of health. Bruce Marshall, the university's manager of wellness programs, says Carleton was following an emerging trend of removing scales from workout facilities. 550 words. By Michelle McQuigge.

Liberals want Super Hornet deal by year's end

Fighter-Jet

OTTAWA — The Liberal government has taken the next step towards buying 18 Super Hornet fighter jets on an interim basis, a purchase it hopes to make official by y government sent a letter to the U.S. government on Tuesday outlining exactly what it needs in the warplanes, when it needs them, and what type of economic benefits return. PHOTO.

Nova Scotia chosen as rocket launch site

NS-Rocket-Launch-Site

CANSO — It's a 400-year-old Nova Scotia fishing village struggling to stay afloat — times have been so tough the town was dissolved five years ago. Now, tiny Canso the future home of Canada's only commercial spaceport. PHOTO. Moves Atlantic and National; please guard against duplication.

Nigel Wright still subject of ethics probe

Nigel-Wright-Ethics

OTTAWA — Almost a full year after Sen. Mike Duffy was acquitted on 31 charges of fraud, bribery and breach of trust, the man who paid him \$90,000 remains under i federal ethics watchdog. Ethics commissioner Mary Dawson has revealed that she continues to examine the conduct of Nigel Wright, former prime minister Stephen H: chief of staff. PHOTO.

Soccer handshake divides fans but adds to fun

SOC-HKN-BKN-Shake-and-Bake

When Tottenham star Harry Kane scored against Everton earlier this month in England's Premier League, he and teammate Dele Alli celebrated the goal with an elaborate handshake. Depending on your breakdown, it had at least 10 moves starting with a hand to the chest, graduating to a complex multi-level handshake before ending with the heart and pointing to the sky. PHOTO.

Trudeau in New York for Broadway play about Canada on 9-11

CN-Canada-Trudeau-Broadway

TORONTO — Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau plans to be in New York on Wednesday for a Broadway play about Newfoundlanders who opened their doors to passengers who descended on the town of Gander the day U.S. airspace was shut on 9-11. More than 200 flights were diverted to Canada. Little-used Gander became the busiest airport, taking in 38 flights. The 6,600 passengers arrived without warning on the town of 10,000.

Man says judge in sex assault case was biased

Sex-Assault-Appeal

TORONTO — A judge who referenced research on gendered violence in convicting a Toronto man of sexual assault appeared to be biased against him, the man's lawyer said Tuesday at his appeal hearing. Lawyers for Mustafa Ururyan argued their client deserves a new trial on seven grounds, including allegations that Justice Marvin Zuker's decision, such as rape and domestic violence "clouded his objective view of the evidence." PHOTO.

ALSO IN THE NEWS:

Witness says she slept with Charest many times

SKI-CRIME-Ski-Coach

SAINT-JEROME — During a two-month European ski trip in 1996, one of Bertrand Charest's ski students built an igloo out of snow outside the chalet in order to escape, he told his sex assault trial Tuesday. The witness said Charest took her virginity earlier on that trip to France, in his bedroom. She was 15. Moves National and Sports; guilty duplication

Central Canada more vulnerable to softwood duties

Softwood-Lumber-Dispute

MONTREAL — Canada's lumber industry is in a stronger position to weather a U.S. trade battle than it was during the last major clash a decade ago, but smaller Quebec producers would be particularly vulnerable to duties that may arrive within weeks, industry observers say. B.C. producers such as West Fraser Timber, Canfor and Intertec have been purchasing sawmills in the U.S. primarily in the years when there was a truce over softwood. They've also seen softwood exports to China grow, giving them protection against tariffs that the U.S. could impose as early as May. PHOTO. Moves Business and National, please guard against duplication;

Lawsuit filed against Canopy Growth

Marijuana-Lawsuit

HALIFAX — A Halifax-based law firm has launched a class-action lawsuit against Canopy Growth (TSX:WEED) and its subsidiary Mettrum over recalls of medical marijuana that contained unauthorized pesticides. In a statement of claim filed with Nova Scotia's Supreme Court, Wagners alleges that Mettrum breached its contract with consumers: development, distribution and sale of medical marijuana was negligent. Moves Business and National; Guard against duplication

Money from Ottawa for grain safety program

Grain-Safety

WINNIPEG — The federal government is offering up to \$375,000 for a new program to reduce deaths and injuries related to grain-handling. The money is to go toward producers and first responders, awareness programs for children and a mobile demonstration unit.

Legion rejects poppy crosswalk in Vernon, B.C.

Poppy-Crosswalk

VERNON — Vernon Mayor Akbal Mund says the city is working on a new plan to honour veterans after the Royal Canadian Legion rejected a proposed poppy crosswalk. Columbia city likened the proposal to rainbow crosswalks celebrating LGBTQ diversity.

Winter storm settles into southern Ontario

WEA-Ontario

TORONTO — The merging of two major weather systems will leave a huge stretch of central Canada blanketed in snow, Environment Canada said Tuesday. Meteorologist Schuster said a system that was originally to bring upwards of 20 centimetres of snow to much of southwestern and central Ontario has now been absorbed into a low that's set to hit eastern Ontario and parts of Quebec and New Brunswick. PHOTO

AND FROM THE AP:

HEALTH CARE OVERHAUL-PLANNED PARENTHOOD-TEXAS — In pushing a replacement for the Affordable Care Act that cuts off funds for Planned Parenthood, the administration hopes to reassure women who rely on the major health care organization that other clinics will step up to provide their low-cost breast exams, contraception and cancer screening. Planned Parenthood already is trying to prove it, but one big bet is quietly sputtering, and in danger of teaching the opposite lesson conservatives are after. By Paul J. Weber. SENT: 1,120

TOP STORIES

CONGRESS-HEALTH OVERHAUL — Republican leaders press ahead with their plan to quickly push a health care overhaul through the House, but GOP dissent persists. Analysts say the measure would shove millions off coverage. By Alan Fram. SENT: 890 words. UPCOMING: 800 words by 4 p.m., photos, video. With: TRUMP-HEALTH CARE CHECK — Trump's health care claims wouldn't be achieved by GOP bill he backs, according to budget scorekeeper; AP EXPLAINS-BUDGET SCOREKEEPER — CE Republicans and Democrats alike with its independent analyses of government spending (both sent).

WINTER WEATHER — A blustery, late-season storm clobbers the Northeast with sleet and heavy snow, paralyzing much of the Washington-to-Boston corridor after an unusually mild winter weather that had people thinking spring. By Colleen Long and Denise Lavoie. SENT: 900 words. UPCOMING: New approach, 800 words, photos. WINTER WEATHER-THE LATEST; WINTER WEATHER-SPORTS — Winter storm in Northeast causes NHL postponement, cancellation of flights in and out of Buffalo.

basketball tournament; WINTER WEATHER-BROADWAY — Broadway producers keep theatres open for the hardy folks willing to brave the snow and sleet; WINTER ESCAPED PONIES — New York City police wrangle tiny horses in the snow (all sent).

TRUMP-DEEP STATE — Donald Trump's White House is stepping up attacks on a foe typically associated with fragile democracies, military coups and spy thrillers: the alleged shadowy network of entrenched federal workers intent on undermining the administration. UPCOMING: 850 words by 2 p.m., photos.

SUPREME COURT-GORSUCH-ENVIRONMENT — Judge Neil Gorsuch's record on issues like pollution and environmental regulations doesn't paint him as someone in favour of businesses, according to an Associated Press review. By Holbrook Mohr and Mitch Weiss. UPCOMING: 1,250 words by 2 p.m., photos. Abridged version available.

BKC--NCAA-NORTH DAKOTA — Still smarting from a nickname controversy and reeling from budget cuts that have cost jobs and put athletic programs on the chopping block, the University of North Dakota Fighting Hawks are flying as their men's basketball team makes its first trip to the NCAA basketball tournament. By Dave Kolpack. UPCOMING: 600 words. Game starts 9:10 p.m. or later; BKC--NCAA-KANSAS ST-WAKE FOREST — Danny Manning has Wake Forest back in the NCAA Tournament for the first time in seven years. State in the First Four. UPCOMING: 600 words. Game starts 9:10 p.m. or later; BKC--NCAA-ONE-BID WONDERS — The NCAA Tournament gives little-known play-off teams the chance to shine. UPCOMING: 750 words, photos by 5 p.m.

WHAT WE'RE TALKING ABOUT

SNOOP DOGG-TRUMP-RUBIO — Marco Rubio criticizes Snoop Dogg over Trump video. SENT: 125 words.

EXXON-TILLERSON-EMAIL ACCOUNT — NY AG says Tillerson used alias in emails on climate change. SENT: 300 words, photo.

MASTURBATION BILL-TEXAS — Lawmaker mocks abortion law with call for masturbation fines. SENT: 130 words, photo.

SPONGEBOB CREATOR-ALS — 'SpongeBob' creator says he has Lou Gehrig's disease. SENT: 130 words.

HEINZ-MAD-MEN-ADS — Heinz is launching ketchup ads inspired by the TV show "Mad Men." SENT: 130 words, photos.

WASHINGTON & POLITICS

SUNSHINE WEEK-FREEDOM OF INFORMATION — AP analysis finds Obama administration in final year spent \$36.2 million defending its refusal to turn over records under Freedom of Information Act. SENT: 730 words, photo.

ATTORNEY GENERAL-FIGHTING CRIME — AG Sessions promises Justice Department will lead the charge in helping cities fight violent crime. SENT: 990 words, photo.

TRUMP-JACKSON — Donald Trump hung a portrait of Andrew Jackson in the Oval Office and has likened his new administration to that of the man pictured on the \$20 bill. SENT: 850 words with photos by 3 p.m.

NATIONAL

CITY SUES-OXYCONTIN — A city in Washington state is suing Purdue Pharma, maker of the pain medication OxyContin, in an unusual case that alleges the drugmaker allowed pills to be funneled into the black market and into the city. SENT: 950 words, photos, video.

FEDERAL PROSECUTORS-BHARARA'S REPLACEMENT — The recently fired top federal prosecutor in Manhattan is being replaced by one of his longtime friends.

INTERNATIONAL

MEXICO-CLANDESTINE GRAVES — The top prosecutor in Mexico's Gulf coast state of Veracruz says more than 250 skulls have been found in what appears to be a mass burial ground. By Mark Stevenson. SENT: 300 words. UPCOMING: Developing.

NETHERLANDS-ELECTION — Amid unprecedented international attention, the Dutch vote Wednesday in a parliamentary election that is seen as a bellwether for possible 2017 year of crucial votes in Europe. SENT: 720 words, photos, video. Early voting in Amsterdam at 2300 GMT. WITH: NETHERLANDS-ELECTION-GLANCE; NETHERLANDS-ELECTION-PROFILE. A profile of Party for Freedom head Geert Wilders; NETHERLANDS-RUTTE — A profile of Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte (all sent).

EUROPE-TURKEY — Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan directs fresh verbal attacks at the Netherlands amid their growing diplomatic spat, holding the country Europe's worst mass killing since World War II. It was Erdogan's latest slap at the Netherlands, which has prevented two Turkish ministers from holding campaign rallies in Fraser. SENT: 900 words, photos. With EUROPE-TURKEY-THE LATEST.

CANADA MEXICANS WELCOME — Canada is seeing a surge of visitors from Mexico, widely seen as a reflection of warmer relations between Canada and Mexico as it pushes for a wall along the border. SENT: 930 words, photos.

BUSINESS

FED-3 THINGS TO WATCH FOR — Here are three key things to watch for from the Federal Reserve as it issues a statement, updates its economic forecasts and holds a conference with Chair Janet Yellen. UPCOMING: 750 words by 4 p.m.

IRELAND-BANKING ON BREXIT — Dublin is one of the cities that could gain most from the departure of thousands of banking jobs from London as Britain exits the EU. SENT: 700 words, photos.

HEALTH/SCIENCE/TECHNOLOGY

HIDDEN HEARING LOSS — Matt Garlock has trouble making out what his friends say in loud bars, but when he got a hearing test, the result was normal. Recent research found an explanation, something called "hidden hearing loss." By Science Writer Malcolm Ritter. SENT: 950 words, photos. With HIDDEN HEARING LOSS-TEST.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

FILM-BEAUTY AND THE BEAST-ALAN MENKEN — Oscar-winning composer Alan Menken discusses his return to "Beauty and the Beast," his new songs, and how he leads with no Broadway experience. By Film Writer Lindsey Bahr. SENT: 700 words, photos.

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NY AG accuses Rex Tillerson of using alias in climate change emails

CBS News, Rex W. Tillerson, Tuesday, 14 March 2017, 22:57 GMT , 258 Words, © 2017
(Document WCCBS00020170314ed3e003s6)

The New York attorney general says that while Secretary of State Rex Tillerson was CEO of Exxon Mobil he used an alias in emails to talk about climate change.

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MY TAKE; The many reasons to stop using fossil fuels

The Holland Sentinel, Jeff Raywood, Tuesday, 14 March 2017, 711 Words, Copyright 2017 The Holland Sentinel, All Rights Reserved. Distributed by NewsBank, inc.
(Document HOLLND0020170314ed3e0000j)

I never cease to be amazed by the love many Americans seem to have for the burning of fossil fuels. Yet another letter to the editor questioning the linkage between them and **climate change**. Let's start arguing about how many angels on the head of a pin or something else for a while. Most of the articles I have read about this phenomenon to a pretty believable cause-effect relationship, but for those who cannot seem to wean themselves from burning dead dinos, let me offer some other reasons to burn fossil fuels.

How about national security and terrorism? Which part of our terrestrial sphere seems to produce the majority of the world's terrorists? Why that would be the Middle East how might these miscreants finance their insidious attacks on those of us in the developed world? Why petrodollars, of course. Much of the world's **oil** still comes from Eastern nations. Purchasing their fuel enriches them. A good portion of the proceeds is then used against us. Use less or no **oil** and help starve these buggers.

How about your time? I have read that the average American takes about seven hours a year filling his/her motor vehicle. I know when I use to drive regular internal combustion engines I invariably wound up in the payment line behind the guy who was buying all sorts of lottery tickets or couldn't decide which cigarettes to purchase. If I pay with my credit card I run the risk of having said card hacked. This has happened to me. No fun at all, folks. I now charge up at home at night whilst sleeping or use one of the many Charge City and BPW so generously provide. Electricity in Holland is about 13.5 cents per Kwh. Pretty cheap.

Maintenance is another issue. Google the physics of the internal combustion engine. It is an engineering marvel, to be sure, but it is very complicated, as well as inefficient. Estimates put the efficiency of these engines at 20 percent or even less. So Mr. or Mrs. Motorist is paying for gasoline, yet only receiving 20 percent of the value paid for.

The rest is used up in heat, friction, etc. My Volt also needs a lot fewer **oil** changes. Pure electrics have no need for any **oil** changes at all. Electric motors are far more life of my year old Volt I have gotten almost the equivalent of 90 mpg. Numbers don't lie, people.

I equate our lack of knowledge and the amount of disinformation on this topic, or is that fake news, out there with the early 20th century. Many people thought that sm and some ads, featuring Ronald Reagan, actually stated that smoking did a body good. Google it. Some knew, or at least suspected this linkage, but the majority went prevailing attitudes. How about thalidomide? Lead in gasoline? Lead in paint? Artificial sweeteners? The list goes on.

Using less fossil fuels now really does not require any discomfort. Driving an electric car is actually quite nice. Very quiet and smooth. Also very quick. Hanging clothes great. Riding a bike helps us lose weight and stay healthy. Walking to work, school or church lets us enjoy God's green earth and the wonderful creatures he put in it. I lessening of stress waiting at interminable red lights or fighting for limited parking spots. Love the water? How about a sail boat? Think of life on the water sans big fue and smoke.

Fossil fuels are the past. We have ditched coal for the most part already. **Oil** and gasoline are not too far behind. Natural gas is a necessity for a while, but it is a whole coal or **oil**. Let's quit counting those angels on the heads of those pins and get ready for the future our kids deserve.

—Jeff Raywood is a resident of Holland.

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Neither Colorado nor Utah deserves Outdoor Retailer show

Denver Post, Gretchen Bleiler, Tuesday, 14 March 2017, 22:21 GMT, 912 Words, © 2017
(Document WCDNVR0020170314ed38e003xz)

People attend the Outdoor Retailer show at the Salt Palace Convention Center in Salt Lake City on Jan. 11.

I grew up snowboarding in two of the best states for the sport: Colorado and Utah. The world-class ski mountains in these neighboring ...

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WATCH ON WASHINGTON; As Trump runs wild, what's Melania thinking?

The Examiner, Tuesday, 14 March 2017, 758 Words, Copyright 2017, The Examiner. All Rights Reserved. Distributed by NewsBank, Inc.
(Document XMNRMO0020170314ed3e0000d)

Just imagine, years from now, Melania Trump's memoirs.

What did she say when her husband told his loved ones he'd pursue the presidency? Was she concerned for her family? Was she, presciently, worried for everyone?

Having witnessed Donald Trump's long-running refusal to live in reality, one can only wonder.

First, on the wild, false birther theory, he held that Barack Obama was not legitimately president. Then he announced Ted Cruz's father was involved in the JFK assassination, falsely insisted 3-5 million people voted illegally for Hillary Clinton.

Most recently, he erroneously tweeted that Obama ordered wiretaps of him and his associates, which would be a felony. Instead of apologizing, Trump told Congress to look into his phony charge.

This president has no credibility with a majority of people at home and abroad. We are left to ponder what will happen when there is a legitimate world crisis and Trump says, "Trust me."

Republicans are unnerved, desperately trying to move ahead with their agenda but stunned their leader keeps going off-message. The 40 percent of Americans still loyal (mostly because they can't admit they misjudged him) continue insulting anyone who points out the emperor has no clothes.

Not even two months into this disastrous presidency, and we're awash in discussion of special prosecutors, FBI investigations, the Russia-loving WikiLeaks' disclosure of conflicts of interest, and the mammoth costs to ferry Trump back and forth to his Florida resort.

We have no idea what's going on with Russia, which unquestionably interfered with the U.S. election. What's their payoff? Why did Trump and his sons once insist they had no dealings with Russia? Why won't Trump reveal his tax returns? Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., wearily says Congress is doing an investigation of all things Russia.

We can't focus on any one issue, moving dizzily from tweet to tweet. But even as we're being deflected by Trump's verbal shenanigans, real changes are going on in headlines.

The health care rewrite plan being bandied about by some – but not all – Republicans would throw millions off their health care insurance or make it unaffordable. The promised \$600 billion in tax savings but cap Medicaid costs even though health care costs are rising, causing some to argue that states will simply deny costly life-saving treatments, rationing.

Forget improving gas mileage. The Trump administration is weakening fuel economy standards, thus worsening **climate change**.

Oh right, this administration doesn't believe **climate change** is proven science, although 99 percent of scientists say it is. Scott Pruitt, head of the Environmental Protection Agency, is hiring a staff of **climate change** skeptics. He doesn't even think his agency should exist and is hard at work dismantling regulations that have made America's environment healthier.

The fledgling administration has zeroed in on nearly 100 health and safety regulations to repeal or modify. And if you are a profitable business that wants a specific regulation, just make an appointment with the appropriate agency, according to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

Meanwhile, drugmakers are confident they're getting less scrutiny in how they market prescription drugs. Oil and gas-drillers jump through fewer hoops. Coal miners I don't know what they do with toxic waste. Fossil fuel companies won't have to pay taxpayers higher (more reasonable) royalties for taking the public's oil, gas and coal reserves off-budget.

Financial advisers will not be directed to act in their clients' best interests. Trump reversed a rule protecting drinking water from pollution. Corporations don't have to pay taxes if executive pay exceeds worker wages. For every new rule promulgated, two others must be dropped.

Trump is creating jobs all right – for lawyers flocking to court challenging his unprecedented rash of rules-slashing.

My fellow citizens, we have a president who doesn't know how to do the job, so far shows no interest in learning it, doesn't read, insults his predecessors and is so psychologically insecure he is beginning to seem like our very own version of North Korea's unhinged dictator Kim Jong Un.

Melania's book will be a bestseller. Let's hope it's in English, not Russian.

—Ann McFeatters is a columnist for Tribune News Service. Readers may send her email at amcfeatters@nationalpress.com.

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Tillerson's Email Alias Was Prompted by Business Needs, Exxon Says

U.S. News & World Report, Business Needs, Tuesday, 14 March 2017, 22:16 GMT , 542 Words, © 2017
(Document WC933040201703146d3e006pq)

HOUSTON (Reuters) - U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson, while chief executive of Exxon Mobil Corp , used an alias for emails with employees and board members. His primary account was jammed with too many messages, the oil company ...

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BC-AP News Digest 6:20 pm

The Canadian Press, Tuesday, 14 March 2017, 22:24 GMT , 1487 Words, (c) 2017 The Canadian Press. All rights reserved.
(Document CPR0000020170314ed3e004h5)

Here are the AP's latest coverage plans, top stories and promotable content. All times EDT.

NEW & DEVELOPING

VENEZUELA: OAS secretary general recommends hemispheric group suspend Venezuela unless elections held. Developing.

NCAA-KANSAS ST-WAKE FOREST: Game starts 9:10 p.m.

ADDS: NAVY BRIBERY SCANDAL; MARINES NUDE PHOTOS; CRISIS IN THE SKY; GOP CONGRESSMAN-ISLAM; CONGRESSMEN-ROAD TRIP

ONLY ON AP

HEALTH CARE OVERHAUL-PLANNED PARENTHOOD-TEXAS — In pushing a replacement for the Affordable Care Act that cuts off funds for Planned Parenthood, I to reassure women who rely on the major health care organization that other clinics will step up to provide their low-cost breast exams, contraception and cancer screening already is trying to prove it, but one big bet is quietly sputtering, and in danger of teaching the opposite lesson conservatives are after. By Paul J. Weber. SENT: 1,120

TOP STORIES

CONGRESS-HEALTH OVERHAUL — The White House and congressional leaders redouble their drive to push a health care overhaul through the House next week, defiance from conservative and moderate Republicans after budget analysts said the measure would shove millions of voters off coverage. By Alan Fram. SENT: 890

video. With: TRUMP-HEALTH CARE-FACT CHECK — Both sides play loose with the facts; AP EXPLAINS-BUDGET SCOREKEEPER — Congressional Budget Office respected scorekeeper (both sent).

WINTER WEATHER — A blustery, late-season storm clobbers the Northeast with sleet and heavy snow, paralyzing much of the Washington-to-Boston corridor after an unusually mild winter weather that had people thinking spring. By Colleen Long and Denise Lavoie. SENT: 1,100 words. With WINTER WEATHER-THE LATEST; WINTER WEATHER-SPORTS — Winter storm in Northeast causes NHL postponement, cancellation of flights in and out of Buffalo ahead of NCAA basketball tournament; WINTER WEATHER — Broadway producers keep theatres open for the hardy folks willing to brave the snow and sleet; WINTER WEATHER-ESCAPED PONIES — New York City police v in the snow; WINTER WEATHER-PHOTO GALLERY. (all sent).

TRUMP-DEEP STATE — Donald Trump's White House is stepping up attacks on a foe typically associated with fragile democracies, military coups and spy thrillers: the alleged shadowy network of entrenched federal workers intent on undermining the administration. By Jonathan Lemire. SENT: 940 words, photos.

SUPREME COURT-GORSUCH-ENVIRONMENT — Judge Neil Gorsuch's record on issues like pollution and environmental regulations doesn't paint him as someone in favour of businesses, according to an Associated Press review. By Holbrook Mohr and Mitch Weiss. SENT: 1,250 words, photos. Abridged version of 800 words is at

MEXICO-CLANDESTINE GRAVES — The top prosecutor in Mexico's Gulf coast state of Veracruz says more than 250 skulls have been found over the last several months and appears to be a drug cartel mass burial ground. A group of mothers pushed authorities to investigate the fields where the skulls were found, suspecting their missing children were there. By Mark Stevenson. SENT: 830 words, photos.

BKC--NCAA-NORTH DAKOTA — Still smarting from a nickname controversy and reeling from budget cuts that have cost jobs and put athletic programs on the chopping block, the University of North Dakota Fighting Hawks are flying as their men's basketball team makes its first trip to the NCAA basketball tournament. By Dave Kolpack. UPCOMING photos by 6 p.m. WITH: BKC--NCAA-KANSAS ST-WAKE FOREST — Danny Manning has Wake Forest back in the NCAA Tournament for the first time in seven years. State in the First Four. UPCOMING: 600 words. Game starts 9:10 p.m. or later; BKC--NCAA-ONE-BID WONDERS — The NCAA Tournament gives little-known playoff programs the chance to shine. SENT: 750 words, photos.

WHAT WE'RE TALKING ABOUT

GOP CONGRESSMAN-ISLAM — The White House distances itself from Republican Rep. Steve King's inflammatory comments about immigrants. SENT: 550 words,

SNOOP DOGG-TRUMP-RUBIO — Marco Rubio criticizes Snoop Dogg over Trump video. SENT: 125 words.

EXXON-TILLERSON-EMAIL ACCOUNT — NY AG says Tillerson used alias in emails on climate change. SENT: 300 words, photo.

MASTURBATION BILL-TEXAS — Lawmaker mocks abortion law with call for masturbation fines. SENT: 130 words, photo.

SPONGEBOB CREATOR-ALS — 'SpongeBob' creator says he has Lou Gehrig's disease. SENT: 130 words.

WASHINGTON & POLITICS

MARINES-NUDE PHOTOS — The top U.S. Marine says he intends to fix the problem that led to current and former Corps members sharing nude photos of female Marines. Angry and skeptical senators demand more. SENT: 780 words, photos.

SUNSHINE WEEK-FREEDOM OF INFORMATION — AP analysis finds Obama administration in final year spent \$36.2 million defending its refusal to turn over records under Freedom of Information Act. SENT: 730 words, photo.

ATTORNEY GENERAL-FIGHTING CRIME — Jeff Sessions promises Justice Department will lead the charge in helping cities fight violent crime. SENT: 990 words, photo.

CONGRESSMEN-ROAD TRIP — Two Texas congressmen — a Democrat and a Republican — are livestreaming their 1,600-mile drive from San Antonio to Washington, D.C. as they sit in traffic and even hit the burger drive-thru. SENT: 390 words.

NATIONAL

NAVY BRIBERY SCANDAL — A retired Navy admiral is among 9 military officers who have been indicted in a burgeoning bribery scandal involving a Malaysian defense contractor nicknamed "Fat Leonard." SENT: 130 words. UPCOMING: Developing.

CRISIS IN THE SKY — With a broken throttle, the pilot of a small plane found herself over the world's busiest airport and facing calamity — but air traffic controllers guided her to a safe landing. Cathy Lewan has a reunion with the Atlanta air traffic controllers who were her lifeline on Feb. 14, 2016. By Jeff Martin. SENT: 550 words, photos.

FEDERAL PROSECUTORS-BHARARA'S REPLACEMENT — The recently fired top federal prosecutor in Manhattan is being replaced by one of his longtime friends.

INTERNATIONAL

NETHERLANDS-ELECTION — Amid unprecedented international attention, the Dutch vote Wednesday in a parliamentary election that is seen as a bellwether for pol year of crucial votes in Europe. SENT: 720 words, photos, video. Early voting in Amsterdam at 2300 GMT. WITH: NETHERLANDS-ELECTION-GLANCE; NETHERLA A profile of Party for Freedom head Geert Wilders; NETHERLANDS-RUTTE — A profile of Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte (all sent).

EUROPE-TURKEY — Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan directs fresh verbal attacks at the Netherlands amid their growing diplomatic spat, holding the country Europe's worst mass killing since World War II. By Suzan Fraser. SENT: 900 words, photos. With EUROPE-TURKEY-THE LATEST.

SOMALIA-PIRACY — Armed men are demanding a ransom for the release of an oil tanker they have seized off the coast of Somalia and the crew is being held captiv Union anti-piracy operation in the region announces. SENT: 850 words, photos.

CANADA MEXICANS WELCOME — Canada is seeing a surge of visitors from Mexico, widely seen as a reflection of warmer relations between Canada and Mexico a pushes for a wall along the border. SENT: 930 words, photos.

BUSINESS

FED-3 THINGS TO WATCH FOR — Here are three key things to watch for from the Federal Reserve as it issues a statement, updates its economic forecasts and hol conference with Chair Janet Yellen. SENT: 750 words, photo.

IRELAND-BANKING ON BREXIT — Dublin is one of the cities that could gain most from the departure of thousands of banking jobs from London as Britain exits the E words, photos.

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

FILM-BEAUTY AND THE BEAST-ALAN MENKEN — Oscar-winning composer Alan Menken discusses his return to "Beauty and the Beast," his new songs, and how he leads with no Broadway experience. By Film Writer Lindsey Bahr. SENT: 700 words, photos.

HOW TO REACH US

At the Nerve Center, Alexandra Olson can be reached at 800-845-8450 (ext. 1600). For photos, Jenny Kane (ext. 1900). For graphics and interactives, Phil Holm (ext. 1900). AP content can be obtained from <http://www.apexchange.com>. For access to AP Exchange and other technical issues, contact apcustomersupport@ap.org or call 877

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AP-TX—Texas News Digest 5 pm, TX

Associated Press Newswires, Tuesday, 14 March 2017, 22:11 GMT, 1975 Words, (c) 2017. The Associated Press. All Rights Reserved.
(Document APRS000020170314ed3e007by)

Good afternoon! Here's a look at AP's general news coverage in Texas at this hour. Questions about coverage plans are welcome and should be directed to the Dallas office at 2100, or, in Texas, 800-442-7189. Email: aptexas@ap.org. Terry Wallace is at the desk.

A reminder: This information is not for publication or broadcast, and these coverage plans are subject to change. Expected stories may not develop, or late-breaking a newsworthy events may take precedence. Advisories and digests will keep you up to date. All times are Central.

— UPDATES Masturbation Bill.

— ADDS Congressmen-Road Trip.

— ADDS EPA-Chemical Plants.

— UPDATES Texas Execution.

— ADDS Supreme Court-Medical Malpractice.

— ADDS Oil Pipeline.

— ADDS Mexico-Migrants.

— ADDS Blind Woman Kicked Off Plane.

— ADDS Homeowner Climbs Tree-Dispute.

— ADDS Film Review-Song to Song.

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TOP STORY:

HEALTH OVERHAUL-PLANNED PARENTHOOD-TEXAS

AUSTIN, Texas — In pushing a replacement for the Affordable Care Act that cuts off funds for Planned Parenthood, Republicans are out to reassure women who rely care organization that other clinics will step up to provide their low-cost breast exams, contraception and cancer screenings. Texas is already trying to prove it. But one sputtering, and in danger of teaching the opposite lesson conservatives are after. By Paul J. Weber. SENT: 1100 words, photos, graphics.

TEXAS GOVERNMENT & POLITICS:

LGBT RIGHTS-TEXAS-THINGS TO KNOW

AUSTIN, Texas — A North Carolina-style "bathroom bill" in Texas is poised to clear the Senate on Tuesday over opposition from big businesses such as Google and Intel. But why the contentious measure is far from a sure thing to reach the desk of Republican Gov. Greg Abbott by June. By Paul J. Weber. Developing from noon vote.

MASTURBATION BILL

AUSTIN, Texas — A Texas lawmaker is making a point about legislation that restricts women's access to health care and abortions by proposing to fine men \$100 who waste semen. Alongside the penalty for wasting semen not resulting in a pregnancy, Democratic Rep. Jessica Farrar's bill would require a "medically unnecessary digital rectal exam" if a man undergoes a vasectomy or can be prescribed Viagra. By David Saleh Rauf. SENT: 300 words, photos, graphics.

CONGRESSMEN-ROAD TRIP

WASHINGTON — It's a congressional road trip — and a stab at bipartisanship. Two Texas congressmen — a Democrat and a Republican — are livestreaming their trip from San Antonio to Washington, talking to constituents as they sit in traffic and even hit the burger drive-thru. Republican Rep. Will Hurd and Democratic Rep. Beto O'Rourke left in a Chevrolet Impala in San Antonio on Tuesday after attending a veterans' town hall together and Hurd's flight was canceled due to bad weather in the Northeast. O'Rourke is driving the long distance and Hurd agreed, after some consideration, "to show what unites us and not just talk about what divides us." By Mary Clare Jalonick. SENT: 100 words, photos, graphics.

EPA-CHEMICAL PLANTS

WASHINGTON — The Trump administration is delaying a new rule tightening safety requirements for companies that store large quantities of dangerous chemicals. The rule was imposed after a fertilizer plant in West, Texas, exploded in 2013, killing 15 people. Scott Pruitt, administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, delayed the effective date of the Obama-era rule until June. By Matthew Daly. SENT: 420 words, photos.

Also:

— MARTINEZ-WOMEN IN GOVERNMENT — The nation's only Latina governor made a quick visit to Texas to help lawmakers there celebrate Women's History Month. By Mary Clare Jalonick. SENT: 100 words, photos, graphics.

AROUND THE STATE & NATION:

TEXAS EXECUTION

HUNTSVILLE, Texas — Texas was scheduled to execute Tuesday evening a man who grabbed a loaded gun from a courtroom drawer during a break in his capital murder trial. He was to be subdued by the judge and a prosecutor when he barged into the judge's chambers. No one was hurt in the 1991 attack by James Bigby, 61, but jurors were told he was guilty. They rejected his insanity defense and decided he should die. By Michael Graczyk. SENT: 600 words, photo. Developing from execution scheduled for after 6 p.m. Tuesday.

With:

— TEXAS EXECUTION-THE LATEST

SUPREME COURT-MEDICAL MALPRACTICE

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. — Texas doctors who treat New Mexico patients can breathe easier now that the New Mexico Supreme Court has overturned a ruling in a medical malpractice case that sought to avoid more restrictive laws in the Lone Star State. The question was whether a woman who claims her gastric bypass surgery was botched could sue a Texas doctor in New Mexico, where the laws that address such cases are more favorable for patients. SENT: 390 words.

OIL PIPELINE

BISMARCK, N.D. — The company building the Dakota Access pipeline has asked a federal judge to reject the latest attempt by two American Indian tribes to halt the pipeline's construction. Texas-based Energy Transfer Partners argues in court documents filed Monday that it has endured enough delays and that the Cheyenne River Sioux tribes are employing "a last-gasp litigation tactic." By Blake Nicholson. SENT: 410 words, photos, graphics.

EXXON-TILLERSON-EMAIL ACCOUNT

DALLAS — The New York attorney general says that while Secretary of State Rex Tillerson was CEO of Irving, Texas-based Exxon Mobil, he used an alias in emails to discuss **climate change**. The attorney general, Eric Schneiderman, made the accusation in a letter to a New York court Monday. He is investigating whether the company deceived the public by hiding for decades what it knew about the link between fossil fuels and **climate change**. By David Koenig. SENT: 400 words, photos.

SUPREME COURT-MEDICAL MALPRACTICE

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. — Texas doctors who treat New Mexico patients can breathe easier now that the New Mexico Supreme Court has overturned a ruling in a medical malpractice case that took aim at more favorable tort laws in the Lone Star State. The court issued its opinion in the case of Kimberly Montano on Monday, saying her complaint against a surgeon at Texas Tech Hospital in Lubbock should be dismissed without prejudice. By Susan Montoya Bryan. SENT: 130 words. UPCOMING: 400 words.

IN BRIEF:

— MEXICO-MIGRANTS — Mexican telecom magnate Carlos Slim has joined forces with Mexico's largest university and the country's human rights agency to hold workshops in the United States on how to obtain U.S. citizenship. SENT: 130 words.

— BLIND WOMAN KICKED OFF PLANE — A blind woman from Maine says she and her service dog were kicked off an American Airlines flight to Dallas-Fort Worth and placed in a different seat. SENT: 120 words, graphics.

— HOMEOWNER CLIMBS TREE-DISPUTE — A sixty-seven-year-old Dallas woman climbed a pecan tree on her property to protest a utility company's plan to trim the tree. SENT: 120 words, video.

— IDENTITY THEFT-ARREST — Police in North Texas say they've arrested a "prolific identity thief" who was found with 50 credit cards, Social Security cards and five cell phones with mail belonging to others. SENT: 130 words.

— BAYLOR ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR FIRED — An associate director of football operations has been fired by Baylor University, becoming the second staffer with ties to the program to be dismissed this year as the program struggles to move beyond a sexual assault scandal. SENT: 130 words. Moved on general and sports news services

— RETIREMENT CHECKS STOLEN — A 49-year-old Texas woman is scheduled to be sentenced next month for cashing her father-in-law's Nebraska retirement checks. SENT: 120 words.

— OFF-DUTY GUARD-ILLEGAL STOP — Bexar County authorities have arrested an off-duty prison guard on a charge of impersonating a public servant after they saw him stop a female motorist. SENT: 130 words.

ENTERTAINMENT:

FILM REVIEW-SONG TO SONG

As filmmakers obsessed with his early work continue to ape his style, Terrence Malick has ventured beyond, reaching into territory that is stubbornly spiritual and anti-commercial. He turns movie stars like Ben Affleck and Christian Bale into props, using them not for their acting but their broad shoulders that fill up the frame as women twirl around them. He has become his own genre and with experimental reveries like "To the Wonder" and "Knight of Cups," he has alienated some of his most loyal fans. His modern trilogy concludes with "Song to Song," taking the filmmaker and his stars Rooney Mara, Ryan Gosling and Michael Fassbender to his adopted hometown of Austin. For those who wrote off Malick after "To the Wonder" or "Knight of Cups," it's unlikely that "Song to Song" will inspire a change of heart. But for the others, who've resolutely stayed with him, "Song to Song" is entirely worthy and even invigoratingly different from the previous two. There's actually a plot (kind of) and the actors are allowed to have some life and (gasp) fun. By Film Writer Lindsey Bahr. SENT: 700 words, photos.

BUSINESS:

NEIMAN MARCUS

NEW YORK — Luxury retailer Neiman Marcus says it's exploring strategic alternatives including a possible sale of the company. The announcement Tuesday came as the retailer, which also operates Bergdorf Goodman, reported a loss in its second fiscal quarter that ended Jan. 28 and its sixth consecutive quarterly drop for a key revenue measure. By D'Innocenzio. SENT: 300 words, photos.

AMERICAN-MEALS IN ECONOMY

DALLAS — American Airlines said Tuesday that it plans to offer free meals to everyone in economy on two cross-country routes starting May 1. The decision by the w comes a month after Delta Air Lines announced that it would restore free meals in economy on a dozen long-haul U.S. routes this spring. Airlines dropped free sandwi meals in economy on domestic flights after brutal downturns in 2001 and 2008. They have been slow to bring back food despite rising profits, leading to grumbling by :
By Airlines Writer David Koenig. SENT: 320 words, photos.

Also:

— **OIL** DOWNTURN-HOUSTON — Revised federal labor statistics show the Houston metro region lost more than 81,000 oil and gas jobs during the downturn in the i which is nearly 14,000 more jobs than originally believed. SENT: 130 words. Moved on general and financial news services.

SPORTS REFER:

BKC--NCAA--BAYLOR-DOUBLE SHOCKED

WACO, Texas — As Baylor players flipped tires during a workout before getting a No. 3 seed in the NCAA Tournament, their strength and conditioning coach yelled, " get bounced in the first round." While the Bears have been to two Elite Eights under coach Scott Drew, their most recent March memories are getting upset by double- the last two years. By AP Basketball Writer Stephen Hawkins. UPCOMING: 600 words by 5 p.m. CT.

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If you have stories of regional or statewide interest, please email them to aptexas@ap.org. If you have photos of regional or statewide interest, please send them to the center in New York at statephotos@ap.org and call the photo desk at (888) 273-6867. For access to AP Exchange and other technical issues, contact AP Customer S apcustomersupport@ap.org or 877-836-9477.

MARKETPLACE: Calling your attention to the Marketplace in AP Exchange, where you can find member-contributed content from Arkansas and other states. The Mar accessible on the left navigational pane of the AP Exchange home page, near the bottom. For both national and state, you can click "All" or search for content by topic education, politics and business.

The AP

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BC-AP News Digest 6:20 pm

Associated Press Newswires, Tuesday, 14 March 2017, 22:22 GMT , 1820 Words, (c) 2017. The Associated Press. All Rights Reserved.
(Document APRS000020170314ed3e009vm)

Here are the AP's latest coverage plans, top stories and promotable content. All times EDT.

NEW & DEVELOPING

VENEZUELA: OAS secretary general recommends hemispheric group suspend Venezuela unless elections held. Developing.

NCAA-KANSAS ST-WAKE FOREST: Game starts 9:10 p.m.

ADDS: NAVY BRIBERY SCANDAL; MARINES NUDE PHOTOS; CRISIS IN THE SKY; GOP CONGRESSMAN-ISLAM; CONGRESSMEN-ROAD TRIP

ONLY ON AP

HEALTH CARE OVERHAUL-PLANNED PARENTHOOD-TEXAS — In pushing a replacement for the Affordable Care Act that cuts off funds for Planned Parenthood, I to reassure women who rely on the major health care organization that other clinics will step up to provide their low-cost breast exams, contraception and cancer screening already is trying to prove it, but one big bet is quietly sputtering, and in danger of teaching the opposite lesson conservatives are after. By Paul J. Weber. SENT: 1,120

TOP STORIES

CONGRESS-HEALTH OVERHAUL — The White House and congressional leaders redouble their drive to push a health care overhaul through the House next week, defiance from conservative and moderate Republicans after budget analysts said the measure would shove millions of voters off coverage. By Alan Fram. SENT: 890

video. With: TRUMP-HEALTH CARE-FACT CHECK — Both sides play loose with the facts; AP EXPLAINS-BUDGET SCOREKEEPER — Congressional Budget Office respected scorekeeper (both sent).

WINTER WEATHER — A blustery, late-season storm clobbers the Northeast with sleet and heavy snow, paralyzing much of the Washington-to-Boston corridor after an unusually mild winter weather that had people thinking spring. By Colleen Long and Denise Lavoie. SENT: 1,100 words. With WINTER WEATHER-THE LATEST; WINTER WEATHER-SPORTS — Winter storm in Northeast causes NHL postponement, cancellation of flights in and out of Buffalo ahead of NCAA basketball tournament; WINTER WEATHER — Broadway producers keep theaters open for the hardy folks willing to brave the snow and sleet; WINTER WEATHER-ESCAPED PONIES — New York City police v in the snow; WINTER WEATHER-PHOTO GALLERY. (all sent).

TRUMP-DEEP STATE — Donald Trump's White House is stepping up attacks on a foe typically associated with fragile democracies, military coups and spy thrillers: the alleged shadowy network of entrenched federal workers intent on undermining the administration. By Jonathan Lemire. SENT: 940 words, photos.

SUPREME COURT-GORSUCH-ENVIRONMENT — Judge Neil Gorsuch's record on issues like pollution and environmental regulations doesn't paint him as someone in favor of businesses, according to an Associated Press review. By Holbrook Mohr and Mitch Weiss. SENT: 1,250 words, photos. Abridged version of 800 words is also available.

MEXICO-CLANDESTINE GRAVES — The top prosecutor in Mexico's Gulf coast state of Veracruz says more than 250 skulls have been found over the last several months and appears to be a drug cartel mass burial ground. A group of mothers pushed authorities to investigate the fields where the skulls were found, suspecting their missing children were there. By Mark Stevenson. SENT: 830 words, photos.

BKC--NCAA-NORTH DAKOTA — Still smarting from a nickname controversy and reeling from budget cuts that have cost jobs and put athletic programs on the chopping block, the University of North Dakota Fighting Hawks are flying as their men's basketball team makes its first trip to the NCAA basketball tournament. By Dave Kolpack. UPCOMING photos by 6 p.m. WITH: BKC--NCAA-KANSAS ST-WAKE FOREST — Danny Manning has Wake Forest back in the NCAA Tournament for the first time in seven years. State in the First Four. UPCOMING: 600 words. Game starts 9:10 p.m. or later; BKC--NCAA-ONE-BID WONDERS — The NCAA Tournament gives little-known playoff programs the chance to shine. SENT: 750 words, photos.

WHAT WE'RE TALKING ABOUT

GOP CONGRESSMAN-ISLAM — The White House distances itself from Republican Rep. Steve King's inflammatory comments about immigrants. SENT: 550 words, photos.

SNOOP DOGG-TRUMP-RUBIO — Marco Rubio criticizes Snoop Dogg over Trump video. SENT: 125 words.

EXXON-TILLERSON-EMAIL ACCOUNT — NY AG says Tillerson used alias in emails on climate change. SENT: 300 words, photo.

MASTURBATION BILL-TEXAS — Lawmaker mocks abortion law with call for masturbation fines. SENT: 130 words, photo.

SPONGEBOB CREATOR-ALS — 'SpongeBob' creator says he has Lou Gehrig's disease. SENT: 130 words.

WASHINGTON & POLITICS

MARINES-NUDE PHOTOS — The top U.S. Marine says he intends to fix the problem that led to current and former Corps members sharing nude photos of female Marines. Angry and skeptical senators demand more. SENT: 780 words, photos.

SUNSHINE WEEK-FREEDOM OF INFORMATION — AP analysis finds Obama administration in final year spent \$36.2 million defending its refusal to turn over records under Freedom of Information Act. SENT: 730 words, photo.

ATTORNEY GENERAL-FIGHTING CRIME — Jeff Sessions promises Justice Department will lead the charge in helping cities fight violent crime. SENT: 990 words, photo.

CONGRESSMEN-ROAD TRIP — Two Texas congressmen — a Democrat and a Republican — are livestreaming their 1,600-mile drive from San Antonio to Washington, D.C. as they sit in traffic and even hit the burger drive-thru. SENT: 390 words.

NATIONAL

NAVY BRIBERY SCANDAL — A retired Navy admiral is among 9 military officers who have been indicted in a burgeoning bribery scandal involving a Malaysian defense contractor nicknamed "Fat Leonard." SENT: 130 words. UPCOMING: Developing.

CRISIS IN THE SKY — With a broken throttle, the pilot of a small plane found herself over the world's busiest airport and facing calamity — but air traffic controllers guided her to a safe landing. Cathy Lewan has a reunion with the Atlanta air traffic controllers who were her lifeline on Feb. 14, 2016. By Jeff Martin. SENT: 550 words, photos.

FEDERAL PROSECUTORS-BHARARA'S REPLACEMENT — The recently fired top federal prosecutor in Manhattan is being replaced by one of his longtime friends.

INTERNATIONAL

NETHERLANDS-ELECTION — Amid unprecedented international attention, the Dutch vote Wednesday in a parliamentary election that is seen as a bellwether for a year of crucial votes in Europe. SENT: 720 words, photos, video. Early voting in Amsterdam at 2300 GMT. WITH: NETHERLANDS-ELECTION-GLANCE; NETHERLANDS-A profile of Party for Freedom head Geert Wilders; NETHERLANDS-RUTTE — A profile of Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte (all sent).

EUROPE-TURKEY — Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan directs fresh verbal attacks at the Netherlands amid their growing diplomatic spat, holding the country Europe's worst mass killing since World War II. By Suzan Fraser. SENT: 900 words, photos. With EUROPE-TURKEY-THE LATEST.

SOMALIA-PIRACY — Armed men are demanding a ransom for the release of an oil tanker they have seized off the coast of Somalia and the crew is being held captive. Union anti-piracy operation in the region announces. SENT: 850 words, photos.

CANADA MEXICANS WELCOME — Canada is seeing a surge of visitors from Mexico, widely seen as a reflection of warmer relations between Canada and Mexico as it pushes for a wall along the border. SENT: 930 words, photos.

BUSINESS

FED-3 THINGS TO WATCH FOR — Here are three key things to watch for from the Federal Reserve as it issues a statement, updates its economic forecasts and holds a conference with Chair Janet Yellen. SENT: 750 words, photo.

IRELAND-BANKING ON BREXIT — Dublin is one of the cities that could gain most from the departure of thousands of banking jobs from London as Britain exits the EU. SENT: 700 words, photos.

HEALTH/SCIENCE/TECHNOLOGY

HIDDEN HEARING LOSS — Matt Garlock has trouble making out what his friends say in loud bars, but when he got a hearing test, the result was normal. Recent research found an explanation, something called "hidden hearing loss." By Science Writer Malcolm Ritter. SENT: 950 words, photos. With HIDDEN HEARING LOSS-TEST.

CITY SUES-OXYCONTIN — A city in Washington state is suing Purdue Pharma, maker of the pain medication OxyContin, in an unusual case that alleges the drugmaker allowed pills to be funneled into the black market and into the city. SENT: 950 words, photos, video.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

FILM-BEAUTY AND THE BEAST-ALAN MENKEN — Oscar-winning composer Alan Menken discusses his return to "Beauty and the Beast," his new songs, and how he leads with no Broadway experience. By Film Writer Lindsey Bahr. SENT: 700 words, photos.

HOW TO REACH US

At the Nerve Center, Alexandra Olson can be reached at 800-845-8450 (ext. 1600). For photos, Jenny Kane (ext. 1900). For graphics and interactives, Phil Holm (ext. 1900). AP content can be obtained from <http://www.apexchange.com>. For access to AP Exchange and other technical issues, contact apcustomersupport@ap.org or call 877-877-8777.

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Let's not resist a future where New Mexico leads

The Santa Fe New Mexican, Angelica Rubio, Tuesday, 14 March 2017, 777 Words, Copyright 2017. Santa Fe New Mexican. All rights reserved.
(Document SFNM000020170314ed3e0002q)

My parents Maria and Eduardo, both Mexican immigrants, settled in Lake Arthur way before I was born. A community that sits in the heart of southeastern New Mexico, a sanctuary, the small southeastern town that helped define me.

Southeast New Mexico gave me a home where I fell in love with the dry and sometimes cool air and the sweet smells of the farms that surrounded me. Falling asleep window and under the bright stars, listening to voices hundreds of miles away that only AM radio could transmit late into the night.

A small and tight-knit community in southeastern New Mexico, where hard work, perseverance and audacious courage are required to survive, Lake Arthur is also the vision I have always had for my beloved state of New Mexico. A vision that lets New Mexico reach its economic potential, that holds onto its important history and culture. New Mexican family a chance to succeed, even if they live in a place like tiny Lake Arthur.

But as my first New Mexico legislative session comes to a close, I'm faced with a narrative that finds too much comfort in nostalgia: romanticizing the "old days" and the new future we must lead in.

I've seen and lived through the boom-and-bust oil and gas economy of New Mexico. I've seen our state grow its Land Grant Permanent Fund to one of the largest in the world, tremendous benefits from oil and gas royalties. I've seen the neighboring communities of Lake Arthur get flooded with temporary workers when oil booms, some even streets or doubling or tripling up in one-bedroom apartments just for an opportunity to make a decent living, even if it's just for a few months -- or if they're lucky, a year. The whizzing of new diesel motors and smelled the fresh tar on the ground.

But I've also seen too many of the bust years -- young and old New Mexicans alike packing up their gear to go back home, with hopefully some money saved up in the hope that there will be work again to pay for the home they just mortgaged. I've heard those diesels power down as their owners wait for the global market to make price again, with many heading east to Texas to work on more lucrative operations, all the while our people here suffer.

I've seen that despite having a robust oil and gas industry and one of the largest land grant permanent funds in the country -- \$15 billion -- New Mexico remains at the bottom that indicates a good quality of life: No. 51 in child poverty; No. 50 in overall poverty and No. 50 in working-age women in poverty; No. 44 in income inequality ratio; No. 48 in unemployment;

No. 48 in high school graduation rates; No. 49 in higher education attainment; and No. 31 in the gender wage gap.

It's clear that the answer to our state's woes is not to drill more. The oil and gas industry would have you believe that by lining their pockets with more profit by having a bill for more corporate subsidies or giveaways to increase production, that we all somehow stand to gain. The future of oil and gas in New Mexico calls for more fracking refineries that will have a major impact on our environment, water, climate and the health of our kids and families.


At the same time, New Mexico's untapped wind and solar power have the potential to supply all our state's electricity needs and sell millions of excess gigawatts to other states that the primary human activity accelerating climate change is greenhouse gas emissions from the burning of fossil fuels, it makes both economic and moral sense to leave the "old days" of oil and gas and invest in a future of clean energy.

While oil and gas will surely be a mainstay of New Mexico's economy for years to come, let's at least start trending in the right direction and invest in the infrastructure of our state's clean, renewable energy.

Change is imminent -- I see it today painted on the horizon from my mother's window in Lake Arthur. Let's embrace it.

Angelica Rubio is the Democratic state representative for

Las Cruces, District 35.

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Light one off and show the power of nukes

The Santa Fe New Mexican, Tuesday, 14 March 2017, 990 Words, Copyright 2017. Santa Fe New Mexican. All rights reserved.
(Document SFNM000020170314ed3e0002v)

Back in the 1970s, Harold Agnew, then director of Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory, presented a director's colloquium to explain his congressional testimony regarding Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty. He feared the world's leaders would soon forget the destructive power of nuclear weapons, so he proposed the following: "Every five the world's leaders on an uninhabited island in the South Pacific, strip 'em to their skivvies, and 'light one off!' First they'd be blinded 10 or more seconds by the light, th warm, then it would get hot, and just when they think it could get no hotter, the pressure wave would hit and knock them ten meters on their asses. Then maybe they'd using a nuclear weapon."

Given The New York Times article ("Fearing U.S. withdrawal, Europe considers its own nuclear deterrent," March 6) about a European nuclear deterrent and Presiden talk of enlarging the U.S. nuclear arsenal and encouraging states like Japan and South Korea to develop nuclear weapons (they are both well able to do so), maybe it something like Agnew's suggestion. At the very least, I think we should do this demonstration for Trump.

Dr. T. Douglas Reilly

retired nuclear physicist

Los Alamos National Laboratory

Los Alamos

Delusions

Let's say Donald Trump is thwarted in his efforts to pass his political agenda or there is a massive terrorist attack. Will he then assume dictatorial powers, especially since he has millions of hard-core followers -- and many have guns?

The big, overriding question is, what would the military do? The military, we assume, has contingency plans for almost any threat to our security. Does this include a potential coup? Even contemplating such a possibility -- beyond paranoia -- is more than a little frightening.

Jerry Labinger

Santa Fe

Win with methane

In regards to the Bureau of Land Management Methane Rule ("Support for federal methane waste rule grows," March 7), The Santa Fe New Mexican quoted Republic Pearce, as saying, "the rule should be overturned because it would be too costly to the industry, hurting profits and, in turn, states like New Mexico because of lost royalty gas tax revenues." Pearce is either confused or not very well informed. The methane rule would, in fact, do the opposite of his statement. It would create more money for the industry because operators can sell the captured methane. It would provide more royalties to the state from methane sales and create jobs through a new industry that captures methane. One other thing that Pearce seems to have forgotten -- the rule would improve the lives of New Mexicans by eliminating a dangerous pollutant that is

Lynne Fischer

Santa Fe

A cruel policy

The headline in the March 7 issue of The New Mexican ("DHS chief: Families at the border to be separated," March 7), reminded me of someone I knew well when I lived in Santa Fe. Her parents were Japanese, and after war was declared after Pearl Harbor, her father was arrested and sent to a camp right here in Santa Fe. She and her mother were sent to Texas. The separation traumatized her for the rest of her life. Separating refugee children from their parents is a sick idea. These children are innocent victims, and to do this again should be unthinkable. Shame on us if we let the Department of Homeland Security implement this cruel policy.

James Ewert

Santa Fe

Essential rule

Despite growing climate denial in Washington, D.C., more and more New Mexicans see the need to control methane pollution as key to addressing global warming in the future, as well as a critical component needed to preserve the economy and the public health of New Mexico's present ("Support for federal methane rule grows," Mar

In fact, as your report notes, methane releases not only add to New Mexico's air pollution and warms its climate, but also costs the state roughly \$100 million a year. Climate problems posed by methane waste is unaffordable. It's time for New Mexicans of all political parties and backgrounds to demand policies on climate change, methane energy that will secure the safety and prosperity of our children while preserving the state's unique way of life.

Dan Tefft

chief executive officer

Crowdfunding for Climate Change Solutions

Newton, Mass.

Stopping the leaks

Midnight CNN breaking news: White House kitchen staff says Trump uses Russian dressing on taco bowls. Democrats demand special prosecutor to investigate.

3 a.m. Trump tweets: Girls lying. Did not go into their Russian dressing room. Could have if I wanted. My pageant. FAKE LIES! #stop the leaks

9 a.m. Sean Spicer calls White House press gaggle in his office (minus CNN): Claims story is full of alternative fictions. Says Trump doesn't even own a Russian dress

11:30 a.m. Kitchen staff redacts a soup choice on the lunch menu and takes leeks off the grocery list.

Dean Owen

Santa Fe

Taken seriously

Donald Trump was surprisingly presidential in his address to the joint session of Congress because the only bar he had to reach was the one marked "normal." He did read from a prepared speech and held himself in check for an hour without devolving into incoherent rants and insults. Watching his entire performance, it seemed to be more dangerous than ever before because he was able to act presidential. Looks like the press fell for his act again. Isn't this collective gullibility how our national night at first he wasn't taken seriously and now he is?

Linda Feldman

Santa Fe

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Chalcogens; Findings on Chalcogens Detailed by Investigators at University of Wyoming (The recent progress and future of oxygen reduction reaction catalysis: A review. Life Science Weekly, Tuesday, 14 March 2017, 396 Words, © Copyright 2017 Life Science Weekly via NewsRx.com (Document LFSW000020170314ed3e000f0))

2017 MAR 14 (NewsRx) -- By a News Reporter-Staff News Editor at Life Science Weekly -- Data detailed on Chalcogens have been presented. According to news originating from Laramie, Wyoming, by NewsRx correspondents, research stated, "Proton Exchange Membrane Fuel Cell (PEMFC) technology is an exciting alternative energy prospect for the field of transportation. PEMFCs are three times as efficient as internal combustion (IC) engines and emit only water as a byproduct."

Financial support for this research came from National Science Foundation.

Our news journalists obtained a quote from the research from the University of Wyoming, "The latter point is especially important in a day and age when climate change is a major concern. However, platinum required to catalyze the sluggish oxygen reduction reaction (ORR) which takes place on the cathode of the PEMFC has rendered fuel cell automobiles unviable until now. Therefore, the pursuit of an inexpensive replacement for platinum has become an active research area. This review covers the promising progress since 2011. Some of the more promising catalysts reviewed include alloys such as Pt/Pd nanotubes which outperform their platinum counterpart by nine fold and a Pt/C improves upon Pt activity by 16 times."

According to the news editors, the research concluded: "Platinum-free catalysts such as iron carbide and modified graphene which rival Pt activity are also reviewed."

For more information on this research see: The recent progress and future of oxygen reduction reaction catalysis: A review. Renewable & Sustainable Energy Reviews 414. Renewable & Sustainable Energy Reviews can be contacted at: Pergamon-Elsevier Science Ltd, The Boulevard, Langford Lane, Kidlington, Oxford OX5 1GB, England. www.elsevier.com; Renewable & Sustainable Energy Reviews - www.journals.elsevier.com/renewable-and-sustainable-energy-reviews/

The news correspondents report that additional information may be obtained from M.H. Fan, University of Wyoming, School of Energy Resources, Laramie, WY 82071, United States. Additional authors for this research include Y.N. Regmi, B. Leonard and M.H. Fan.

Keywords for this news article include: Laramie, Wyoming, United States, North and Central America, Fuel Cell, Article Review, Chalcogens, Oil & Gas, Energy, Unive

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TEMASEK LIFE SCIENCES LABORATORY LIMITED; Patent Issued for Nitrogen-Fixing Bacterial Inoculant for Improvement of Crop Productivity and Reduction of Nitrogen Emission (USPTO 9580363)

China Weekly News, Tuesday, 14 March 2017, 2377 Words, © Copyright 2017 Chemicals & Chemistry via NewsRx.com
(Document CHWKNW0020170314ed3e000bb)

2017 MAR 14 (VerticalNews) -- By a News Reporter-Staff News Editor at China Weekly News -- From Alexandria, Virginia, VerticalNews journalists report that a patent for a nitrogen-fixing bacterial inoculant for improvement of crop productivity and reduction of nitrogen emission was filed on March 20, 2013, was published online on February 28, 2017.

The patent's assignee for patent number 9580363 is TEMASEK LIFE SCIENCES LABORATORY LIMITED (Singapore, SG).

News editors obtained the following quote from the background information supplied by the inventors: "The present invention relates to methods of reducing chemical greenhouse gas nitrous oxide (N₂O) emission and to methods of improving plant growth rate and seed productivity in agriculture through the application of a novel manufactured formula containing a nitrogen-fixing bacterium that efficiently colonizes non-legume plants in aerial parts and the root system. The bacteria inocula are particularly suitable for plants in the genera *Jatropha*, *Sorghum*, *Gossypium*, *Elaeis*, *Oryza*, *Ricinus* and *Manihot*.

"The rapid rise in fossil fuel price, the fast diminishment of global fuel and the concern about rapid global warming resulted from the accumulation of atmospheric greenhouse gas (CO₂) emission served as the three catalysts in the recent biofuel boom (Chang, 2007). The environmental benefit of biofuel consumption is attributed from the widely believed outcrop greenhouse gas (CO₂) emission.

"Recently, a new issue that has been brought up for debate regarding the benefit of biofuels. Nitrous oxide is produced naturally in the soil during the microbial processes of nitrification and denitrification. A significant percentage of the nitrogen fertilizer used in biofuel production is converted to reactive nitrogen N₂O, a greenhouse gas which has ability to trap heat in the atmosphere (Barton and Atwater, 2002). The benefit of CO₂ mitigation through biofuel consumption will be cancelled out if the use of N-fertilizer is not controlled (Galloway et al., 2008; Melillo et al., 2009; Crutzen et al., 2008).

"Application of nitrogen fertilizer has become an essential practice in modern agriculture as it is vital to maintain competitive crop productivity. It has been well known that much less input of nitrogen fertilizer owing to the presence of nitrogen-fixing structure called nodules, in which nitrogen-fixing microorganisms (diazotrophs), mostly belong to the *Rhizobium*, *Sinorhizobium*, *Mesorhizobium* and *Bradyrhizobium* genera (Jourand et al., 2004; Kaneko et al., 2000; Stacey et al., 1991; Gottfert et al., 2001), form a beneficial symbiotic relationship with the bacteria supplying nitrogen source to the plants while drawing carbon source from the plants cells (Long, 1996; Young and Johnson, 1996). Some exception has been found recently. For example, *Methylobacterium nodulans* is the root nodule-inducing agent for some species in the genus *Crotalaria*, a legume.

(Renier et al., 2011; Jourand et al., 2005) and nitrogen-fixing nodules may develop in stem tissues of some legumes (Eaglesham and Szalay, 1983; Dreyfus and Domi Frankia, Gram-positive soil bacteria also induce the formation of nitrogen-fixing root nodules in a few species in the Rosaceae family (Moir et al., 2011).

"The formation of symbiotic nodules involves with complex genetic and chemical interactions between the diazotroph and host. For example, the symbiosis between *S. meliloti* and its plant hosts begins when the plant secretes an array of betaines and flavonoids into the rhizosphere: 4,4'-dihydroxy-2'-methoxychalcone, chrysoeriol, cy dihydroxyflavone, 6"-O-malonylononin, liquiritigenin, luteolin, 3',5-dimethoxyluteolin, 5-methoxyluteolin, medicarpin, stachydrine, trigonelline. These compounds attract surface of the root hairs of the plant where the bacteria begin secreting nodulation factor (Peters et al., 1986; Maxwell et al., 1989). As a consequence, symbiotic nodu fixation is found almost exclusively in legume species. Bradyrhizobia and rhizobia share characteristics with plant growth promoting rhizobacteria (PGPR). Nodule indu other PGPR, are capable of colonizing the roots of non-legume plants (Antoun et al., 1998).

"Diazotrophs have been found in free-living bacteria, among which *Azotobacter vinelandii* is the best studied. An increasingly number of diazotrophic species, e.g., *Az Herbaspirillum*, *Burkholderia*, *Gluconacetobacter*, have been reported to form atypical symbiotic relationship with plants (Zehr, 2011; Raders et al., 2004; Pedraza, 20 grow on the surface root system (rhizobacteria) although some are able to infect plant tissues (endophytic bacteria) and perform nitrogen fixation, which is also able pr For example, U.S. Pat. No. 7,393,678 B2 describes strains of *Klebsiella pneumonia*, which colonize the root surface (Liu et al., 2011), are able to promote growth of ce corn) either in the presence or absence of chemical nitrogen application. However, only specially isolated mutant strains of *Klebsiella pneumonia* were able to perform growth promoting function as the nitrogen-fixation activity is low in majority of strains. Perhaps, the best examples of endophytic nitrogen-fixation can be found in suga with *Herbaspirillum*, *Gluconacetobacter*, *Enterobacter*, *Azospirillum*, *Swaminathania* and *Acetobacter* being the possible contributors of nitrogen-fixing species (Pedraz al., 1995; Baidani et al., 2002; Elbeltagy et al., 2001; Saravanan et al., 2008). Photosynthetic Bradyrhizobia are the natural endophytes of the African wild rice *Oryza b the intercellular colonization and growth-promoting effects of a *Methylobacterium* sp. was observed in common rice *Oryza sativa* L. Cv CO-43 although the later was b from phytohormone secretion of the bacterium (Senthilkumar et al., 2009; Chaintreuil et al., 2000).*

"A study of *Azospirilla* indicates that, similar to nodulation and nitrogen-fixation in legumes, the endophytic colonization process is genetically controlled and exopolysa inhibits both endophytic colonization and nitrogen fixation in common wheat seedlings (Kennedy et al., 1997). In addition, a mutation that blocks exopolysaccharide sy nodulation of peas by *Rhizobium leguminosarum* but not of beans by *R. phaseoli* (Borthakur et al., 1986). Therefore, the ability of a diazotroph to promote plant growth fixation is not predictable from its performance in other plants.

"*Jatropha curcas* is a small woody plant belonging to the Euphorbiaceae family. Several unique characteristics make it an ideal plant for biodiesel production (Fairless, al., 1982; Openshaw, 2000). These include the ability to grow on marginal land; low requirement for water; a non-food crop status and fast oil production in 0.5-2 year: compared to more than 3 years for oil palm. Accordingly, several Asian countries, particularly Indonesian and India, have made ambitious plans to promote *jatropha* p other plants have also attracted strong interest as alternative crop for biofuel production. These include castor bean, sorghum, and sweet sorghum.

"As *Jatropha* is targeted to marginal land where soil nutrient is low, the requirement for nitrogen fertilizer will be higher than other crops. Therefore, any technology tha fertilizer usage will be highly desirable. Today there is little research on naturally occurring diazotrophs in *Jatropha* nor the application of these microbes for improveme productivity. Similar situations can be found in other crops, such as Sorghum, castor bean and cassava."

As a supplement to the background information on this patent, VerticalNews correspondents also obtained the inventors' summary information for this patent: "The pre relates to methods of reducing chemical fertilizer usage and greenhouse gas nitrous oxide emission and to methods of improving plant growth rate and seed productivity through the application of a novel artificially manufactured formula containing a nitrogen-fixing bacterium that efficiently colonizes non-legume plants in aerial parts and bacteria inocula and methods are particularly suitable for plants in the genera *Jatropha*, *Sorghum*, *Gossypium*, *Elaeis*, *Oryza*, *Ricinus* and *Manihot*.

"In a first aspect, the present invention provides a biologically pure culture of a bacterial species selected from the *Enterobacter*, *Methylobacterium*, *Sphingomonas*, or *Pleomorphomonas* genera as described herein. In some embodiments, the bacterial species of the present invention are able to efficiently reduce atmospheric N.sub.2, evidenced by the acetylene reduction assay (AR assay) in planta. In some embodiments, the N.sub.2 reduction occurs on the leaf surface. In other embodiments, the reduction occurs inside the leaf surface. In additional embodiments, the N.sub.2 reduction occurs on the surface of the roots or root system. In further embodiments, the N.sub.2 reduction occurs inside the root tissue. In some embodiments, the bacterial species is able to self-propagate efficiently on the leaf surface, root surface or inside plant tissues without in plant defense reaction, such as cell death. In other embodiments, bacterial species of the present invention can be isolated by culturing a plant tissue extract or leaf surface in a medium with no added nitrogen source as described herein.

"In one embodiment, the genomic DNA of the bacterial species shares least 97% and preferably at least 98% identity to SEQ ID NO:10. In some embodiments, the bacterial species is an *Enterobacter* species containing a set of genes required for nitrogen-fixation. In some embodiments, the *Enterobacter* species produces substantial amounts of extracellular polysaccharide (EPS), or endoglucanase. In another embodiment, the genomic DNA of the bacterial species shares 97% and preferably at least 98% identity to SEQ ID NO:11. In some embodiments, the bacterial species is a *Pleomorphomonas* species in which the nitrogen-fixing capability is stimulated by about 0.1 mM to about 0.5 mM of NH.sub.4+. In an additional embodiment, the genomic DNA of the bacterial species shares 97% and preferably at least 98% identity to SEQ ID NO:12. In some embodiments, the bacterial species is a *Sphingomonas* species that is able to grow in nitrogen-free medium. In a further embodiment, the genomic DNA of the bacterial species shares 97% and preferably at least 98% identity to SEQ ID NO:13 or SEQ ID NO:14. In some embodiments, the bacterial species is a *Methylobacterium* species.

"In a second aspect, the present invention provides an artificially formulated inoculant comprising at least one biologically pure culture of a bacterial species selected from the *Enterobacter*, *Methylobacterium*, *Sphingomonas*, and *Pleomorphomonas* genera as described herein. In one embodiment, the inoculant comprises a mixture of at least two pure cultures of these bacterial species. In some embodiments, the preparation of the inoculant comprises large-scale production of the bacterial species described herein, optionally dehydrated in a suitable manner that maintains cell viability and the ability to artificially inoculate and colonize host plants. In some embodiments, the inoculant is supplemented with trace metal ions. In one embodiment, the trace metal ions are selected from the group consisting of molybdenum (Mo.sup.2+) ions, iron (Fe.sup.2+) ions, or any combination of these ions. In another embodiment, the concentration of the trace metal ions in the inoculant is between about 0.1 mM and about 1.0 mM. In some embodiments, the inoculant is formulated with a carrier. Any suitable carrier can be used and examples of suitable carriers include, but are not limited to, beta-glucan, carboxymethyl cellulose (CMC), bacterial EPS, sugar and animal milk. In some embodiments, bacterial species that can be used for the inoculants of the present invention are bacterial species described herein. In other embodiments, bacterial species that can be used for the inoculants of the present invention can be isolated by culturing a plant root or leaf surface wash in a medium with no added nitrogen source or sourced from a microbial collection centre based on taxonomy classifications and the characteristic of the bacterial species described herein. In some embodiments, the inoculant is effective in promoting plant growth, maintaining high chlorophyll content in leaves, increasing fruit or seed yield.

The directive will instruct members of the Cabinet to rewrite regulation restricting carbon emissions from both new and existing power plants, lift a moratorium on federal review of the way **climate change** is factored into federal decision-making — all key elements of the Obama administration's effort to address **climate change**. It will also revise the executive order former president Obama issued that instructs agencies to incorporate **climate change** into the National Environmental Policy Act reviews it applies to according to individuals briefed on the order.

While the exact timing of the executive order remains in flux, administration officials are under pressure to address a pending lawsuit before the U.S. Court of Appeals. That legal challenge — originally mounted by several Republican attorneys general, including Oklahoma's Scott Pruitt, who now heads the Environmental Protection Agency — claims that the EPA exceeded its legal authority in imposing carbon emission curbs on operators of existing plants. The restrictions aim to cut carbon pollution by about one-third compared with 2005 levels.

Pruitt is no longer a plaintiff in the lawsuit.

The directive would instruct Attorney General Jeff Sessions to ask the D.C. Circuit to hold the lawsuit in abeyance while the EPA revisited the rules it wrote during President Obama's tenure. If the court agreed to that request, the agency would have to establish an administrative record on why it had decided to pursue a different path.

Jeffrey Holmstead, a partner at Bracewell LLP who advises utilities opposed to the Obama-era regulations, said in an interview that while he does not think "it's a heavy burden to justify the switch, "that rulemaking record needs to be very robust, they have to justify why they have changed."

It could take as long as a year and a half to rewrite the rule on existing plants, known as the Clean Power Plan. Environmentalists argue that the regulation, which allows utilities to use a variety of measures such as energy efficiency and renewable energy production to reduce their overall emissions, is well within the law. Opponents say the agency only has authority to regulate what steps a utility takes "inside the fence" of its own operations.

"Essentially, it's a mandate that EPA rules follow the Clean Air Act, instead of creating their own new programs," said Joseph Stanko, who heads government relations for the law firm Hunton & Williams and represents multiple utilities.

Vicki Arroyo, executive director of the Georgetown University Climate Center, said in an email that any effort to undo the previous administration's work to cut greenhouse gas emissions would take time.

"While it's painful to watch a rollback of standards that took significant effort and input to put in place, the Trump administration will need to follow laws and regulations under the Clean Air Act and Administrative Procedure Act before knocking down regulations," Arroyo said. "It's not as simple as kicking over toy building blocks."

Asked about the prospect of an executive order Tuesday morning, White House spokeswoman Kelly Love replied, "We do not have an announcement at this time."

Other aspects of the executive order can take effect immediately after it's issued, though it is unclear how quickly they will translate into greater coal extraction. One provision would direct the Interior Department's Bureau of Land Management to lift a freeze on federal coal leasing. That moratorium has been in effect since December 2015, and in January, it

that the program guiding coal exploration and production across 570 million publicly owned acres be updated to factor in the climate effect of such activities and provide for U.S. taxpayers.

Separately, Trump will instruct federal officials in the directive to abandon Obama officials' practice of factoring in the effect of **climate change** — what is dubbed "the carbon" — in their policymaking decisions. That calculus, which is set at \$36 per ton of carbon dioxide, aims to capture the negative consequences of allowing greenhouse gases to continue to rise. But some conservatives — including both House Science Committee Chairman Lamar Smith (R-Tex.), who held a hearing on the issue last month, members of Trump's Energy Department and EPA transition teams — have criticized it as too sweeping.

Federal officials will be allowed to return to a more traditional regulatory analysis, according to individuals briefed on the order who asked not to be identified in advance of the announcement. That analysis, which dates back a couple decades, includes a much lower cost associated with carbon emissions.

The directive will also include other language applying to the Interior Department that affects **oil** and gas development, according to these individuals. Those provisions include flaring of methane on **oil** and gas operations on federal land, and the kind of energy exploration that can take place on land managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

More from Energy and Environment:

Scientists are conspicuously missing from Trump's government

'This ... follows from the basic laws of physics': Scientists rebuke Scott Pruitt on climate

EPA environmental justice leader resigns, amid White House plans to dismantle the program

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REUTERS AMERICA NEWS PLAN FOR TUESDAY MARCH 14/WEDNESDAY MARCH 15

Reuters News, Tuesday, 14 March 2017, 21:35 GMT, 2435 Words, Copyright 2017 Thomson Reuters. All Rights Reserved.
(Document LBA0000020170314ed3e00vy1)

REUTERS AMERICA EVENING NEWS PLAN FOR TUESDAY MARCH 14/ WEDNESDAY MARCH 15

LATEST AND PLANNED U.S. NEWS COVERAGE (ALL TIMES ET)

Top stories as of 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday.

For latest stories search by Slug or Headline Keyword in your CMS or Advanced Search in Media Express.

For story queries, please contact us.general-news@thomsonreuters.com

For photo queries use USCanada-Pictures-Editors@thomsonreuters.com

TOP STORIES

U.S. Republicans on defense after report says millions would lose insurance

WASHINGTON - Republicans on Tuesday defended their plan to dismantle the Obamacare healthcare reform after a nonpartisan research report showed 14 million Americans would lose medical insurance by next year under the proposal even as it reduces the budget deficit. (USA-OBAMACARE/ (UPDATE 3, PIX, TV), moved at 3:44 p.m., by Susan Cornwell, 772 words)

Blizzard blankets northeast U.S. with late-season snow

NEW YORK/BOSTON - A blizzard swept through the heavily populated northeastern United States on Tuesday, grounding thousands of flights, canceling classes and who ventured out onto snow-bound streets. (USA-WEATHER/ (UPDATE 6, PIX, TV), moved at 3 p.m., by Jonathan Allen and Scott Malone, 689 words)

TRUMP

Trump meets with Saudi deputy crown prince at the White House

WASHINGTON - President Donald Trump met with Saudi Arabia's Deputy Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman at the White House on Tuesday for a discussion likely on economic relations and efforts to stop the war in Syria. (SAUDI-USA/ (UPDATE 1, PIX), moved at 4:24 p.m., 403 words)

Trump to drop **climate change** from environmental reviews - Bloomberg

President Donald Trump is set to sign an order to greatly reduce the role **climate change** plays in decision making across the U.S. government, Bloomberg reported, familiar with the administration's plan. (USA-TRUMP/CLIMATECHANGE, moved at 3:56 p.m., 255 words)

Trump's USTR nominee pledges 'America First' trade policy

WASHINGTON - President Donald Trump's nominee for U.S. Trade Representative told U.S. senators on Tuesday that he agrees with Trump's call for an "America First" trade policy with better-negotiated trade deals and stronger enforcement of U.S. trade laws. (USA-TRADE/LIGHTHIZER (URGENT), moved at 2:36 p.m., 119 words) See also: US unclear if China is still manipulating currency (USA-TRADE/LIGHTHIZER-CHINA (URGENT), moved at 3:53 p.m., 174 words)

Trump does not agree with lawmaker's immigration tweet -White House

WASHINGTON - The White House said on Tuesday that President Donald Trump does not agree with a controversial tweet on immigration and birth rates by Republican Steve King. (USA-TRUMP/KING, moved at 4:39 p.m., 281 words)

Trump Middle East envoy meets Palestinian leader Abbas

RAMALLAH - U.S. President Donald Trump's Middle East envoy held his first talks on Tuesday with Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, amid Palestinian concern: administration in Washington is more favourably disposed towards Israel. (ISRAEL-PALESTINIANS/USA (TV, PIX), moved at 3:52 p.m., 378 words)

Coverage of U.S. President Donald Trump

U.S. President Donald Trump attends meetings at the White House. In the afternoon, the president travels to Michigan and Tennessee, where he'll hold rallies. (USA-1 Wednesday, words TBD)

WASHINGTON

Lawmakers grill U.S. military leaders over nude photo sharing scandal

WASHINGTON - U.S. Senators grilled the Navy and the Marine Corps' top leaders on Tuesday amid a growing scandal involving a private Facebook group and its distribution of explicit images of women in the armed forces - often with obscene, misogynist commentary. (USA-MARINES/ (PIX, TV), moved at 2:15 p.m., 287 words)

U.S. Senate Foreign Relations hearing looks at the human cost of the crisis in Syria

As President Trump prepares to unveil a budget slashing U.S. foreign aid spending, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee holds a hearing on the human cost of the crisis. Witnesses include Syrian doctors, Mercy Corps and David Miliband of the International Rescue Committee. (MIDEAST-CRISIS/CONGRESS, expect on Wednesday, 1

OTHER U.S. NEWS

California's desert blooms as drought comes to an end

LAKE ELSINORE, California - Southern California's deserts and hillsides are ablaze with color after a wet winter spurred what scientists say is the biggest wildflower bloom in decades. (CALIFORNIA-FLOWERS/ (PIX, TV), moved at 12:21 p.m., 270 words)

Texas to execute man for crime spree that left 4 dead, including baby

AUSTIN, Texas - The state of Texas on Tuesday plans to execute a man for launching a 1987 crime spree that left four people dead, including a four-month-old boy. After more than 25 years on death row, James Bigby, 61, is set to be put to death by lethal injection at the state's death chamber at 6 p.m. local time (2300 GMT). (TEXAS-DEATH/ (PIX), moved at 12:39 p.m., 317 words)

Stripper files class-action suit against owner of clubs in eight states, alleging labor violations A woman who worked as a stripper in a Denver nightclub has filed a class-action suit against her former employer, a company with clubs around the country, claiming systematic labor violations including denial of wages. (USA-STRIPPER/LAWSUIT, expected on Wednesday, words TBD)

Court hearing to review accused Florida airport shooter's mental condition

MIAMI - A hearing is set for Wednesday to discuss the mental competency of Esteban Santiago, accused of killing five people in the Jan. 6 shooting in the baggage claim area of a Florida airport. (FLORIDA-SHOOTING/, expect on Wednesday, words TBD)

Former Christie allies to be sentenced in 'Bridgegate' scandal

Two former allies of New Jersey Governor Chris Christie will be sentenced for their roles in the "Bridgegate" scandal that helped derail the governor's once-promising political career. Bridget Kelly, a former deputy chief of staff for Christie, and Bill Baroni, a political appointee at the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, are facing prison for their roles in the closures at the George Washington Bridge as political payback. (NEW JERSEY-BRIDGEGATE/, expect on Wednesday, words TBD)

WIDER IMAGE- Deadly U.S. wildfires ravage ranches in three states

When the Schwerzenbach family saw a wildfire barreling toward their remote ranch in Lipscomb, Texas at speeds reaching 70 miles per hour (112 kph), there was not much they could do. (USA-WILDFIRES/IMAGES, expect on Wednesday, words TBD)

MIDDLE EAST

Aid convoys reach four Syrian towns, first time since November

GENEVA - Aid convoys reached four besieged towns in Syria on Tuesday, delivering food and medical supplies to 60,000 people for the first time since November, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and United Nations said. (MIDEAST-CRISIS/SYRIA-AID (URGENT), moved at 4:07 p.m., 137 words)

Turkish diaspora in Germany divided by Erdogan's referendum

BERLIN - Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan's push to expand his powers in an April 16 referendum is causing deep divisions in Germany's already fractured three million community, splitting families and turning friends into enemies. (TURKEY-REFERENDUM/GERMANY (PIX, TV), moved at 2:41 p.m., by Stefanie Eimermacher and Da words)

Syria needs "proxy peace" to replace proxy war, top EU diplomat says

BRUSSELS - Syria needs a "proxy peace" supported by the international community instead of the proxy war that has raged for six years and killed some 320,000 people, Union diplomat Federica Mogherini said on Tuesday. (MIDEAST-CRISIS/SYRIA-EU (TV, PIX), moved at 1:04 p.m., by Gabriela Baczynska, 372 words)

WORLD

Syria a "torture-chamber", U.N. says in call to free detainees

GENEVA - The top U.N. human rights official called on Tuesday for tens of thousands of detainees to be released from Syria's prisons and for torturers and executioners to be brought to justice as part of a lasting peace. (MIDEAST-CRISIS/SYRIA-UN (CORRECTED, UPDATE 2, TV, PIX), moved at 3:28 p.m., by Stephanie Nebehay, 452 words)

Somali pirates hijack first commercial ship since 2012

NAIROBI - Pirates have hijacked an oil tanker with eight Sri Lankan crew on board, Somali authorities said on Tuesday, the first time a commercial ship has been seized since 2012. (SOMALIA-HIJACK/ (UPDATE 7, GRAPHIC), moved at 4:27 p.m., by Katharine Houreld, 636 words)

Moscow moves to absorb rebel Georgian region's military

MOSCOW - Russian President Vladimir Putin on Tuesday ordered his officials to seal an agreement which will, in effect, incorporate the armed forces of Georgia's breakaway Ossetia region into the Russian military's command structure. (RUSSIA-GEORGIA/ARMY (UPDATE 2, PIX), moved at 3:04 p.m., 388 words)

Colombia's Santos apologizes for illegal funds paid into campaign

BOGOTA - Colombia's President Juan Manuel Santos on Tuesday acknowledged that his 2010 election campaign received illegal payments from Brazilian conglomerates and asked the country's forgiveness. (COLOMBIA-ODEBRECHT/SANTOS (UPDATE 1), moved at 3:38 p.m., 341 words)

Europe on knife edge of uncertainty, maybe catastrophe

March 2017 is an uncomfortable time to be a European. Almost wherever you look, traditional certainties are unraveling in the face of a perfect storm of crises. (APPS-COLUMN), moved at 4:29 p.m., by Peter Apps, 1130 words)

Israel shuts Palestinian map office, citing sovereignty breach

JERUSALEM - Israel ordered the closure of an office in Arab East Jerusalem on Tuesday saying it was funded by the Palestinian Authority and involved with monitoring Palestinian property to Jews, police said. (ISRAEL-PALESTINIANS/OFFICE (UPDATE 1, PIX, TV), moved at 2:54 p.m., 393 words)

France's Fillon under formal investigation for fraud ahead of election

PARIS - Francois Fillon's troubled election campaign suffered yet another blow on Tuesday when magistrates put him under formal investigation on suspicion of embezzlement, a first for a presidential candidate in France. (FRANCE-ELECTION/ (UPDATE 2, TV, PIX, GRAPHIC), moved at 3:19 p.m., by Simon Carraud and Brian Love, 737 words)

HEALTH AND SCIENCE

Internet filters may fail to shield teens from disturbing content

Parents often rely on filtering software to block children's online contact with bullies, predators, pornography and other troubling material, but a new study casts doubt on the effectiveness of these tools. (HEALTH-INTERNET/TEENS, moved at 2:55 p.m., by Ronnie Cohen, 711 words)

Research for drought-resistant crops gets boost as U.S. joins seeds treaty

ROME - Scientists' efforts to develop new crops able to resist climate change, droughts and other shocks have been boosted by the United States joining an international research group said on Tuesday. (USA-AGRICULTURE/TREATY, moved at 2:17 p.m., by Umberto Bacchi, 323 words)

Fossils from 1.6 billion years ago may be oldest-known plants

WASHINGTON - Fossils unearthed in India that are 1.6 billion years old and look like red algae may represent the earliest-known plants, a discovery that could force scientists to reassess the timing of when major lineages in the tree of life first appeared on Earth. (SCIENCE-PLANT/ (PIX), moved at 3:07 p.m., by Will Dunham, 398 words)

First ever zero-gravity experiments carried out by autonomous laboratory orbiting the earth

Multi-media story on Israeli company Space Pharma, which just launched a nano-satellite that contains a tiny laboratory and is now beginning the first experiments. The technology could give companies and research groups access to zero gravity experiments for the time without having to bother astronauts aboard the space station. expect on Wednesday, words TBD)

ENTERTAINMENT AND LIFESTYLE

Americans are having less sex these days

It you think your sex life isn't what it once was, you're not alone. People in the U.S. are having less sex today than they did generations ago, and a new study suggests be part of the problem. (HEALTH-SEX/U.S.-DECLINE, moved at 3:23 p.m., by Lisa Rapaport, 658 words)

Get your own facts, ignore media, Palestinian artist Halaby tells successors

DUBAI - Palestinian painter Samia Halaby has blunt advice for aspiring Arab artists – get your inspiration first-hand, whether from ordinary people or historical documents "lies" of the media. (UAE-DUBAI-ART/PALESTINIAN (CORRECTED, TV), moved at 3:56 p.m., 452 words)

Actress Angelina Jolie talks about being UNHCR Special Envoy

Actress Angelina Jolie talks about being UNHCR Special Envoy. Jolie has spent fifteen years advocating on refugees' behalf. Angelina Jolie expected to deliver speech discussion with U.N. High Commissioner for refugees Filippo Grandi, and moderated by Lyse Doucet. (UN-REFUGEES/JOLIE, expect on Wednesday, words TBD)

BUSINESS AND MARKETS

Energy drags on Wall St as oil falls further, airlines slide

U.S. stocks fell on Tuesday as oil prices dropped to their lowest since November and airlines pulled industrial stocks down as a blizzard hit the U.S. Northeast. (USA-5), moved, by Rodrigo Campos, 426 words)

Boeing, aerospace manufacturers back U.S. tax overhaul

SEATTLE - Boeing Co and about 90 other aerospace companies are urging Congress to overhaul the U.S. tax system, saying a set of changes Republicans proposed including a big cut in the corporate tax rate - will make them more competitive globally and help create U.S. jobs. (BOEING-TAX/ (UPDATE 1), moved at 3:33 p.m., by words)

IMF urges G20 cooperation to preserve trade, reduce imbalances

WASHINGTON - The International Monetary Fund on Tuesday called on the Group of 20 major economies to work together to preserve the benefits of trade and avoid while also urging them to reduce external imbalances and halt policies that distort global trade. (G20-IMF/, moved at 12 p.m., by David Lawder, 552 words)

Ethanol industry relying on puncture-prone cars as safer model gathers dust

U.S. ethanol shippers still overwhelmingly rely on puncture-prone tank cars to haul the flammable biofuel, while thousands of safer, replacement models idle in storage analysis shows. Federal regulators gave the ethanol industry until 2023 to employ cars with thicker shells and other safety features, and few have complied. (USA-ETI expect at 0100 ET on Wednesday, with PIX, Jarrett Renshaw and Chris Prentice, 900 words)

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Shell's high-tailing is annoying, but there is lots to like ...

Ottawa Citizen, Claudia Cattaneo, Tuesday, 14 March 2017, 21:23 GMT , 848 Words, © 2017
(Document WC66781020170314ed3e004y2)

After a couple of decades of globalization, the oilsands are back to being owned and run by a tight oligopoly of Canadian companies.

The rush of foreign players brought capital, research and development, employment and an international ...

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Al Gore: There's a 'realistic chance' that Trump won't bail on the Paris climate agreement ; The former vice president thinks President Trump might keep the United States in the pact, despite Trump's campaign rhetoric.

Washington Post.com, By Juliet Eilperin, Tuesday, 14 March 2017, 915 Words, Copyright 2017, The Washington Post Co. All Rights Reserved.
(Document WPCOM00020170314ed3e006pp)

Former vice president Al Gore said in an interview Tuesday that he thinks "there is a realistic chance" President Trump will opt to keep the United States as a participant in the Paris climate agreement.

Gore, who met with Trump in early December, declined to reveal any details about that discussion. But in an interview during the promotional tour for the revised edition of his book "An Inconvenient Truth: The Assault on Reason: Our Information Ecosystem, From the Age of Print to the Age of Trump," he said the president was still considering whether to remain within the global climate pact. The leaders of nearly 200 nations struck more than a year ago.

"I do believe there is an ongoing deliberation in the White House about what to do with respect to the Paris agreement," he said in a phone interview. "I will simply expect there is a realistic chance that the president will ultimately decide that the cost to the United States and to his presidency of withdrawing from the Paris agreement would outweigh the benefits from withdrawing."

Trump has sent mixed signals on the pact, under which the United States voluntarily committed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 26 to 28 percent below 2005 levels, making "best efforts" to reduce those emissions by 28 percent.

Trump said at one point he would "cancel" it — though it would actually take a few years to formally withdraw — and at another point, "I'm looking at it very closely. ... I have it on my mind to it."

Behind the scenes, according to several individuals who have been briefed on the administration's ongoing deliberations but asked for anonymity because no final decision has been made, Trump's top advisers are divided on what path to pursue. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson testified during his confirmation hearing that he supported remaining in the agreement. The president's daughter, Ivanka Trump, and her husband, Jared Kushner, have also advocated that position privately, these individuals said.

"It's important that the United States maintain its seat at the table with the conversations around how to deal with the threats of climate change," Tillerson said during his confirmation hearing.

But other Trump advisers, including Stephen K. Bannon, have questioned the validity of remaining a party to the agreement. The president is working to unwind key Obama-era policies aimed at cutting the nation's carbon output, while simultaneously taking steps to promote coal, oil and gas extraction in the United States.

Both Myron Ebell, a senior fellow at the Competitive Enterprise Institute who served on Trump's transition team for the Environmental Protection Agency, and Thomas Pyle, who headed the transition's Energy Department team, said in interviews that while there is a genuine debate they remained confident the president would opt out of the global climate agreement.

"The central theme of President Trump's first 50 days is honoring his campaign commitments," Pyle, president of the Institute for Energy Research, said in an email. "I understand the importance of the U.S. honoring its commitments, especially on the global stage, which is precisely why he should come to the conclusion that it makes sense to stay in the Paris agreement while simultaneously unwinding President Obama's domestic climate agenda."

Ebell noted that if the U.S. stayed in but followed through on Trump's campaign commitments, it would face "a continual uproar" over its energy and environment policies. Secretary Tillerson knows much about it. I don't think Jared Kushner knows much about it," he said. "They want a kinder and gentler international posture. I think if they understood that, they'd understand it's not going to work."

When asked whether Trump's domestic actions to promote fossil fuel energy and rewrite Obama's climate regulations would undermine America's commitments under the Paris agreement, Gore said the U.S. is "well into the early stages of a sustainability revolution that has the scale and magnitude of the Industrial Revolution but the speed of the Digital Revolution. That is unstoppable."

Given that many businesses and governments across the globe, as well as on the state and local levels, are already cutting their greenhouse gas emissions as renewable energy becomes more affordable, Gore added: "It may translate here in the United States into the achievement of all the goals the U.S. pledged to meet voluntarily under the Paris agreement, despite of what the EPA does in its effort to dismantle the Clean Power Plan."

The global climate pact is likely to come up when Trump meets with German Chancellor Angela Merkel on Friday in Washington, as well as when he meets in the near future with Chinese President Xi Jinping in Mar-a-Lago.

Backers of the Paris Agreement did score one win on Tuesday: The Philippines Senate ratified the pact by a 22 to 0 vote. While Philippines President Rodrigo Duterte expressed skepticism about endorsing the agreement, the push for ratification was led by Philippines Senator Loren Legarda, who chaired the subcommittee on the climate deal under Gore's Climate Reality Leaders program.

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Trump to drop climate change from environmental reviews

The Dickinson Press, Reuters Media, Tuesday, 14 March 2017, 20:59 GMT, 281 Words, (c) 2017
(Document WC57031020170314ed3e00017)

President Donald Trump is set to sign an order to greatly reduce the role climate change plays in decision making across the U.S. government, Bloomberg reported, citing a familiar with the administration's plan.

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25 Nordic Bioeconomy Cases for Sustainable Change

EUobserver, Tuesday, 14 March 2017, 21:06 GMT, 1157 Words, © 2017
(Document WC49195020170314ed3e0000v)

The Nordic Council of Ministers has just published Nordic Bioeconomy – 25 cases for sustainable change, a catalogue containing a selection of innovative bioeconomy cases from Nordic countries, Greenland and the Faroe Islands. The cases ...

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BC-APFN-Business News Digest

Associated Press Newswires, Tuesday, 14 March 2017, 21:00 GMT , 1752 Words, (c) 2017. The Associated Press. All Rights Reserved.
(Document APRS000020170314ed3e00mrw)

Here are AP Business News' latest coverage plans, top stories and promotable content. All times EDT.

New & Developing: AIRLINES-DELAYS, AMERICAN-MEALS IN ECONOMY

TOP STORIES:

BRITAIN-BREXIT-WHAT NEXT? — Britain's Parliament has told Prime Minister Theresa May she can file for divorce from the European Union, which she'll do by the time it comes the hard part — the arguments, the lawyers and squabbles over money. Here's a look at the main issues and what happens next. By Jill Lawless. SENT: 900 words, photos.

With: BRITAIN-BREXIT — The British and Scottish leaders trade barbs over Scotland's desire to hold a vote on independence just as the U.K. is negotiating its exit from the European Union. By Jill Lawless. SENT: 570 words, photos.

— IRELAND-BANKING ON BREXIT — Britain's plans to leave the European Union threaten to cause Ireland all kinds of economic and security headaches. But a silver lining is expanding daily along the crane-filled banks of the River Liffey, a likely post-Brexit refuge for British banking operations. By Shawn Pogatchnik. SENT: 1,200 words, photos.

—BRITAIN-BREXIT-WINE — A lawmaker says diplomats should boost the U.K. economy after Brexit by ditching champagne, cava and prosecco in favor of British bubbly for receptions. SENT: 180 words, photos.

FED-3 THINGS TO WATCH FOR — Here are three key things to watch for from the Federal Reserve on Wednesday as it issues a statement, updates its economic forecasts and holds a news conference with Chair Janet Yellen. By Martin Crutsinger. SENT: 950 words, photo.

CONGRESS-HEALTH OVERHAUL — The White House and Republican leaders in Congress scrambled to shore up support for their health care bill as critics went on television to warn of new estimates that 14 million people would lose insurance coverage in the first year alone. By Erica Werner. SENT: 900 words, photos, video.

With: TRUMP-HEALTH CARE-FACT CHECK — President Donald Trump told Americans he'd do it all on health care: "insurance for everybody," better coverage and lower costs. By the reckoning of nonpartisan budget analysts at Congress, that's not what will happen if the Republican bill he's backing becomes law. By Calvin Woodward. SENT: 1,300 words, photos.

BRITAIN-GSK-CHINA-SCANDAL — When investigators Peter Humphrey and Yu Yingzeng were hired by pharmaceutical company GlaxoSmithKline in 2013, their job was to investigate a former employee in China who, they were told, was making false allegations about the firm. The person, it turns out, was a whistleblower who had revealed GSK's practices in China. And when Chinese authorities cracked down on GSK, they also swept up the husband-and-wife team of investigators, imprisoning them for two years for "illegal disclosure of citizens' information." By Lynne O'Donnell. SENT: 600 words, photos.

MARKETS & ECONOMY:

FINANCIAL MARKETS — Stock indexes sink after yet another drop in the price of oil drags down shares across the energy industry. Other areas of the market see investors wait to hear from the Federal Reserve, which began a two-day policy meeting on interest rates. By Stan Choe. SENT: 850 words, photos.

PRODUCER PRICES — Inflation at the wholesale level rose at just half the rate in February as the previous month, as a surge in energy prices slowed. By Martin Cru words, photo.

TRUMP-TRADE REPRESENTATIVE —Even as they praised him, Senate Democrats say that Donald Trump's pick to represent the U.S. in trade negotiations needs Congress to legally hold the job because of his previous work for foreign clients. By Stephen Ohlemacher. SENT: 550 words.

PERSONAL FINANCE:

STUDENT LOAN-DEFAULT — The stock market is up, unemployment is down but things aren't rosy for all Americans. A new analysis of government data by the Corporation of America found that the number of Americans in default on their student loans jumped 17 percent last year. By Sarah Skidmore Sell. SENT: 600 words.

NERDWALLET-ASK BRIANNA-PARENTS' MONEY — Financial assistance from your parents can ease the transition to adulthood, but sometimes that help can become full independence. What's more, your parents may be putting their retirement at risk. Here's how to strike the right balance. By NerdWallet columnist Brianna McGurra words, photos.

INDUSTRY:

NEIMAN-MARCUS — Luxury retailer Neiman Marcus says it's exploring strategic alternatives including a sale of the company. By Anne D'Innocenzio. SENT: 310 words.

JAPAN-TOSHIBA — Troubled Japanese nuclear and electronics company Toshiba Corp. says it's considering selling its money-losing Westinghouse operations in the Kageyama. SENT: 580 words, photos.

CITY SUES-OXYCONTIN DAMAGES — The city of Everett, Washington, is suing Purdue Pharma, maker of OxyContin, in an unusual case that alleges the drugmaker allowed pills to be funneled into the black market in the community. By Phuong Le. SENT: 900 words, photos, video.

AMERICAN-MEALS IN ECONOMY — American Airlines says that it plans to offer free meals to everyone in economy on certain cross-country flights starting May 1. SENT: 150 words, photo.

AIRLINES-DELAYS — U.S. airlines are having trouble keeping flights on time this winter, and they are recording a sharp increase in long delays. Sent: 250 words.

With: AIRLINE RANKINGS — On time performances of the leading U.S. airlines. SENT: 130 words.

NEWTOWN SHOOTING-GUN MAKER — A group of doctors who treated mass shooting victims is asking the state Supreme Court to reinstate a lawsuit against the rifle used in the Sandy Hook Elementary School massacre. SENT: 350 words.

GOODYEAR BLIMP — Goodyear is letting the helium out of the last of its fabled fleet of blimps, but you'll still see a familiar form floating over your favorite sports events, quieter, larger and more maneuverable. By John Rogers. SENT: 630 words, photos.

NUCLEAR POWER-KENTUCKY — Donald Trump promised to bring back coal jobs, but even the country's third-largest coal producer appears to be hedging its bets. Kentucky is on the cusp of doing what was once unthinkable: opening the door to nuclear power. By Adam Beam. SENT: 730 words, photos.

ROUNDUP-WEED-KILLER-LAWSUIT — A California judge's final ruling requires chemical giant Monsanto to label its popular weed-killer Roundup with warnings that it can cause cancer. SENT: 240 words, graphic.

TRAVEL-MIAMI-FAENA-DISTRICT — The beachfront Faena Hotel has a lobby lavish enough to greet a pharaoh, with blinding sunlight bouncing off oversized gilded mirrors. It is the centerpiece of Faena District, a once-neglected strip of Miami Beach where decaying structures and empty lots have given way to opulent hotels, condos and a shopping center. By Adriana Gomez Licon. SENT: 850 words, photos.

EXXON-TILLERSON-EMAIL ACCOUNT — The New York attorney general says that while Secretary of State Rex Tillerson was CEO of Exxon he used an alias in emails to discuss climate change. By David Koenig. SENT: 330 words, photos.

BULLEIT-DISTILLERY — Bulleit bourbon has reached a milestone in its maturity with the opening of its first distillery. By Bruce Schreiner. SENT: 670 words, photos.

TECHNOLOGY & MEDIA:

AFRICA-INTERNET SHUTDOWNS — Is blocking the internet worth losing millions of dollars for some of the world's poorest nations? As more African countries gain internet access, observers see an urgent threat to democracy, health and education. The outages also inflict serious damage on economies that desperately seek growth. By Rodney Yip. SENT: 920 words, photos.

Also: GERMANY-SOCIAL MEDIA — Germany's justice minister is proposing fines of up to 50 million euros (\$53 million) for social networking sites that fail to swiftly remove hateful content, such as hate speech or defamatory "fake news." By Frank Jordans. SENT: 590 words, photos.

HEINZ-MAD MEN ADS — Heinz is launching ketchup ads inspired by the TV show "Mad Men." SENT: 130 words, photos.

INTERNATIONAL:

CANADA-MEXICANS WELCOME — Canada is being far more neighborly to Mexico than the U.S. under President Trump, insisting it has no interest in renegotiating lifting a visa requirement for travelers. That has brought a surge in tourism from Mexico, and gratitude from the Mexican government, but so far no sign of a flood of pe asylum or using Canada as a way to reach the U.S. By Rob Gillies. SENT: 930 words, photos.

SOMALIA-PIRACY — Pirates have hijacked an oil tanker off the coast of Somalia, Somali officials and piracy experts say, the first seizure of a large commercial vessel on a global trade route since 2012. International patrols off the long-chaotic nation in recent years had calmed a serious threat to the global shipping industry. By Abdi Gule. words, photo.

CYPRUS-OFFSHORE DRILLING — The discovery of a huge natural gas deposit in Egyptian waters has boosted hopes of other such finds in the eastern Mediterranean meet Europe's energy needs, a senior official with Italian oil and gas company Eni. By Menelaos Hadjicostis. SENT: 340 words.

ITALY-MAFIA-AGRICULTURE — Organized crime has a seemingly insatiable appetite for farm and food businesses, one of the few economic sectors experiencing growth in a protracted economic crisis. By Frances D'Emilio. SENT: 580 words, photos.

CHILE-TTP — Representatives from countries that signed the failed Trans-Pacific Partnership are meeting in Chile to emphasize common economic interests and discuss a regional trade deal. SENT: 130 words.

MONEY & MARKETS SUMMARY:

COMPANY SPOTLIGHT

Pandora unboxes new program

Pandora Media slumped after the streaming music company announced it will launch an on-demand service to compete with Apple Music and Spotify.

CENTERPIECE

Employment at 7-year high

The flip side of the unemployment rate, the so-called "employment rate," can give a deeper sense of the job market's health. It hit a seven-year high last month, but remains at a crisis level.

HOW TO REACH US:

Business News Supervisor Richard Jacobsen (800-845-8450, ext. 1680). For photos (ext. 1900.) For graphics/interactives (ext. 7636.) Expanded AP content: <http://www.apexchange.com>. For access to AP Exchange and technical issues: customersupport@ap.org, or 877-836-9477. Questions about transmission of financial 800-3AP-STOX.

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Flawed energy forecasts risk huge investor capital

ArabianOilandGas.com, ArabianOilandGas.com Writer, Tuesday, 14 March 2017, 466 Words, © 2017, ArabianOilandGas.com, All rights Reserved - Provided by Sync (Document ARBOLAS020170314ed3e000m9)

Oil companies, including ExxonMobil, BP and Shell, are risking billions of dollars of investor capital, by basing decisions on distorted claims about the future of energy report from **Oil** Change International.

A review of the energy forecasts by international **oil** companies shows that the forecasts are systematically skewed and rest on extreme assumptions about energy tre **oil** companies want decision makers to believe will occur, rather than a realistic potential future. The **oil** company forecasts assume a global failure to cut greenhouse internationally agreed levels that would prevent catastrophic **climate change**.

They apply selective scepticism about technology, assuming best-case outcomes for **oil** and gas, and worst-case outcomes for alternatives. In outlooks published over the three companies have highlighted barriers to renewable energy 35 times, and challenges for **oil** and gas just four times.

BP has wrongly predicted a sudden slowing of renewable energy growth every year. Its latest forecast predicts solar will still be more expensive in 2050 than the actual today.

ExxonMobil's first published Outlook in 2005 projected that wind and solar would account for just one percent of total world energy production by 2030. Wind and solar percent share in 2012, after only seven years rather than 25.

All of the companies ignore government action as a driver of change in the energy system.

Oil company forecasts are riddled with implausible assumptions and elementary errors. Far from objective analyses, they seem created to reinforce a public message demand for **oil** is inevitable, in spite of the climate crisis and technological change," said Greg Muttitt, senior advisor, **Oil** Change International, and the author of the re

It is essential for shareholders that capital allocations made by **oil** companies to multi-decade, high-cost projects are based on robust judgments about the future," said senior climate advisor, Greenpeace UK. Yet the **oil** industry continues to serve up wishful thinking as objective forecasts of future energy demand. Investors must challenge business plans, which appear to be built on fast crumbling foundations," added Kronick.

Recent examples show the risks of getting it wrong. Shell repeatedly pointed to its forecasts to justify nine years of costly offshore exploratory drilling in the Arctic. In 2015, it was forced to scrap those plans, wasting US\$7 billion in shareholder capital.

Last month, ExxonMobil and Conoco Phillips were forced to write down 4.65 billion barrels of proved **oil** reserves, wiping US\$183 billion of high-cost tar sands assets. ExxonMobil, Shell and BP alone are expected to invest US\$250 billion of new capital in the next five years.

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BlackRock To Increase Pressure on Climate Change, Board Diversity

FINalternatives, Tuesday, 14 March 2017, 20:23 GMT , 646 Words, © 2017
(Document WC58006020170314ed3e00b5)

By Ross Kerber (Reuters) - BlackRock, which wields outsized clout as the world's largest asset manager, planned on Monday to put new pressure on companies to explain issues including how climate change could affect their ...

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News Highlights: Top Energy News of the Day

Dow Jones Institutional News, Tuesday, 14 March 2017, 20:15 GMT , 461 Words, Copyright © 2017, Dow Jones & Company, Inc.
(Document DJDN000020170314ed3e00371)

Latest on **oil**

Oil prices settled at a fresh three-month low, driven by fears that Saudi Arabia is wavering in its commitment to a deal by major **oil** producers to curtail global production.

Toshiba Weighs Bankruptcy Plan for Westinghouse

Japanese conglomerate Toshiba said it was considering a chapter 11 filing for its U.S. nuclear affiliate as one way to stop the bleeding after losses topping \$6 billion.

OPEC Cuts Back Crude Output, Led by Saudi Arabia

OPEC reduced production further in February, with Saudi Arabia slashing output, amid rising crude prices which have contributed to an increase in the production of si

The Next Innovation in Shipping: Wind Power

More than a century after shifting away from wind power, the shipping industry is looking at ways to harness ocean breezes once again-this time to reduce reliance on

Saudis Seek to Reset Ties as Trump Meets Prince

Saudi Arabia's powerful deputy crown prince is meeting with President Trump as the kingdom aims to reset ties with Washington and dangles the prospect of major jo investments in the U.S.

Gas Glut Reverses Lucrative 2016 Trade

A glut of U.S. natural gas is turning into a world glut, hampering efforts by U.S. producers to export their way out of an oversupplied market.

Tillerson Used Email Alias at Exxon to Discuss Climate Change, N.Y. Says

The state attorney general's office says Exxon Mobil withheld documents in a probe into what it told investors about climate change, and that then-CEO Rex Tillerson "Wayne Tracker" in discussions about the issue.

Saudi King's Asia Expedition Enters Crucial Phase

As Saudi Arabia's King Salman and his 1,000-plus entourage woo investors in Japan and China this week, they are facing a difficult task: convincing those countries, like Saudi ~~oil~~, that the kingdom is also a wise place to park their cash.

Lukoil Swings to Profit

PAO Lukoil, Russia's No. 2 ~~oil~~ producer, swung to a profit in the final quarter of last year, helped by the strengthening price of ~~oil~~.

RWE Shares Soar After Report Innogy Unit is Engie Takeover Target

Shares in German energy producer RWE and its renewables unit Innogy, soared Tuesday following a report that French gas monopoly Engie was interested in acquiring Innogy.

Sungevity Hit With Lawsuit Over Mass Layoff

Just hours after home solar energy provider Sungevity Inc., filed for bankruptcy protection, the company was hit with a lawsuit seeking pay and benefits for 300 people suddenly last week.

(END) Dow Jones Newswires

March 14, 2017 16:15 ET (20:15 GMT)

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Tillerson said to use email alias 'Wayne Tracker' at Exxon

Oilsands Review, ExxonMobil CEO, Tuesday, 14 March 2017, 20:17 GMT , 719 Words, © 2017
(Document WC67712020170314ed3e0000c)

New York says Secretary of State Rex Tillerson used an email alias to discuss climate change while he was Exxon Mobil Corp.'s chief executive: Wayne Tracker.

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Trump to Drop Climate Change From Environmental Reviews: Bloomberg

U.S. News & World Report, Jonathan Ernst, Tuesday, 14 March 2017, 20:06 GMT , 381 Words, © 2017
(Document WC93304020170314ed3e00649)

(Reuters) - President Donald Trump is set to sign an order to greatly reduce the role climate change plays in decision making across the U.S. government, Bloomberg person familiar with the administration's plan.

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(END) Dow Jones Newswires

March 14, 2017 16:00 ET (20:00 GMT)

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Rex Tillerson 'used email alias' at Exxon to talk climate change
BBC, Tuesday, 14 March 2017, 20:02 GMT , 270 Words, © 2017
(Document WC93612020170314ed3e005bq)

US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson, the former head of Exxon Mobil, used an alias email address while at the oil company to discuss information related to climate change, an attorney general says.

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Alberta, Mexico Continue Energy Collaboration With New Funding

The Daily Oil Bulletin, Tuesday, 14 March 2017, 1617 Words, (c)2017 copyright Junewarren-Nickle's Energy Group. All rights reserved
(Document DOI:10.1002/20170314ed3e0000h)

Mazatlan — Alberta's two largest and oldest universities have signed deals with the Mexican government that will help it shift to a free market energy sector economy. That assistance will centre around better technologies to develop unconventional resources in the country — one initiative is aimed at preventing thieves from stealing Mexico's pipelines.

The deals, announced Monday, will see the country's Ministry of Energy (SENER) provide C\$44 million in research funding for several projects involving various departments of the University of Calgary and C\$14 million for a variety of research collaborations with the University of Alberta (details can be found by clicking these links to articles in Mexico's C funding, U of A funding).

The funding commitments follow memorandums of understanding (MOUs) signed last year and in 2015 between SENER and the U of C that saw that government department provide C\$12 million for an initiative focused on the development of a Global Research Initiative, located in Mexico City. It is aimed at helping the country advance energy sector technology, as well as developing an energy regulatory capacity, in a country where former monopoly oil and gas company Petroleos Mexicanos (Pemex) essentially controls the market.

Another initiative saw the U of C's School of Public Policy and the Mexican Academy of Engineering work together on human resource capacity development.

The U of A also received C\$16 million in funding last year from SENER, which was aimed at identifying Mexican-Canadian energy research opportunities, conducting unconventional resource development projects, increasing student mobility between the two countries and developing collaborative graduate degree programs.

The research focus at the U of C will revolve around four key areas of development: heavy oil technologies, mature and unconventional oil resource technologies, and market development and pipeline loss reduction.

While the first three areas of collaboration might sound lofty, the one focused on pipeline loss reduction has a more practical application, said Dru Marshall, provost and vice-chancellor (academic) at the U of C, in an interview with the Daily Oil Bulletin.

"We have some good monitoring technologies," she said, adding that university researchers also have worked closely with Calgary-based TransCanada Corporation, and related initiatives.

TransCanada is one of the most active midstream players in the country, either having built or planning to develop several pipelines to import natural gas from the U.S. It plans to develop a gasoline pipeline from the U.S. and a large gasoline storage site in the state of Veracruz.

The number of illegal taps of gasoline pipelines have grown dramatically, from just a little over 700 in 2010 to more than 6,000 last year, with organized gangs being behind the thievery. That has cost Pemex over US\$1 billion a year.

The \$44 million will come mostly from SENER, with some funding also coming from Mexico's National Council for Science and Technology (CONACYT), which had open for collaborative projects between Mexican research institutes and the U of C.

The research networks will be co-ordinated through the U of C's Global Research Initiative in Unconventional Hydrocarbon Resources, with involvement in Mexico to the prestigious Monterrey Tech, viewed as one of the world's top technology research universities, as well as Mexico's Institute of Petroleum.

Marshall said the projects her university will work on with the Mexican institutions are likely to involve a two to four year commitment for each. However, she said it's likely to lead to ongoing research collaboration.

She said the Mexicans' decision to involve the U of C and the U of A in the projects is an acknowledgement of their expertise in the energy research space.

"They selected the U of C and the U of A from among universities throughout the world," she said.

She said she has spent the last decade developing relations with Mexico, in advance of the country's shift to a private sector dominated oil and gas sector, after almost domination by Pemex. That shift started three years ago and several Canadian-based oil and gas and midstream companies have become involved in business ventures.

Last September the university opened an office in Mexico City, which is located at the Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Mexico (UNAM), the country's largest university with 300,000 students and 37,000 faculty members.

She said most of the U of C researchers will be spending time in the country, with Mexican-based researchers also spending time in Calgary.

"We have over 250 [energy sector] researchers on our campus," she said, adding that many speak Spanish.

She said the U of C will also partner with Canadian companies that have become involved in the country's energy sector and have valuable expertise that can be tapped.

For instance, Calgary-based Renaissance **Oil** Corp. has won the rights to develop five former Pemex blocks in the country and has become the largest non-Pemex **oil** here. It has a large position in the highly prospective Tampico-Misantla unconventional block, where it plans to utilize horizontal drilling and fracking to develop its conc which hold billions of bbls of reserves.

Aside from the university's expertise in unconventional resource and heavy **oil** development, where it has partnered with Canadian companies in advancing technolog School of Public Policy and other departments will play a role in advancing the management abilities of Mexican energy executives.

"Senior management positions [in Pemex] were dominated by 50 and 60-year-olds," she said, which left many younger managers unable to display their talents.

Mexico's Secretary of Energy, Pedro Joaquin Coldwell, has estimated that there will be a need for 135,000 technical and management workers in the newly developin energy industry in the country.

Researchers from the U of C's Schulich School of Engineering's Department of Chemical and Petroleum Engineering and the Faculty of Science's Department of Geo will be involved in the Mexican projects, as well as the School of Public Policy.

Marshall said the initiative, which follows the opening of a U of C unconventional hydrocarbon resource centre in Beijing, China in 2014, will lead to the creation of mor positions at the university.

"This solidifies our role as an energy leader in Canada," she said.

Natural Resources Minister Jim Carr and Alberta's Minister of Energy, Marg McCuaig-Boyd, both of whom recently visited Mexico to build relations between the two cc the announcements, saying they establish Canada's role as a leader in energy research and technology, while also finding ways to deal with **climate change**.

U of A president David Turpin, who was in Mexico last week to announce the \$14 million research collaboration, said the arrangement represents an opportunity for hi: its expertise to help the country deal with the challenges that will arise as its energy industry is transformed.

In an interview with the DOB, Turpin said the longstanding relationship between the U of A and UNAM, as well as with government agencies in Mexico, speaks to the : must take, as the U.S. and other nations turn increasingly inward.

"The current environment of isolationism speaks [of the need] to build bridges between Canada and Mexico," he said.

Turpin said a key area of co-operation is in capacity building, with the U of A helping Mexico develop the management talent it will need for the future.

"We are having a new discussion about co-locating an office of the U of A at UNAM and UNAM opening an office at the U of A," he said.

The U of A president said he sees the number of Mexican citizens taking undergraduate and postgraduate studies at his university rising significantly in the future. The number of Mexican citizens studying at the university now, up from 77 last year.

"And our applications from Mexico have gone up by 50 per cent," he said.

He said the U of A's mandate is to work with UNAM, Mexico's Panamerican University and the Alberta Energy Regulator (AER), which has signed an MOU to develop a regulatory system in the country, "on strengthening the capacity of Mexico's hydrocarbon sector."

The university is also working with Canadian companies that have established a presence in the country to build that capacity.

In particular, it has developed a strong relationship with ATCO Group, which has a Mexico City head office and has developed a number of pipeline and generation projects in the country.

The U of A is also working on technology-driven initiatives with SENER and the Mexican Petroleum Institute.

One is a C\$4.4 million, five-year project that involves the use of 3D printing technology to recreate reservoir fractures and rock formations to improve the understanding of gas flows in naturally fractured reservoirs. Much of Mexico's future land-based oil and gas future relies on expanding production in unconventional reservoirs.

Another is a C\$5 million project that will see U of A specialists work with the country to develop processes for heavy oil, which constitutes much of its current production. The project involves evaluating the compatibility and stability of upgraded heavy oil when mixing it with light crude, to ensure its transportation through pipelines and its processing at refineries, which lack sufficient upgrading capacity.

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BREAKINGVIEWS-Icahn cronyism fits Trump's emerging energy policy

Reuters News, Tuesday, 14 March 2017, 20:00 GMT, 787 Words, Copyright 2017 Thomson Reuters. All Rights Reserved.
(Document LBA0000020170314ed3e00v2)

(The authors are Reuters Breakingviews columnists. The opinions expressed are their own.)

By Lauren Silva Laughlin and Antony Currie

DALLAS/NEW YORK, March 14 (Reuters Breakingviews) - Carl Icahn's first big pitch as deregulation consigliere to the president has sparked accusations of cronyism. An overhaul of the U.S. biofuels program would directly benefit one of his own companies. Such a conflict of interest should preclude his having a say, yet it's part of a presidential administration devoted to fossil fuels.

Icahn wants to change who is responsible for mixing the right amount of ethanol into petroleum. At present, it falls on refiners' shoulders. If they can't do it directly, they can use ethanol credits as offsets.

It's a pet peeve for Icahn, who recently ranted about how the Environmental Protection Agency makes life difficult for refiners. He alleges speculators are driving up the price of ethanol. But he's hardly objective in this case, owning 82 percent of refiner CVR Energy, which last year spent some \$200 million on ethanol credits. Icahn's meddling raised concerns from public watchdog group Public Citizen.

The biofuels policy is ripe for rethinking. The government required ethanol be added to gasoline in 2005 to cut oil imports and improve the environment. It also didn't help corn farmers in Iowa, home of the first battle in the nation's presidential campaign. Domestic oil production has surged in recent years, though, crimping import studies, including one by the University of Michigan, suggest ethanol may actually increase, rather than decrease, carbon-dioxide emissions that cause climate change. The U.S. House of Representatives in November proposed halving its use in transportation fuel, while the EPA increased it.

The new EPA administrator, Scott Pruitt, brings a different perspective. On Thursday he denied carbon dioxide is a "primary contributor" to global warming. That puts him at odds with President Donald Trump, who has called climate change a Chinese hoax and pledged to exit the Paris climate-change agreement. Emails released shortly after the Pruitt's appointment last month showed he worked closely with oil and gas companies and utilities to roll back environmental regulations in his previous post as Oklahoma attorney general.

Icahn's role is polluting the ethanol battle. Administration officials usually have to sell any holdings and even then may still have to recuse themselves on key issues - as Exxon Mobil boss and current Secretary of State Rex Tillerson has over the Keystone XL pipeline. As an informal adviser Icahn is not held to such basic standards.

Trump has, at least, not taken Icahn up on his ethanol proposal yet. But it's early days.

On Twitter <https://twitter.com/TheRealLSL> and <https://twitter.com/AntonyMCurrie>

CONTEXT NEWS

- On March 9 Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Scott Pruitt told CNBC that he "would not agree that it (CO2) is a primary contributor to the global warming problem. Although we don't know that yet."

- Also on March 9, U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson recused himself from any decisions related to TransCanada's application for a permit to build the Keystone XL pipeline. His statement came in a letter to Greenpeace after the environmental group had written to the State Department and the Office of Government Ethics arguing that Exxon Mobil's involvement in the project was a conflict of interest.

Tillerson spent 10 years as chief executive, would "directly and predictably" benefit from the pipeline's approval. State Department legal adviser Katherine McManus to Tillerson had recused himself in February.

- On March 8 Public Citizen, a government watchdog group, said it asked lawmakers to investigate whether billionaire investor Carl Icahn should have been subject to laws when he advised President Donald Trump to overhaul the U.S. biofuels program.

- On March 1 the White House denied that Trump planned to issue an executive order to change the national biofuels program. The U.S. Renewable Fuels Association that Trump's team had informed the group an order was pending, according to a Reuters report. The RFA issued a statement saying that a member of the Trump administration inform the group that the president intended to sign an executive order that would change the so-called "point of obligation," shifting the onus to combine biofuels with refiners to retailers.

- Among those who pushed for the change is hedge-fund manager Icahn, who owns 82 percent of biofuel producer CVR Energy.

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(Editing by Tom Buerkle and Martin Langfield)

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Korea expert Robert Kelly speaks after his kids crashed BBC interview

The Age, Rachel Olding, Tuesday, 14 March 2017, 20:01 GMT , 713 Words, © 2017
(Document WCAGEE0020170314ed3e00500)

On Friday night, university professor Robert Kelly switched off his phone, turned his Facebook and Twitter notifications off and made sure he didn't go anywhere near Reddit.

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Climate activists carved a clever message into a Trump golf course.

Grist, Tuesday, 14 March 2017, 19:38 GMT , 1251 Words, © 2017
(Document WC47230020170314ed3e00001)

A self-described "anonymous environmental activist collective" spelled out "NO MORE TIGERS, NO MORE WOODS" in six-foot-high letters at the Trump National Golf Club, Palos Verdes, California.

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Trump dropping climate change...

The Hill, Olivia Beavers, Tuesday, 14 March 2017, 19:42 GMT , 375 Words, © 2017
(Document WC44116020170314ed3e00231)

President Trump plans to drop climate change as a factor in making government decisions, Bloomberg reported Tuesday.

The move, which would reportedly cover environmental reviews of appliance standards, industry regulations and pipeline ...

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