

**To:** Swift, Heather[heather\_swift@ios.doi.gov]  
**From:** Strassel, Kim  
**Sent:** 2017-09-27T15:39:26-04:00  
**Importance:** Normal  
**Subject:** Re: Zinke travels  
**Received:** 2017-09-27T15:39:35-04:00

thank you!!

On Wed, Sep 27, 2017 at 3:26 PM, Swift, Heather <[heather\\_swift@ios.doi.gov](mailto:heather_swift@ios.doi.gov)> wrote:

Here's a blog (that is a work in progress) with videos featuring some of the places Zinke has gone: <https://www.doi.gov/travels>

Since being sworn in on March 2, 2017, Secretary Zinke has visited dozens of Interior locations and met with thousands of members of staff. Every time he goes to a park, refuge, etc, he hosts an all employees meeting where he talks about internal issues like the reorganization, his philosophy, and then takes Q/A. The following is a brief rundown of just his DOI-site visits:

## **MARCH**

Montana - Glacier National Park, National Bison Range, Yellowstone National Park, Blackfeet Tribe

US Virgin Islands - the 100th Anniversary of the Transfer of the Virgin Islands to the U.S. from Denmark. Interior oversees the territories.

## **APRIL**

California - Sacramento Regional Office (Directors meeting, all hands meeting and employee QA) Yosemite National Park, Sequoia Kings Canyon National Park, Chanel Islands National Park, Golden Gate National Recreation Area, USPP San Francisco

## **MAY**

Houston - Attended the Offshore Technology Conference where he signed a secretarial order and met with BOEM/BSEE teams

Utah - Bears Ears National Monument, BENM Intertribal Coalition, Grand Staircase Escalante National Monument

Montana - Crow Tribe w/ VP Pence

Arctic Circle - Norway/Greenland/Alaska on a CODEL with Senate Energy Committee

## **JUNE**

Alaska - Denali National Park, Anchorage Regional Office, Alaska Federation of Natives

Idaho - National Interagency Fire Center in Boise with Sec. Purdue

New England - Meeting with state wildlife agencies (NH), Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument (ME), Penobscot Tribe (ME), Northeast Canyons and Seamounts National Marine Monument, Boston Harbor National Heritage Area (NPS, MA)

## **JULY**

Maryland - Antietam National Battlefield

Virginia - Yorktown National Historic Park and Battlefield

Oregon - Cascade Siskiyou National Monument

Denver - Regional Office (Directors meeting, all hands meeting and employee QA), Rocky Mountain National Park

New Mexico - Organ Mountains Desert Peaks National Monument, Sabinoso Wilderness Area

Nevada - (cut short due to cabinet meeting with COS Kelly) Basin and Range National Monument, Red Rocks Canyon National Recreation Area BLM

## **AUGUST**

Montana - Visited firefighters on the line with Sec Perdue

Tennessee/North Carolina - Great Smoky Mountains National Park, Blue Ridge Parkway (founders day)

## **SEPTEMBER**

Pennsylvania - Shanksville's 9/11 National Memorial monument

NYC - Statue of Liberty & Teddy Roosevelt Birthplace (NPS), Gateway National Recreation Area

Missouri - Wilson Creek National Battlefield

Texas - FEMA Joint Command Center in Austin w/ USGS and USFWS

NJ - Gateway/Sandyhook National Recreation Area

Pennsylvania - Independence National Park, Valley Forge National Battlefield

-

Heather Swift

Department of the Interior

@DOIPressSec

[Heather\\_Swift@ios.doi.gov](mailto:Heather_Swift@ios.doi.gov) | [Interior\\_Press@ios.doi.gov](mailto:Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov)

On Wed, Sep 27, 2017 at 1:06 PM, Strassel, Kim <[kim.strassel@wsj.com](mailto:kim.strassel@wsj.com)> wrote:

Hi,

Would you be able to give me some sort of a summary of how much time Zinke has been out on the road, visits, etc. (No. of places visited? Or days on the road? or miles traveled? or something?)

I want to make the point that he's been spending real time in the places that he's working to change, connecting with front line, etc.

**To:** Boulton, Caroline[caroline\_boulton@ios.doi.gov]  
**From:** Swift, Heather  
**Sent:** 2017-09-27T15:44:14-04:00  
**Importance:** Normal  
**Subject:** parital list  
**Received:** 2017-09-27T15:45:16-04:00

FYI - Here's a partial but mostly complete list of Z's travels so far if you ever need it. It only includes trips that had a DOI site visit, so like trips with POTUS to Ohio and Atlanta aren't on here.

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**To:** Swift, Heather[heather\_swift@ios.doi.gov]  
**From:** Alba-Soular, Diana  
**Sent:** 2017-09-27T15:53:04-04:00  
**Importance:** Normal  
**Subject:** Re: Fw: Members Of NM Delegation Outline Widespread Inaccuracies In DOI Monuments Report; Urge White House To Reject Recommendations  
**Received:** 2017-09-27T15:53:44-04:00

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Thanks,

Diana Alba Soular

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**From:** Swift, Heather <heather\_swift@ios.doi.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 27, 2017 1:28 PM  
**To:** Alba-Soular, Diana  
**Cc:** interior\_press@ios.doi.gov  
**Subject:** Re: Fw: Members Of NM Delegation Outline Widespread Inaccuracies In DOI Monuments Report; Urge White House To Reject Recommendations

While Senator Heinrich may not listen to the concerns of ranchers in his state, the Secretary does.  
The Department has heard accounts of roads that have fallen into disrepair and are impassable for the vehicles needed to maintain a cattle operation. Furthermore, the state of New Mexico even stated that a road on trust lands had been closed as a result of the monument designation. The Senator has the Secretary's personal phone number and is advised to use it if he has questions for the secretary, rather than badger a Washington-based BLM staffer who was testifying on vegetation management.

I'd also recommend you speak with the Northern New Mexico Stockman's Association on the subject.

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Hello,

I was wondering if the Interior Department would want to respond to the Senators letter and allegations of inaccuracies in the report on Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument.

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Diana Alba Soular

Las Cruces Sun-News Reporter

575-541-5443

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**From:** Martin Heinrich Press Office <[press@heinrich.senate.gov](mailto:press@heinrich.senate.gov)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 26, 2017 4:37 PM  
**To:** Alba-Soular, Diana  
**Subject:** Members Of NM Delegation Outline Widespread Inaccuracies In DOI Monuments Report; Urge White House To Reject Recommendations

**NEWS FROM U.S. SENATOR TOM UDALL  
U.S. SENATOR MARTIN HEINRICH  
U.S. REPRESENTATIVE BEN RAY LUJÁN  
U.S. REPRESENTATIVE MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** September 26, 2017

**Members Of NM Delegation Outline  
Widespread Inaccuracies In DOI  
Monuments Report; Urge White**

## House To Reject Recommendations

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Sept. 26, 2017) Following questions raised with the Department of Interior's (DOI) report on national monuments, U.S. Senators Tom Udall (D N.M.) and Martin Heinrich (D N.M.), and U.S. Representatives Ben Ray Lujan (D N.M.) and Michelle Lujan Grisham (D N.M.) urged the White House to review the accuracy of the claims in the report and reject the recommended changes to national monuments proposed by Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke.

In a letter to White House Chief of Staff John Kelly, the lawmakers expressed their concern in finding a number of factual errors in the rationale for recommended changes to Rio Grande del Norte and Organ Mountains Desert Peaks in New Mexico.

“New Mexicans know that a review based on facts would find that these two monuments have contributed to our state’s economy and protected the traditional way of life in these communities,” **the lawmakers wrote.**

The members outlined a number of inaccuracies with the report including claims that roads have been closed in Rio Grande del Norte and claims that Organ Mountains Desert Peaks causes problems for border security enforcement. They also highlighted that DOI recommends revisions to the monument management plans for both monuments, when in fact management plans do not yet exist.

“We urge you to review the accuracy of these and other claims in the report. We hope that the White House will not move forward with any recommendations based on false information,” **the lawmakers wrote.** “The public deserves better than predetermined political conclusions based on hearsay and claims that are easily disproven if the Department had taken the time to listen to and work with local communities.”

Communities in New Mexico, including Taos, Albuquerque, and Las Cruces, held rallies last week rejecting the proposed changes, demonstrating the strong widespread support both monuments enjoy.

The lawmakers have made the case to Secretary Zinke numerous times in person, during congressional hearings and in writing to respect the wishes of thousands of New Mexicans who cherish the monuments and to honor the local communities who worked for decades to establish permanent protections for Rio Grande del Norte and Organ Mountains Desert Peaks national monuments.

Full text of the letter is [here](#) and below.

*September 26, 2017*

*The Honorable John Kelly  
Chief of Staff  
The White House*

Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear General Kelly:

*We were disheartened by the recent news of the Department of the Interior's recommendations to the President regarding modifications to national monuments, including Rio Grande del Norte and Organ Mountains Desert Peaks in New Mexico. We were concerned that there are several factual errors included in the report's summaries of these two monuments which were used to justify recommended changes. These factual errors relate to several overarching topics:*

***Border Security and Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument***

- The Department claims that Organ Mountains Desert Peaks National Monument causes problems for border security enforcement because the monument shares a border with Mexico, but in fact the monument boundary was established five miles north of the border at the recommendation of the U.S. Customs and Border Patrol. In addition, the sheriffs from Doña Ana and Luna Counties, where the monument is located, wrote in July 2017 that "the monument's designation in 2014 has not created new challenges for us, nor have local trends changed due to the monument."*
- The Department states that the monument restricts motorized access on the border, but U.S. Customs and Border Patrol stated that legislation to create the monument would "significantly enhance the flexibility of U.S. Customs and Border Patrol to operate in this border area."*
- The Department states that the monument presents a drug smuggling risk, but in fact New Mexico State Road 9, located south of the monument and less than a mile north of the international border, sees the vast majority of border crossing traffic because the volcanic terrain and inhospitable conditions of the Potrillo Mountains make travel north through the monument extremely challenging.*

***Grazing and Organ Mountains – Desert Peaks National Monument***

- The Department claims the monument could degrade the ability of ranchers to run cattle, but the Bureau of Land Management, who manages the area, has confirmed there has been no reduction in grazing allotments or access. In addition, the proclamation establishing the monument specifically states that the same laws, regulations, and policies that govern grazing on all BLM lands continue to govern grazing within the monument.*

***National Security and Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument***

- The report suggests the monument might interfere with nearby military*

*installations, but in fact leaders of these installations supported the designation of the monument because it provides a buffer against encroachment by incompatible development. In addition, the proclamation specifically provides that “Nothing in this proclamation shall preclude low level overflights of military aircraft, the designation of new units of special use airspace, or the use or establishment of military flight training routes over the lands reserved by this proclamation.”*

### **Water Resources and Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument**

- *The Department claims that development of groundwater resources in the Mesilla Bolson Aquifer could be hindered by the monument, but the portion of the Mesilla Bolson within the monument boundaries is limited to the volcanic fields of the Potrillo Mountains, where the aquifer is thin and poorly suited to water well drilling. Including this area in the monument will only help wells downstream by protecting a proven natural recharge zone that replenishes the main basin aquifer.*

### **Motorized Access and Rio Grande del Norte National Monument**

- *The Department claims that roads have been closed as a result of the monument, but land managers in the area have confirmed that no roads have been closed in the monument.*

### **Grazing and Rio Grande del Norte National Monument**

- *The Department claims that many grazing permittees have chosen not to renew permits because of monument related restrictions, but the rate of non renewal and transfers of grazing permits has remained consistent before and after the designation of the monument. No permittees have cited the establishment of the monument or its management as a factor in a decision not to renew a grazing permit.*

### **Monument Management Plans**

- *The Department recommends that the monument management plans for both monuments should be revised; however, neither management plan exists yet and are actually delayed due to this process, so there are no plans to revise. The Bureau of Land Management, an agency of the Department, is currently working with the local communities to draft the first management plan for each monument.*

*New Mexicans know that a review based on facts would find that these two monuments have contributed to our state’s economy and protected the traditional way of life in these communities. These monuments were created via a decades long public process with robust public input, which established the current boundaries and provided for clear management language in the*

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*We have heard from our constituents in the past few months who fear the future of their monuments might be determined by people sitting in Washington who have never seen these places and who are unfamiliar with the local communities and their values. The value of these monuments to New Mexico and the nation has been well documented. To make changes to them now with such muddled justification is an insult to the Americans who have dedicated their time, energy, and expertise to see that these resources are protected for future generations.*

*Sincerely,*

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**Contacts:** Whitney Potter (Heinrich) 202.228.1578 / Jennifer Talhelm (Udall) 202.228.6870 / Joe Shoemaker (Luján) 202.225.6190 / Gilbert Gallegos (Lujan Grisham) 505 967 5612

Follow Martin Heinrich on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram:



**To unsubscribe from this mailing list, [click here](#).**

**To:** Alba-Soular, Diana[dalba@lcsun-news.com]  
**From:** Swift, Heather  
**Sent:** 2017-09-27T15:54:31-04:00  
**Importance:** Normal  
**Subject:** Re: Fw: Members Of NM Delegation Outline Widespread Inaccuracies In DOI Monuments Report; Urge White House To Reject Recommendations  
**Received:** 2017-09-27T15:55:18-04:00

In a Congressional hearing.

-

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**To:** David Bernhardt (b) (6) [redacted]@ios.doi.gov]  
**From:** Swift, Heather  
**Sent:** 2017-09-27T16:01:21-04:00  
**Importance:** Normal  
**Subject:** update heinrich  
**Received:** 2017-09-27T16:02:05-04:00

**my new statement**

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**To:** Swift, Heather[heather\_swift@ios.doi.gov]  
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**Subject:** Re: Fw: Members Of NM Delegation Outline Widespread Inaccuracies In DOI Monuments Report; Urge White House To Reject Recommendations  
**Received:** 2017-09-27T16:04:55-04:00

Was it a natural resources committee hearing? What date? Is it online somewhere that you're aware of?

Thanks,

Diana

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Diana Alba Soular

---

**From:** Swift, Heather <[heather\\_swift@ios.doi.gov](mailto:heather_swift@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 27, 2017 1:28 PM  
**To:** Alba-Soular, Diana  
**Cc:** [interior\\_press@ios.doi.gov](mailto:interior_press@ios.doi.gov)  
**Subject:** Re: Fw: Members Of NM Delegation Outline Widespread Inaccuracies In DOI Monuments Report; Urge White House To Reject Recommendations

While Senator Heinrich may not listen to the concerns of ranchers in his state, the Secretary does.

The Department has heard

accounts of roads that have fallen into disrepair and are impassable for the vehicles needed to maintain a cattle operation. Furthermore, the state of New Mexico even stated

that a road on trust lands had been closed as a result of the monument designation.

The Senator has the Secretary's personal phone number and is advised to use it if he has questions for the secretary, rather than badger a Washington-based BLM staffer who was testifying on vegetation management.

I'd also recommend you speak with the Northern New Mexico Stockman's Association on the subject.

-

Heather Swift  
Department of the Interior  
@DOIPressSec  
[Heather\\_Swift@ios.doi.gov](mailto:Heather_Swift@ios.doi.gov) | [Interior\\_Press@ios.doi.gov](mailto:Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov)

On Wed, Sep 27, 2017 at 2:28 PM, Alba-Soular, Diana <[dalba@lcsun-news.com](mailto:dalba@lcsun-news.com)> wrote:

Hello,

I was wondering if the Interior Department would want to respond to the Senators letter and allegations of inaccuracies in the report on Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument.

Thanks,

Diana Alba Soular

Las Cruces Sun-News Reporter

575-541-5443

---

**From:** Martin Heinrich Press Office <[press@heinrich.senate.gov](mailto:press@heinrich.senate.gov)>

**Sent:** Tuesday, September 26, 2017 4:37 PM

**To:** Alba-Soular, Diana

**Subject:** Members Of NM Delegation Outline Widespread Inaccuracies In DOI Monuments Report; Urge White House To Reject Recommendations

**NEWS FROM U.S. SENATOR TOM UDALL  
U.S. SENATOR MARTIN HEINRICH  
U.S. REPRESENTATIVE BEN RAY LUJÁN  
U.S. REPRESENTATIVE MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** September 26, 2017

## **Members Of NM Delegation Outline Widespread Inaccuracies In DOI Monuments Report; Urge White House To Reject Recommendations**

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Sept. 26, 2017) Following questions raised with the Department of Interior's (DOI) report on national monuments, U.S. Senators Tom Udall (D N.M.) and Martin Heinrich (D N.M.), and U.S. Representatives Ben Ray Luján (D N.M.) and Michelle Lujan Grisham (D N.M.) urged the White House to review the accuracy of the claims in the report and reject the recommended changes to national monuments proposed by Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke.

In a letter to White House Chief of Staff John Kelly, the lawmakers expressed their concern in finding a number of factual errors in the rationale for recommended changes to Rio Grande del Norte and Organ Mountains Desert Peaks in New Mexico.

“New Mexicans know that a review based on facts would find that these two

monuments have contributed to our state's economy and protected the traditional way of life in these communities," **the lawmakers wrote.**

The members outlined a number of inaccuracies with the report including claims that roads have been closed in Rio Grande del Norte and claims that Organ Mountains Desert Peaks causes problems for border security enforcement. They also highlighted that DOI recommends revisions to the monument management plans for both monuments, when in fact management plans do not yet exist.

"We urge you to review the accuracy of these and other claims in the report. We hope that the White House will not move forward with any recommendations based on false information," **the lawmakers wrote.** "The public deserves better than predetermined political conclusions based on hearsay and claims that are easily disproven if the Department had taken the time to listen to and work with local communities."

Communities in New Mexico, including Taos, Albuquerque, and Las Cruces, held rallies last week rejecting the proposed changes, demonstrating the strong widespread support both monuments enjoy.

The lawmakers have made the case to Secretary Zinke numerous times in person, during congressional hearings and in writing to respect the wishes of thousands of New Mexicans who cherish the monuments and to honor the local communities who worked for decades to establish permanent protections for Rio Grande del Norte and Organ Mountains Desert Peaks national monuments.

Full text of the letter is [here](#) and below.

*September 26, 2017*

*The Honorable John Kelly  
Chief of Staff  
The White House  
Washington, D.C. 20500*

*Dear General Kelly:*

*We were disheartened by the recent news of the Department of the Interior's recommendations to the President regarding modifications to national monuments, including Rio Grande del Norte and Organ Mountains Desert Peaks in New Mexico. We were concerned that there are several factual errors included in the report's summaries of these two monuments which were used to justify recommended changes. These factual errors relate to several overarching topics:*

***Border Security and Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument***

- The Department claims that Organ Mountains Desert Peaks National*

*Monument causes problems for border security enforcement because the monument shares a border with Mexico, but in fact the monument boundary was established five miles north of the border at the recommendation of the U.S. Customs and Border Patrol. In addition, the sheriffs from Doña Ana and Luna Counties, where the monument is located, wrote in July 2017 that “the monument’s designation in 2014 has not created new challenges for us, nor have local trends changed due to the monument.”*

- *The Department states that the monument restricts motorized access on the border, but U.S. Customs and Border Patrol stated that legislation to create the monument would “significantly enhance the flexibility of U.S. Customs and Border Patrol to operate in this border area.”*
- *The Department states that the monument presents a drug smuggling risk, but in fact New Mexico State Road 9, located south of the monument and less than a mile north of the international border, sees the vast majority of border crossing traffic because the volcanic terrain and inhospitable conditions of the Potrillo Mountains make travel north through the monument extremely challenging.*

### **Grazing and Organ Mountains – Desert Peaks National Monument**

- *The Department claims the monument could degrade the ability of ranchers to run cattle, but the Bureau of Land Management, who manages the area, has confirmed there has been no reduction in grazing allotments or access. In addition, the proclamation establishing the monument specifically states that the same laws, regulations, and policies that govern grazing on all BLM lands continue to govern grazing within the monument.*

### **National Security and Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument**

- *The report suggests the monument might interfere with nearby military installations, but in fact leaders of these installations supported the designation of the monument because it provides a buffer against encroachment by incompatible development. In addition, the proclamation specifically provides that “Nothing in this proclamation shall preclude low level overflights of military aircraft, the designation of new units of special use airspace, or the use or establishment of military flight training routes over the lands reserved by this proclamation.”*

### **Water Resources and Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument**

- *The Department claims that development of groundwater resources in the Mesilla Bolson Aquifer could be hindered by the monument, but the portion of the Mesilla Bolson within the monument boundaries is limited to the volcanic fields of the Potrillo Mountains, where the aquifer is thin and*

*poorly suited to water well drilling. Including this area in the monument will only help wells downstream by protecting a proven natural recharge zone that replenishes the main basin aquifer.*

### ***Motorized Access and Rio Grande del Norte National Monument***

- The Department claims that roads have been closed as a result of the monument, but land managers in the area have confirmed that no roads have been closed in the monument.*

### ***Grazing and Rio Grande del Norte National Monument***

- The Department claims that many grazing permittees have chosen not to renew permits because of monument related restrictions, but the rate of non renewal and transfers of grazing permits has remained consistent before and after the designation of the monument. No permittees have cited the establishment of the monument or its management as a factor in a decision not to renew a grazing permit.*

### ***Monument Management Plans***

- The Department recommends that the monument management plans for both monuments should be revised; however, neither management plan exists yet and are actually delayed due to this process, so there are no plans to revise. The Bureau of Land Management, an agency of the Department, is currently working with the local communities to draft the first management plan for each monument.*

*New Mexicans know that a review based on facts would find that these two monuments have contributed to our state's economy and protected the traditional way of life in these communities. These monuments were created via a decades long public process with robust public input, which established the current boundaries and provided for clear management language in the proclamations to continue important cultural, economic and natural security actions within these areas. We urge you to review the accuracy of these and other claims in the report. We hope that the White House will not move forward with any recommendations based on false information. The public deserves better than predetermined political conclusions based on hearsay and claims that are easily disproven if the Department had taken the time to listen to and work with local communities.*

*We have heard from our constituents in the past few months who fear the future of their monuments might be determined by people sitting in Washington who have never seen these places and who are unfamiliar with the local communities and their values. The value of these monuments to New Mexico and the nation has been well documented. To make changes to them now with such muddled justification is an insult to the Americans who have dedicated their time, energy, and expertise to see that these resources are protected for future generations.*

*Sincerely,*

###

**Contacts:** Whitney Potter (Heinrich) 202.228.1578 / Jennifer Talhelm (Udall) 202.228.6870 / Joe Shoemaker (Luján) 202.225.6190 / Gilbert Gallegos (Lujan Grisham) 505 967 5612

Follow Martin Heinrich on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram:



**To unsubscribe from this mailing list, [click here](#).**

**To:** Swift, Heather[heather\_swift@ios.doi.gov]  
**From:** Boulton, Caroline  
**Sent:** 2017-09-27T16:36:53-04:00  
**Importance:** Normal  
**Subject:** Re: parital list  
**Received:** 2017-09-27T16:37:30-04:00

\*it's actually Independence National Historic Park and Valley Forge National Historic Park fun fact. Sandy Hook is one of the locations that's part of Gateway National Recreation Area; the portion in NY was Fort Wadsworth  
All of Alaska was in May actually, June 1 was the first day in Boise. He also visited the Office of Aviation Services there (DOI related).

In NE in June: He also spoke at NCAI in CT so that's tribal related.

Otherwise, all good!

On Wed, Sep 27, 2017 at 3:44 PM, Swift, Heather <[heather\\_swift@ios.doi.gov](mailto:heather_swift@ios.doi.gov)> wrote:

FYI - Here's a partial but mostly complete list of Z's travels so far if you ever need it. It only includes trips that had a DOI site visit, so like trips with POTUS to Ohio and Atlanta aren't on here.

#### **MARCH**

Montana - Glacier National Park, National Bison Range, Yellowstone National Park, Blackfoot Tribe

US Virgin Islands - the 100th Anniversary of the Transfer of the Virgin Islands to the U.S. from Denmark.  
Interior oversees the territories.

#### **APRIL**

California - Sacramento Regional Office (Directors meeting, all hands meeting and employee QA) Yosemite National Park, Sequoia Kings Canyon National Park, Channel Islands National Park, Golden Gate National Recreation Area, USPP San Francisco

#### **MAY**

Houston - Attended the Offshore Technology Conference where he signed a secretarial order and met with BOEM/BSEE teams

Utah - Bears Ears National Monument, BENM Intertribal Coalition, Grand Staircase Escalante National Monument

Montana - Crow Tribe w/ VP Pence

Arctic Circle - Norway/Greenland/Alaska on a CODEL with Senate Energy Committee

#### **JUNE**

Alaska - Denali National Park, Anchorage Regional Office, Alaska Federation of Natives

Idaho - National Interagency Fire Center in Boise with Sec. Purdue

New England - Meeting with state wildlife agencies (NH), Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument (ME), Penobscot Tribe (ME), Northeast Canyons and Seamounts National Marine Monument, Boston Harbor National Heritage Area (NPS, MA)

**JULY**

Maryland - Antietam National Battlefield

Virginia - Yorktown National Historic Park and Battlefield

Oregon - Cascade Siskiyou National Monument

Denver - Regional Office (Directors meeting, all hands meeting and employee QA), Rocky Mountain National Park

New Mexico - Organ Mountains Desert Peaks National Monument, Sabinoso Wilderness Area

Nevada - (cut short due to cabinet meeting with COS Kelly) Basin and Range National Monument, Red Rocks Canyon National Recreation Area BLM

**AUGUST**

Montana - Visited firefighters on the line with Sec Perdue

Tennessee/North Carolina - Great Smoky Mountains National Park, Blue Ridge Parkway (founders day)

**SEPTEMBER**

Pennsylvania - Shanksville's 9/11 National Memorial monument

NYC - Statue of Liberty & Teddy Roosevelt Birthplace (NPS), Gateway National Recreation Area

Missouri - Wilson Creek National Battlefield

Texas - FEMA Joint Command Center in Austin w/ USGS and USFWS

NJ - Gateway/Sandyhook National Recreation Area

Pennsylvania - Independence National Park, Valley Forge National Battlefield

-

Heather Swift

Department of the Interior

@DOIPressSec

[Heather\\_Swift@ios.doi.gov](mailto:Heather_Swift@ios.doi.gov) | [Interior\\_Press@ios.doi.gov](mailto:Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov)

--

Caroline Boulton

Department of the Interior

Scheduling & Advance

[Caroline\\_Boulton@ios.doi.gov](mailto:Caroline_Boulton@ios.doi.gov) | [Scheduling@ios.doi.gov](mailto:Scheduling@ios.doi.gov)

**To:** Boulton, Caroline[caroline\_boulton@ios.doi.gov]  
**From:** Swift, Heather  
**Sent:** 2017-09-27T16:38:01-04:00  
**Importance:** Normal  
**Subject:** Re: parital list  
**Received:** 2017-09-27T16:38:47-04:00

meh... close enough lol

-

Heather Swift  
Department of the Interior  
@DOIPressSec  
[Heather\\_Swift@ios.doi.gov](mailto:Heather_Swift@ios.doi.gov) | [Interior\\_Press@ios.doi.gov](mailto:Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov)

On Wed, Sep 27, 2017 at 4:36 PM, Boulton, Caroline <[caroline\\_boulton@ios.doi.gov](mailto:caroline_boulton@ios.doi.gov)> wrote:

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-

Heather Swift

Department of the Interior

@DOIPressSec

[Heather\\_Swift@ios.doi.gov](mailto:Heather_Swift@ios.doi.gov) | [Interior\\_Press@ios.doi.gov](mailto:Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov)

--

Caroline Boulton

Department of the Interior

Scheduling & Advance

[Caroline\\_Boulton@ios.doi.gov](mailto:Caroline_Boulton@ios.doi.gov) | [Scheduling@ios.doi.gov](mailto:Scheduling@ios.doi.gov)

**To:** Laura Rigas[laura\_rigas@ios.doi.gov]  
**Cc:** Scott Hommel[scott\_hommel@ios.doi.gov]; Downey Magallanes[downey\_magallanes@ios.doi.gov]; Williams, Timothy[timothy\_williams@ios.doi.gov]; Daniel Jorjani[daniel\_jorjani@ios.doi.gov]; Gary Lawkowski[gary.lawkowski@sol.doi.gov]; Micah Chambers[micah\_chambers@ios.doi.gov]; Heather Swift[heather\_swift@ios.doi.gov]; Russell Newell[russell\_newell@ios.doi.gov]; Cason, Jim[james\_cason@ios.doi.gov]  
**From:** Willens, Todd  
**Sent:** 2017-09-27T16:44:41-04:00  
**Importance:** Normal  
**Subject:** New draft SO ready - Revised Mitigation Order  
**Received:** 2017-09-27T16:45:22-04:00  
DRAFT -- Rescinding Authorities Inconsistent with Secretary's Order 3349, "American Energy Independence" (9-26-17).docx  
Talking Points for Mitigation SO.docx

Laura,

The attached draft SO is ready for transmittal to Exec Sec and then signature by the Dep Sec. That is on hold until I hear from you on the Communication's plan and roll out. No hurry. You pick when and how. Please let me know when you are ready and need me to execute the signature and transmit.

Below are policy based talking points.

Thank you.

-----  
Talking Points for Secretarial Order XXXX "Rescinding Authorities Inconsistent with Secretary's Order 3349, 'American Energy Independence.'"

□ Secretarial Order XXXX follows up on the direction in Secretary's Order 3349, "American Energy Independence," adopted March 29, 2017. Further, this Order continues to implement Executive Order 13783, "Promoting Energy Independence and Economic Growth," signed by the President on March 28, 2017 (Executive Order 13783).

★ Secretary's Order 3349 implements the review of agency actions directed by

Executive Order 13783. Among other provisions, Secretary's Order 3349 revokes Secretary's Order 3330 and directs that all actions taken pursuant to Secretary's Order 3330 be reviewed for possible reconsideration, modification, or rescission, as appropriate.

★ Secretary's Order 3349 further directs each bureau and office to review all existing regulations, orders, guidance documents, policies, instructions, notices, implementing actions, and any other similar action arising from directives described in Executive Order 13783. Further, Secretary's Order 3349 directs to the extent deemed necessary, to initiate a process to suspend, revise, or rescind any such actions. The bureaus and offices have responded to this mandate.

□ Secretarial Order XXXX represents the next step in following up on the President's Executive Order 13783 and the Secretary's Order 3349 by rescinding policies and documents that are based on authorities that have now been revoked by the President and the Secretary.

★ To continue implementing the President's Executive Order 13783 and Secretary's Order 3349, Secretarial Order XXXX rescinds seven former actions. Those actions were implemented in the form of Departmental Manual chapters, Handbooks, Instructional Memorandum, or Interim Guidance documents, which are inconsistent with Executive Order 13783 and Secretary's Order 3349 and/or based on other outdated authorities.

★ Secretarial Order XXXX initiates the process necessary to provide notice and seek public comment on whether the following documents are also inconsistent with Executive Order 13783 and Secretary's Order 3349, based on other outdated authorities, and/or should be rescinded:

○ U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Mitigation Policy, 81 Fed. Reg. 83440, effective November 21, 2016; and

○ U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, "Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Endangered Species Act Compensatory Mitigation Policy," 81 Fed. Reg. 95316, effective December 27, 2016.

Todd Willens  
Assistant Deputy Secretary  
Acting Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street, NW -- MIB Room 6116  
Washington, DC 20240  
office: 202-208-6291

NOTE: Every email I send or receive is subject to release under the Freedom of Information Act.



**To:** Laura Rigas[laura\_rigas@ios.doi.gov]  
**Cc:** Scott Hommel[scott\_hommel@ios.doi.gov]; Downey Magallanes[downey\_magallanes@ios.doi.gov]; Williams, Timothy[timothy\_williams@ios.doi.gov]; Daniel Jorjani[daniel\_jorjani@ios.doi.gov]; Gary Lawkowski[gary.lawkowski@sol.doi.gov]; Micah Chambers[micah\_chambers@ios.doi.gov]; Heather Swift[heather\_swift@ios.doi.gov]; Russell Newell[russell\_newell@ios.doi.gov]; Cason, Jim[james\_cason@ios.doi.gov]  
**From:** Willens, Todd  
**Sent:** 2017-09-27T16:44:41-04:00  
**Importance:** Normal  
**Subject:** New draft SO ready - Revised Mitigation Order  
**Received:** 2017-09-27T16:45:31-04:00  
DRAFT -- Rescinding Authorities Inconsistent with Secretary's Order 3349, "American Energy Independence" (9-26-17).docx  
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Todd Willens  
Assistant Deputy Secretary  
Acting Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street, NW -- MIB Room 6116  
Washington, DC 20240  
office: 202-208-6291

NOTE: Every email I send or receive is subject to release under the Freedom of Information Act.



**To:** Swift, Heather[heather\_swift@ios.doi.gov]  
**From:** Andrea Travnicek  
**Sent:** 2017-09-27T16:44:54-04:00  
**Importance:** Normal  
**Subject:** Re: grants questions  
**Received:** 2017-09-27T16:45:01-04:00

Have you circled up with Cason at all on this? He may have the best overall answers on direction forward and number of grants reviewed overall. And I haven't been told anything on the 20 to be selected unless I missed something? And I have heard some concerns on timelines at the beginning but I think getting more efficient. Always takes an adjustment with a new process.

Sent from my iPhone

On Sep 27, 2017, at 2:32 PM, Swift, Heather <[heather\\_swift@ios.doi.gov](mailto:heather_swift@ios.doi.gov)> wrote:

Hey there, big shots! I have questions about grant review. Can you please help me with the following?

Is it still DoI policy, in keeping with April 12 memo, for all grants and agreements over \$100,000 to be reviewed by DoI leadership?

How many grants and agreement have been reviewed under this policy?

Have any grants or agreements been canceled or modified as a result?

I was told that agencies were advised they could select 20 for approval. Is this correct?

Have you heard concerns about a resulting bottleneck?

Anytime tonight would be great!

If you want to talk it over I'm at (b) (6)

Thanks so much

-

Heather Swift  
Department of the Interior  
@DOIPressSec  
[Heather\\_Swift@ios.doi.gov](mailto:Heather_Swift@ios.doi.gov) | [Interior\\_Press@ios.doi.gov](mailto:Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov)

**To:** Andrea Travnicek[andrea\_travnicek@ios.doi.gov]  
**From:** Swift, Heather  
**Sent:** 2017-09-27T16:55:49-04:00  
**Importance:** Normal  
**Subject:** Re: grants questions  
**Received:** 2017-09-27T16:56:36-04:00

Todd had the same exact things to say on the 20 and the slowing down. There isn't a record of how many or which specifically so I'm just kind of ball parking. Todd said about 1% would probably be accurate.

-

Heather Swift  
Department of the Interior  
[@DOIPressSec](mailto:@DOIPressSec)  
[Heather\\_Swift@ios.doi.gov](mailto:Heather_Swift@ios.doi.gov) | [Interior\\_Press@ios.doi.gov](mailto:Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov)

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Thanks so much

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Heather Swift

Department of the Interior

@DOIPressSec

Heather\_Swift@ios.doi.gov | Interior\_Press@ios.doi.gov

**To:** Debbie Cousins[debbie\_cousins@ios.doi.gov]; Swift, Heather[heather\_swift@ios.doi.gov]  
**From:** Davis, Natalie  
**Sent:** 2017-09-27T16:57:25-04:00  
**Importance:** Normal  
**Subject:** Reserving Room  
**Received:** 2017-09-27T16:57:33-04:00

Hi Debbie,  
Heather Swift, our Press Secretary, was hoping to reserve the room next to the 5th floor conference room for the Secretary to do an interview. This is the room that Mr. Bernhardt used for a couple days before he started for his trainings.

If you could help Heather coordinate the reservations for this room, that would be great!

She is on this email and her number is 208-5338.

Thank you!  
Natalie

--

Natalie Davis  
Special Assistant to the Secretary  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
202.208.4928

**From:** Nachmany, Eli  
**Sent:** 2017-09-27T17:01:20-04:00  
**Importance:** Normal  
**Subject:** \*News Alert\* E&E News: Interior officials ready a big fashion statement  
**Received:** 2017-09-27T17:01:28-04:00

**E&E News: Interior officials ready a big fashion statement**

**Michael Doyle**

**September 27, 2017**

Interior Department officials are now tailoring a lucrative uniform contract to help park rangers and other employees dress for success.

Employee pride, safety and comfort are all on the line. But so is a lot of money. The new uniform contract for eight different agencies could button up the business for the next five years and be worth an estimated \$60 million to the winning vendor.

"Getting new uniforms for field personnel is actually a topic that is frequently brought up," said Interior Department spokeswoman Heather Swift. "The secretary and deputy secretary are both motivated to get this done for the [Interior] team."

The motivation comes from the bottom up. Though seemingly mundane, the new uniform issue has become one of the pressing topics repeatedly cited by career employees on Interior's electronic "ideas box," established about a month ago ([Greenwire](#), Sept. 25).

In a recent departmentwide memo, Deputy Interior Secretary David Bernhardt advised employees, without any hemming or hawing, that "your comments have reinforced the very real need" of updating uniforms.

The current contract is held by VF Imagewear, a company that has likewise supplied uniforms for federal organizations from the Transportation Security Administration to the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

The firm is a subsidiary of VF Corp., a North Carolina-based business that describes itself as the "world's largest apparel company," whose brands include Lee, Wrangler and The North Face. Company spokesman Craig Hodges declined to comment on the work other than to say, "VF Imagewear is in the option year of a five-year plus one-year option" contract.

"I've always had good service from the company," said Yosemite National Park spokesman Scott Gediman, a career Park Service employee. "Everything fits."

Interior officials would not say how many companies submitted bids by the Aug. 28 deadline. The current contract expires Sept. 30, and a selection could be announced within days.

The new contract will cover eight Interior agencies, from the well-known National Park Service to the highly specialized Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement, as well as the Army Corps of Engineers. When all is said and done, some 35,000 uniformed personnel will require new clothing.

"Their duty stations range from extremely cold climates in Alaska, Montana, and North Dakota, to extremely dry and hot climates in the deserts of the southwestern United States, to extremely tropical climates in Florida and the Caribbean," the request for proposal stated.

In the request for proposal issued May 22, and amended several times since, the department spelled out in minute detail what it expects from the next uniform contractor.

The National Park Service, for instance, may need up to 633 brass belt buckles and 1,326 30-inch shoestrings annually. The Fish and Wildlife Service anticipates requiring 900 baseball caps a year. The Bureau of Reclamation calls for 75 flame-resistant khaki work shirts, while the Bureau of Land Management could use 17 women's skirts.

And don't forget plenty of socks. The Park Service alone could use 22,950 unisex hiking socks and 8,619 boot socks annually, according to the request for proposal.

The contractor will also have to balance old and new.

On the one hand, the request for proposal reminds potential vendors that the uniforms must "remain consistent with the most recognizable features and spirit of each [agency's] aesthetic." In other words, nothing too out there.

At the same time, officials say they are seeking "innovative approaches" in areas including moisture wicking, ultraviolet ray blocking, flame retarding and the potential integration of information technology.

"Another important factor will be fit," Swift added. "The current uniforms do not fit women well at all."

The request for proposal specifies that officials will be looking for "true male and female sizing to reflect the diversity of the uniformed workforce." The request notes, for example, 114 pairs of low-heeled pumps for the Park Service and, for BLM, 19 long-sleeved maternity shirts.

--

Sincerely,  
Eli Nachmany  
Writer, U.S. Department of the Interior  
Office of Communications

**To:** Swift, Heather[heather\_swift@ios.doi.gov]; James Cason[james\_cason@ios.doi.gov]  
**Cc:** Katharine Macgregor[katharine\_macgregor@ios.doi.gov]; Andrea Travnicsek[andrea\_travnicsek@ios.doi.gov]  
**From:** Cameron, Scott  
**Sent:** 2017-09-27T17:06:02-04:00  
**Importance:** Normal  
**Subject:** Re: grants questions  
**Received:** 2017-09-27T17:06:39-04:00

Hi Heather,  
Jim Cason has been running the grant review process, so I am copying him to answer your specific questions.

Thanks,  
Scott  
Scott J. Cameron  
Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy, Management and Budget  
Office of the Secretary of the Interior  
Desk 202 208 4242  
Cell 202 706 9031

On Wed, Sep 27, 2017 at 4:31 PM, Swift, Heather <[heather\\_swift@ios.doi.gov](mailto:heather_swift@ios.doi.gov)> wrote:

Hey there, big shots! I have questions about grant review. Can you please help me with the following?

Is it still DoI policy, in keeping with April 12 memo, for all grants and agreements over \$100,000 to be reviewed by DoI leadership?

How many grants and agreement have been reviewed under this policy?

Have any grants or agreements been canceled or modified as a result?

I was told that agencies were advised they could select 20 for approval. Is this correct?

Have you heard concerns about a resulting bottleneck?

Anytime tonight would be great!

If you want to talk it over I'm at (b) (6)

Thanks so much

-

Heather Swift  
Department of the Interior  
@DOIPressSec  
[Heather\\_Swift@ios.doi.gov](mailto:Heather_Swift@ios.doi.gov) | [Interior\\_Press@ios.doi.gov](mailto:Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov)

**To:** Swift, Heather[heather\_swift@ios.doi.gov]  
**From:** Andrea Travnicek  
**Sent:** 2017-09-27T18:03:58-04:00  
**Importance:** Normal  
**Subject:** Re: grants questions  
**Received:** 2017-09-27T18:04:06-04:00

I would say Todds statement on 1% on changes/cancellations would be fair for my hallway since I have been there.

Sent from my iPhone

On Sep 27, 2017, at 2:56 PM, Swift, Heather <[heather\\_swift@ios.doi.gov](mailto:heather_swift@ios.doi.gov)> wrote:

Todd had the same exact things to say on the 20 and the slowing down. There isn't a record of how many or which specifically so I'm just kind of ball parking. Todd said about 1% would probably be accurate.

-

Heather Swift  
Department of the Interior  
@DOIPressSec  
[Heather\\_Swift@ios.doi.gov](mailto:Heather_Swift@ios.doi.gov) | [Interior\\_Press@ios.doi.gov](mailto:Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov)

On Wed, Sep 27, 2017 at 4:44 PM, Andrea Travnicek <[andrea\\_travnicek@ios.doi.gov](mailto:andrea_travnicek@ios.doi.gov)> wrote:

Have you circled up with Cason at all on this? He may have the best overall answers on direction forward and number of grants reviewed overall. And I haven't been told anything on the 20 to be selected unless I missed something? And I have heard some concerns on timelines at the beginning but I think getting more efficient. Always takes an adjustment with a new process.

Sent from my iPhone

On Sep 27, 2017, at 2:32 PM, Swift, Heather <[heather\\_swift@ios.doi.gov](mailto:heather_swift@ios.doi.gov)> wrote:

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Heather Swift

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Heather\_Swift@ios.doi.gov | Interior\_Press@ios.doi.gov

**To:** Ebbs, Stephanie[Stephanie.Ebbs@abc.com]  
**From:** Swift, Heather  
**Sent:** 2017-09-27T18:28:17-04:00  
**Importance:** Normal  
**Subject:** Re: Private flight with EPA  
**Received:** 2017-09-27T18:29:04-04:00

Not aware of this. It was not a Zinke trip.

-

Heather Swift  
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On Wed, Sep 27, 2017 at 6:21 PM, Ebbs, Stephanie <[Stephanie.Ebbs@abc.com](mailto:Stephanie.Ebbs@abc.com)> wrote:

Hey Heather,

Can you tell me any more about this?

<https://twitter.com/juliannagoldman/status/913164411090751488>

Stephanie Ebbs

ABC News-Washington

(desk) 202-222-7300

(cell) 202-875-4377

@stephebbs

**To:** Ebbs, Stephanie[Stephanie.Ebbs@abc.com]  
**From:** Swift, Heather  
**Sent:** 2017-09-27T18:30:41-04:00  
**Importance:** Normal  
**Subject:** Re: Private flight with EPA  
**Received:** 2017-09-27T18:31:28-04:00

Need more details about the trip you're inquiring about.

-

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(cell) 202-875-4377

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**To:** Swift, Heather[heather\_swift@ios.doi.gov]  
**From:** Ebbs, Stephanie  
**Sent:** 2017-09-27T18:31:11-04:00  
**Importance:** Normal  
**Subject:** Re: Private flight with EPA  
**Received:** 2017-09-27T18:31:25-04:00

Thanks. Do you know what the protocol is for why a flight would be interagency if the secretary is not on the trip?

Stephanie Ebbs

ABC News-Washington

(desk) 202-222-7300

(cell) 202-875-4377

@stephebbbs

---

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**Sent:** Wednesday, September 27, 2017 6:28:17 PM  
**To:** Ebbs, Stephanie  
**Subject:** Re: Private flight with EPA

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**To:** Ebbs, Stephanie[Stephanie.Ebbs@abc.com]  
**From:** Swift, Heather  
**Sent:** 2017-09-27T18:32:50-04:00  
**Importance:** Normal  
**Subject:** Re: Private flight with EPA  
**Received:** 2017-09-27T18:33:37-04:00

I would need to know the trip you're asking about in order to try to track down protocol. Date? Bureaus? Destination? Anything?

-

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Department of the Interior  
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**To:** Swift, Heather[heather\_swift@ios.doi.gov]  
**From:** Ebbs, Stephanie  
**Sent:** 2017-09-27T18:36:10-04:00  
**Importance:** Normal  
**Subject:** Re: Private flight with EPA  
**Received:** 2017-09-27T18:36:53-04:00

It was a trip to Oklahoma, July 27. I don't know much more than what CBS is reporting at this point so it's kind of unclear

Stephanie Ebbs

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**To:** Davis, Natalie[natalie\_davis@ios.doi.gov]  
**Cc:** Swift, Heather[heather\_swift@ios.doi.gov]  
**From:** Debbie Cousins  
**Sent:** 2017-09-27T18:38:18-04:00  
**Importance:** Normal  
**Subject:** Re: Reserving Room  
**Received:** 2017-09-27T18:38:26-04:00

Hello,

That room is our office space so we don't need to reserve, if you need special equipment set up let me know when you need this done and I can get telecommunications to assist you.

Sent from my iPhone

> On Sep 27, 2017, at 4:57 PM, Davis, Natalie <natalie\_davis@ios.doi.gov> wrote:  
>  
> Hi Debbie,  
>  
> Heather Swift, our Press Secretary, was hoping to reserve the room next to the 5th floor conference room for the Secretary to do an interview. This is the room that Mr. Bernhardt used for a couple days before he started for his trainings.  
>  
> If you could help Heather coordinate the reservations for this room, that would be great!  
>  
> She is on this email and her number is 208-5338.  
>  
> Thank you!  
> Natalie  
>  
> --  
> Natalie Davis  
> Special Assistant to the Secretary  
> U.S. Department of the Interior  
> 202.208.4928  
>  
>  
>

**To:** Debbie Cousins[debbie\_cousins@ios.doi.gov]  
**Cc:** Davis, Natalie[natalie\_davis@ios.doi.gov]  
**From:** Swift, Heather  
**Sent:** 2017-09-27T18:40:29-04:00  
**Importance:** Normal  
**Subject:** Re: Reserving Room  
**Received:** 2017-09-27T18:41:15-04:00

Great! Thank you, Debbie. I will have the film crew come in around 8AM that morning to set up all their stuff. I'll probably be down the night before to set up flags and some of Zinke's personal items to make it look more used.

-

Heather Swift  
Department of the Interior  
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> Special Assistant to the Secretary  
> U.S. Department of the Interior

> 202.208.4928

>

>

>

**To:** Swift, Heather[heather\_swift@ios.doi.gov]  
**Cc:** Davis, Natalie[natalie\_davis@ios.doi.gov]  
**From:** Debbie Cousins  
**Sent:** 2017-09-27T18:44:14-04:00  
**Importance:** Normal  
**Subject:** Re: Reserving Room  
**Received:** 2017-09-27T18:44:29-04:00

Ok and we're talking about the office in the cut several doors down from the kitchen with the wood paneling and a desk sitting in the middle of the room?

Sent from my iPhone

On Sep 27, 2017, at 6:41 PM, Swift, Heather <[heather\\_swift@ios.doi.gov](mailto:heather_swift@ios.doi.gov)> wrote:

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**To:** Swift, Heather[heather\_swift@ios.doi.gov]  
**From:** Ebbs, Stephanie  
**Sent:** 2017-09-27T18:52:37-04:00  
**Importance:** Normal  
**Subject:** Re: Private flight with EPA  
**Received:** 2017-09-27T18:53:04-04:00

It looks like EPA paid for the flight from Tulsa airport to Guymon Municipal airport. EPA says the administrator was meeting with a representative of the Irrigators association and some state officials. I'm just not sure how these interagency agreements work and why Interior would have been involved, it doesn't look like there was anyone from Interior on the trip

Stephanie Ebbs

ABC News-Washington

(desk) 202-222-7300

(cell) 202-875-4377

@stephebbs

---

**From:** Ebbs, Stephanie  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 27, 2017 6:36:10 PM  
**To:** Swift, Heather  
**Subject:** Re: Private flight with EPA

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**To:** Ebbs, Stephanie

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**To:** heather\_swift@ios.doi.gov[heather\_swift@ios.doi.gov]  
**Cc:** scott\_hommel@ios.doi.gov[scott\_hommel@ios.doi.gov];  
(b) (6) ios.doi.gov[(b) (6) ios.doi.gov];  
james\_cason@ios.doi.gov[james\_cason@ios.doi.gov];  
russell\_newell@ios.doi.gov[russell\_newell@ios.doi.gov]  
**From:** Scott Cameron  
**Sent:** 2017-09-27T19:04:05-04:00  
**Importance:** Normal  
**Subject:** Urban Waters Partnership just won Sammies award tonight  
**Received:** 2017-09-27T19:04:13-04:00

DOI is part of this award-winning interagency team, led by EPA. I understand we have a press release in process on this but perhaps it is Secretarial tweet worthy as well, in case you haven't already thought of that.

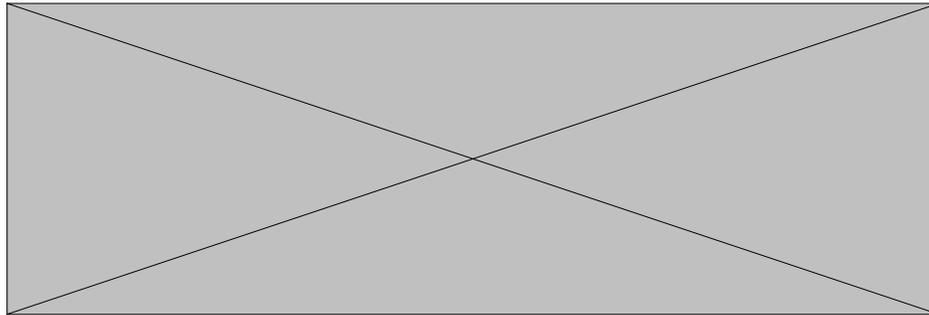
Just a thought.  
Thanks,  
Scott  
Scott J. Cameron  
Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary  
Policy, Management and Budget  
Department of the Interior

Cell 202-706-9031  
Desk 292-208-4242

Sent from my iPhone

**To:** Scott Cameron[scott\_cameron@ios.doi.gov]  
**Cc:** Heather Swift[heather\_swift@ios.doi.gov]; Scott Hommel[scott\_hommel@ios.doi.gov]; David Bernhardt (b) (6) [redacted]@ios.doi.gov; Cason, James[james\_cason@ios.doi.gov]  
**From:** Newell, Russell  
**Sent:** 2017-09-27T19:18:44-04:00  
**Importance:** Normal  
**Subject:** Re: Urban Waters Partnership just won Sammies award tonight  
**Received:** 2017-09-27T19:18:46-04:00

thank you Scott- and just fyi, below is the release that will go out tomorrow morning on this.



Date: September 28, 2017  
Contact: [Interior\\_Press@ios.doi.gov](mailto:Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov)

## Urban Waters Team Wins "People's Choice" Public Service Award

**WASHINGTON** – The Urban Waters Federal Partnership, an interagency group in which the Department of the Interior is one of the leaders, has won the "People's Choice" award in the Service to America Medals. The nonprofit, nonpartisan Partnership for Public Service announced the award on September 27 at its annual gala popularly dubbed the "Oscars of Government Service."

Out of 430 nominees, the Urban Waters Team was chosen by popular vote for making “the most admirable contribution to the American people.” The team works through public-private partnerships to clean up and revitalize urban waterways and surrounding lands.

"Congratulations to the Urban Waters Team," said **Andrea Travnicek, Acting Assistant Secretary for Water and Science**. "Their work helped spur economic development, identifying opportunities for restoration in American communities along important urban waterways."

The team was created and led by Surabhi Shah of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and includes the departments of Agriculture, Interior, Housing and Urban Development and 10 other federal agencies. The Urban Waters Federal Partnership aims to help heavily polluted American urban waterways, as well as the lands surrounding them that suffer from environmental degradation.

Four Interior bureaus -- the U.S. Geological Survey, National Park Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and Bureau of Reclamation -- have more than 50 staff working in 19 Urban Waters locations. Projects in these cities have included restoring urban wetlands; building trails, parks, and green space; reducing storm water flow into rivers and streams; and increasing urban habitat.

Employees from Interior and other federal agencies are teaming up with local and state agencies, businesses, nonprofits and philanthropies to clean up pollution; spur redevelopment of abandoned properties; promote new businesses; and provide parks and access for boating, swimming, fishing and community gatherings.

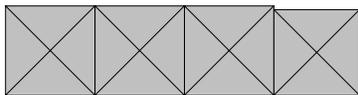
One example of a place in which Interior has served as a leader is the Los Angeles River Urban Waters Partnership. The National Park Service and its partners are raising the profile of river restoration in the densely populated downtown Los Angeles. Last summer NPS worked with American Forests and CBS/Ecomedia to host a volunteer tree and shrub planting at a park next to the river, working toward the goal of a greener LA river. Los Angeles Urban Waters is helping raise the profile of river restoration and serving as a much-needed portal for federal and non-federal institutions to coordinate public and private sector restoration efforts.

"The Urban Waters Federal Partnership has provided a foundation for all 14 federal agencies to work across silos, and leverage resources and expertise," **said Lisa Pelstring, leader of the Interior team and urban policy advisor at the department.** "We recognize that by working together, we can accomplish so much more—restoration, recreation, and economic development—in cities where it's already expensive to operate and difficult to make things happen."

This leveraging of resources has enabled the Urban Waters Partnership to be active nationwide through grants coordinated by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. It has improved more than 22,000 acres of land, planted more than 80,000 trees and engaged an estimated 100,000 community members.

For more information, please see the [Partnership for Public Service website](#).

###



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Russell Newell  
Deputy Director of Communications  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
(202) 208 6232  
@Interior

On Wed, Sep 27, 2017 at 7:04 PM, Scott Cameron <[scott\\_cameron@ios.doi.gov](mailto:scott_cameron@ios.doi.gov)> wrote:

DOI is part of this award-winning interagency team, led by EPA. I understand we have a press release in process on this but perhaps it is Secretarial tweet worthy as well, in case you haven't already thought of that.

Just a thought.

Thanks,

Scott

Scott J. Cameron

Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary

Policy, Management and Budget

Department of the Interior

Cell 202-706-9031

Desk 292-208-4242

Sent from my iPhone

**To:** Ebbs, Stephanie[Stephanie.Ebbs@abc.com]  
**From:** Swift, Heather  
**Sent:** 2017-09-27T19:21:57-04:00  
**Importance:** Normal  
**Subject:** Re: Private flight with EPA  
**Received:** 2017-09-27T19:22:44-04:00

NOT for the record.

DOI has the Office of Aviation Services but the folks who work there have all gone home for the day so I won't have an answer about protocol for you until the morning. It's my understanding that OAS has a longstanding agreement with other Federal agencies for aviation needs.

-

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Department of the Interior  
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[Heather\\_Swift@ios.doi.gov](mailto:Heather_Swift@ios.doi.gov) | [Interior\\_Press@ios.doi.gov](mailto:Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov)

On Wed, Sep 27, 2017 at 6:52 PM, Ebbs, Stephanie <[Stephanie.Ebbs@abc.com](mailto:Stephanie.Ebbs@abc.com)> wrote:

It looks like EPA paid for the flight from Tulsa airport to Guymon Municipal airport. EPA says the administrator was meeting with a representative of the Irrigators association and some state officials. I'm just not sure how these interagency agreements work and why Interior would have been involved, it doesn't look like there was anyone from Interior on the trip

Stephanie Ebbs

ABC News-Washington

(desk) 202-222-7300

(cell) 202-875-4377

@stephebbbs

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**From:** Ebbs, Stephanie  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 27, 2017 6:36:10 PM  
**To:** Swift, Heather  
**Subject:** Re: Private flight with EPA

It was a trip to Oklahoma, July 27. I don't know much more than what CBS is reporting at this point so it's kind of unclear

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**Sent:** Wednesday, September 27, 2017 6:32:50 PM  
**To:** Ebbs, Stephanie  
**Subject:** Re: Private flight with EPA

I would need to know the trip you're asking about in order to try to track down protocol. Date? Bureaus? Destination? Anything?

-

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**Sent:** Wednesday, September 27, 2017 6:28:17 PM  
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Not aware of this. It was not a Zinke trip.

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**To:** Swift, Heather[heather\_swift@ios.doi.gov]  
**From:** Ebbs, Stephanie  
**Sent:** 2017-09-27T19:28:08-04:00  
**Importance:** Normal  
**Subject:** Re: Private flight with EPA  
**Received:** 2017-09-27T19:28:32-04:00

Got it. Please let me know if you find out anything more in the morning

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**From:** Swift, Heather <heather\_swift@ios.doi.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 27, 2017 7:21:57 PM  
**To:** Ebbs, Stephanie  
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**To:** Newell, Russell[russell\_newell@ios.doi.gov]  
**Cc:** Heather Swift[heather\_swift@ios.doi.gov]; Scott Hommel[scott\_hommel@ios.doi.gov]; David Bernhardt (b) (6) [redacted]@ios.doi.gov; Cason, James[james\_cason@ios.doi.gov]  
**From:** Scott Cameron  
**Sent:** 2017-09-27T19:28:27-04:00  
**Importance:** Normal  
**Subject:** Re: Urban Waters Partnership just won Sammies award tonight  
**Received:** 2017-09-27T19:28:35-04:00

Russell,  
Have you considered making the quote from the Secretary instead of from Andrea?

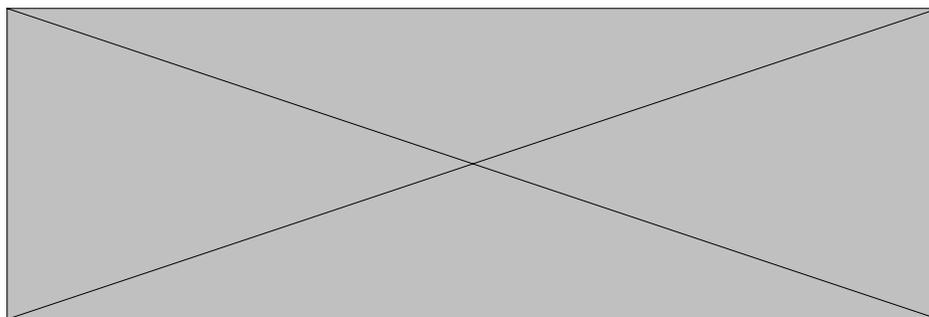
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Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary  
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Department of the Interior

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Sent from my iPhone

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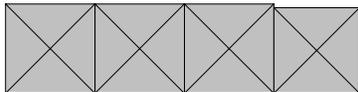
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Department of the Interior

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Sent from my iPhone

**To:** heather\_swift@ios.doi.gov[heather\_swift@ios.doi.gov]  
**From:** POLITICO Pro Energy  
**Sent:** 2017-09-28T05:42:29-04:00  
**Importance:** Normal  
**Subject:** Morning Energy, presented by the U.S. Chamber's Global Energy Institute: More Pruitt non-commercial travel emerges — Trump biofuel moves spook backers — Zinke abandons planned mining industry address  
**Received:** 2017-09-28T05:42:48-04:00

By Anthony Adragna | 09/28/2017 05:40 AM EDT

*With help from Esther Whieldon and Ben Lefebvre*

**NOT FLYING SOLO:** EPA chartered a plane for Administrator Scott Pruitt to visit the Gold King mine because he otherwise would not have been able to travel with a member of his security detail, according to documents obtained by ME. EPA officials have said Pruitt had to take the charter flight from Denver to Durango, Colo., because his commercial flight had been delayed and no other arrangements were available. However, Pruitt apparently could have taken another commercial flight or caught a ride with Gov. John Hickenlooper on a state-owned plane, but neither option would have allowed Pruitt to be accompanied by a member of his around-the-clock security detail. Instead, EPA booked a charter plane, which cost taxpayers more than \$5,000.

"**While there was one potential alternative identified** that had only one seat available (and the airline may have gone as far as to reserve that seat in case we determined it would meet the travel needs requirements), [chief of staff Ryan Jackson]'s understanding from the security detail was that there was not any additional seat for a Special Agent to accompany the Administrator and, therefore, that flight did not meet the travel and security needs," wrote Kevin Minoli, EPA's acting general counsel, in an Aug. 4 detailing his decision to approve the commercial travel. "Similarly, there was only one seat available on the plane with the Governor, so without the Governor removing someone else from the trip that was not an option either." The email was included with an Aug. 24 memo from Minoli formally authorizing the flight, [copies](#) of which EPA shared with ME.

EPA has spent at least \$58,000 for Pruitt and his entourage to fly on private or government-owned planes this year, according to reports in the [Washington Post](#) and [CBS News](#) Wednesday, citing records provided to Sen. [Sheldon Whitehouse](#). The Washington Post also noted that Pruitt "flies either in business or first class when those seats are available on commercial flights. Multiple EPA travel documents state that Pruitt 'is entitled to business class accommodation due to security concerns.'" His non-commercial flights also included:

—An early June flight from Cincinnati to New York on an Air Force plane so he could make his flight to an international energy ministers meeting in Italy. That trip cost \$36,068.50. Approval [here](#).

—A July 27 trip on an Interior plane from Tulsa to the tiny outpost of Guymon, Okla. to discuss water regulations with farmers that cost \$14,434.50. The agency argued "time constraints" prevented Pruitt from making the five-hour drive. Approval [here](#).

—An Aug. 9 trip on North Dakota's state aircraft so Pruitt could participate in a roundtable at the University of North Dakota's Environmental Research Center at a cost of \$2,144.40.

**Any other non-commercial flights?** "This is it," a spokesman told ME on Wednesday, adding he believed Pruitt had only flown by helicopter once to survey hurricane damage.

**Expanded IG probe sought:** Three senior House Energy and Commerce Democrats — [Frank Pallone](#), [Diana DeGette](#) and [Paul Tonko](#) — asked EPA's inspector general to expand its ongoing probe into Pruitt's travel habits to include his use of private and military aircraft. Letter [here](#).

**REMINDER:** President Donald Trump suggested Wednesday he might fire HHS Secretary Tom Price for [spending \\$300,000 on private flights](#). This isn't going away.

**WELCOME TO THURSDAY!** I'm your host Anthony Adragna, and API's Khary Cauthen was first up to identify Charlton Heston as the actor-turned-NRA president. For today: Which NBA Hall-of-Fame center endorsed Richard Nixon in the 1968 presidential election? Send your tips, energy gossip and comments to [adragna@politico.com](mailto:adragna@politico.com), or follow us on Twitter [@AnthonyAdragna](#), [@Morning\\_Energy](#) and [@POLITICOPro](#).

**GUIDE TO TAX REFORM — Easily understand and explain tax reform.** Tax reform is complicated, to say the least. Download POLITICO Pro's Guide to Tax Reform and become an expert. Includes six tax-related infographics. [GET YOUR GUIDE TO TAX REFORM](#).

**MEXICO, U.S. SIGN NEW WATER DEAL:** Officials with the U.S. and Mexico announced an agreement at a Santa Fe, N.M. water conference to help preserve the Colorado River, the Associated Press [reports](#). Under the agreement, the U.S. will spend \$31.5 million in water conservation projects in Mexico and any water saved would then be split between the two countries and environmental projects. Pro's Annie Snider took [an in-depth look](#) at the backstory and negotiations last November. The river supplies water to about 40 million people and 6,300 square miles of farmland in the U.S. alone.

**BIOFUEL BACKERS FEAR TRUMP BETRAYAL:** Biofuels producers and their farm-state backers in Congress fear the Trump administration is wavering in its commitment to Renewable Fuel Standard, Pro's Eric Wolff reports. Sen. [Joni Ernst](#) on Wednesday slammed EPA's [notice](#) seeking input on whether to reduce the already set 2018 biomass-based biodiesel requirement and shrink the mandate in 2019. In [a letter](#) to Trump, Ernst said she hoped "that your EPA has not forgotten about the pledges that were made to my constituents and to farmers across the country." More from Eric [here](#).

**What's more,** EPA is considering a policy shift within the next few months that would allow all domestically produced biofuel to count toward annual biofuel compliance quotas, Bloomberg [reports](#), citing people familiar with the discussions. That would lower costs for refiners but come at the expense of corn farmers.

**CLIMATE NOW CONSIDERED IN PIPELINE CASE:** FERC [announced](#) Wednesday it added a [new 5-page analysis](#) of the Southeast Market Pipelines Project to ensure it complied with a federal court's requirement that it include an assessment of greenhouse gas emissions from the Florida power plants that may use the fuel, Pro's Darius Dixon [reports](#). FERC has until Oct.

6 to decide whether it will appeal the D.C. Circuit's Aug. 22 ruling, though the move to issue a supplemental EIS on greenhouse gas emissions suggests an appeal is less likely. The analysis found that the pipeline would increase Florida's annual greenhouse gas emissions between 3.7 percent and 9.7 percent compared to 2014 levels for the state.

**MIXED SIGNALS ON JONES ACT WAIVER:** Several House Democrats introduced legislation Wednesday permitting Jones Act waivers for humanitarian relief. That came after Trump said he was "thinking about" granting a waiver to help deliver fuel and other goods to Puerto Rico, but noted "we have a lot of shippers and a lot of people and a lot of people who work in the shipping industry that don't want the Jones Act lifted." DHS previously said it was unlikely to grant the request, arguing the problem wasn't the number of ships with supplies but the lack of delivery logistics on the island.

**Status update:** All of Puerto Rico remained without electricity and 44 percent of the island's residents still lacked drinking water, according to status reports. "Right now we are in emergency mode," Gov. Ricardo Rosselló told CNN on Wednesday. "Our focus is not necessarily restoring energy. The energy grid has been destroyed. ... And we need to rebuild it. That does not get rebuilt in days."

**IN OTHER PRUITT NEWS:** His agency has threatened to cut off support for a program within Justice Department's Environment and Natural Resources Division that reimburses DOJ for Superfund litigation seeking to force polluting entities to pay to clean up toxic contamination they caused, The New York Times reports, citing budget documents. EPA payments accounted for 27 percent of the division's budget — amounting to \$810 million — between 1987 and 2016.

**ENERGY GROUPS WEIGH IN ON TAX PLAN:** The oil and gas industry are among the early fans of the Republican tax proposal released Wednesday, Pro's Eric Wolff reports. One principle in the plan, allowing companies to fully expense their spending, is of particular interest to the sector, which says it pours an average of \$232 billion a year in capital expenditures in the U.S. "The right pro-growth tax policies can accelerate these economic investments and create more jobs while keeping energy affordable for consumers," American Petroleum Institute President Jack Gerard said.

**Utility and renewables industries are withholding their verdicts for now.** The Edison Electric Institute is concerned about the potential loss of the interest tax deduction. "For us, the interest deduction is how we raise capital," Eric Grey, EEI's director of government affairs, told Eric. "Our companies are in the debt and equity markets every single day trying to build the necessary financing for the large [capital expenditure] we do." The Solar Energy Industries Association and the American Wind Energy Association both said they were still studying the proposal.

**\*\* A message from the U.S. Chamber's Global Energy Institute:** Energy security is a top priority. For decades, we lacked a tool to measure our progress and assess the impact of policy decisions. Our *Index of Energy Security Risk* changed all that and gives us an objective, quantitative way to track it. See our Index here: <http://bit.ly/2xGeOvL> \*\*

**PENCILS DOWN ON WOTUS REPEAL:** More than 190,000 comments had already

flooded the government's inboxes on the last day to submit comments on the Trump administration's proposal to replace the Obama-era Waters of the U.S. rule with an earlier version while EPA and the Army Corps of Engineers write a new one. Everyone seems to have stuck to well-worn talking points, but a couple of highlights here:

—**Agricultural groups:** They argued in separate letters the Obama-era EPA regulation "ignores the limits and structure that Congress put in place" for the Clean Water Act and urge the agencies to "move quickly" on a new regulation after rescinding the 2015 version.

—**Environmental groups:** The Southern Environmental Law Center, on behalf of dozens of other groups, vehemently opposed the proposal and said reviving "an under-protective, case-by-case regime would result in renewed uncertainty and an unlawful abdication of the agencies' responsibility for protecting clean water." The Natural Resources Defense Council said in its own comments the proposal represents "woefully misguided and unlawful environmental policy" without adequate public input opportunities.

—**Senate EPW Republicans:** Lawmakers commended the administration for pulling the earlier rule, which they said in a letter stemmed from "the erroneous premise that federal jurisdiction over water is whatever the federal wants it to be" and unlikely to survive legal challenges. They asked for a new regulation that "respects the intent of Congress" ASAP.

**GREENS GIVE GREEN:** The League of Conservation Voters Action Fund, NRDC Action Fund PAC and NextGen America today are announcing they've raised or contributed \$3 million to state and federal candidates so far the 2017-2018 cycle. The groups hit the mark after a 48-hour fundraising push, GreenStorm, meant to boost priority candidates like New Jersey's Phil Murphy, Virginia's Ralph Northam and Oregon Gov. Kate Brown.

**SECRETARIES IN PENNSYLVANIA — PERRY VISITING COAL COMPANY:** Energy Secretary Rick Perry, along with Rep. Lou Barletta, visits the Jeddo Coal Mine in Wilkes-Barre, Pa. today at 1 p.m. He'll view rare earth elements extraction site, take questions from employees and observe anthracite mining operations.

**About two hours away,** Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke visits the Valley Forge National Historic Park in King of Prussia for an update on the park and to visit with National Park Service employees.

**ZINKE WON'T SPEAK TO MINING GROUP:** Zinke dropped out of addressing the National Mining Association's annual fall meeting at the Trump Hotel next week, the group tells ME. "He was scheduled, but is not speaking now," NMA spokesman Luke Popovich said. "He will not be attending." NMA did not give the reason for the cancellation, and Interior did not respond to questions. The meeting, first reported in The Intercept, drew criticism for NMA money flowing into a business of which Trump is still a majority owner. Zinke has also come under fire from public watchdog Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington for addressing the American Petroleum Institute at the hotel and conducting at least one lunch there.

**INTERIOR TO SEEK COMMENT ON SAGE GROUSE PLANS:** The Interior Department could as early as today issue a request for public comment on potential changes to how it manages sage grouse populations in the West, including to make it easier for fossil fuel development and livestock grazing, according to sources familiar with the situation. Zinke in

August ordered staff to move forward on internal staff recommendations to change BLM's land-use conservation plans for the bird, revise guidelines for fossil fuel leases and allow states to set population targets.

**EPW NOMINATION HEARING SET FOR OCT. 4:** The Senate EPW Committee plans to hold a confirmation hearing for four EPA and one NRC nomination on Oct. 4, your ME host [reports](#). For EPA, lawmakers will consider the selections of Matthew Leopold to be general counsel, William Wehrum to run the air office, Michael Dourson to run the Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention and David Ross to run the water office. They'll also consider Jeff Baran's renomination to the NRC.

**MAIL CALL! E&C LEADERS ASK GAO TO PROBE DOE CONTRACTORS:** Eight bipartisan Energy and Commerce Committee members asked GAO in a Wednesday [letter](#) to examine so-called data calls from DOE contractors, requests for various information from the contractors running the national labs and performing other projects for the agency.

**CBD SEEKS RECORDS ON BLM DECISION LINKED TO CADIZ:** The Center for Biological Diversity has filed a public records request with the Interior to figure out why the agency earlier this month reversed a legal interpretation it made under the Obama administration that would have required Cadiz Inc. to go through an environmental review process to use a railroad right of way for its controversial water pipeline in California. Interior's second in command, David Bernhardt, was a lobbyist for Cadiz before joining the agency but an Interior spokesman in an emailed statement said Bernhardt was not involved in the decision to revoke the legal finding.

**COAL ASH DEBATE, DELAYED:** Arguments over EPA's 2015 coal ash rule will now take place on Nov. 20 rather than Oct. 17 after the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals granted a [one-month delay](#), Pro's Alex Guillén [reports](#).

**GINA SPEAKS OUT!** If you happen to be anywhere near Columbia Law School tonight in New York, former EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy delivers what's sure to be an interesting lecture entitled "The President and Future of EPA." Details [here](#).

**TAKE A GLANCE!** The American Bar Association and the Environmental Law Institute released a primer Wednesday on the Trump administration's environmental actions since January. Read it [here](#).

**I'M ALL FERC-AKE:** Commissioners Cheryl LaFleur and Robert Powelson served up some mighty tasty looking cake in honor of FERC's 40th anniversary. [Pic](#).

**MOVER, SHAKER:** Former U.S. Ambassador Laura Holgate is joining Third Way as a non-resident expert focusing on the intersection of climate change, advanced nuclear energy, and security. She was previously U.S. representative to the Vienna Offices of the United Nations and International Atomic Energy Agency.

## QUICK HITS

— Maryland sues EPA over interstate air pollution. [Baltimore Sun](#).

- Pennsylvania not fully capitalizing on its Marcellus shale, energy economic potential, energy leaders say. [Trib Live](#).
- Blackstone, Apollo team up for Westinghouse bid - sources. [Reuters](#).
- Pollution could increase as Rauner EPA moves to rescue coal plants. [Chicago Tribune](#).
- National parks struggle with overcrowding. [New York Times](#).
- Weather extremes, fossil fuel pollution cost US \$240 billion: study. [Reuters](#).
- 1 dead, 1 hurt in rockfall at Yosemite National Park's El Capitan. [Los Angeles Times](#).
- Worker exposed to potential unsafe dose of radiation at federal lab. [Washington Post](#).

### **HAPPENING TODAY**

9:30 a.m. — "[The Great American Eclipse: To Totality and Beyond](#)," House Science Space and Research and Technology subcommittees, Rayburn 2318

9:30 a.m. — "[Rural Development and Energy Programs: Perspectives for the 2018 Farm Bill](#)," Senate Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Committee, Hart 216

12:30 p.m. — Rep. Jimmy Gomez, concerned community members and activists discuss their Clean Buses for Healthy Niños campaign, Rayburn 2203

4:00 p.m. — International Trade Administration holds a meeting by teleconference of the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Advisory Committee, RSVP:

[Victoria.Gunderson@trade.gov](mailto:Victoria.Gunderson@trade.gov)

### **THAT'S ALL FOR ME!**

**\*\*A message from the U.S. Chamber's Global Energy Institute:** Pipelines Power America. America has over 2.6 million miles of pipelines that safely deliver natural gas and petroleum products throughout our nation. It would take over 750 tanker trucks a day to transport the same amount of energy as a single pipeline. While our analysis shows that certain regions like the Northeast face a critical lack of pipeline infrastructure that is contributing to higher prices and negative economic impacts, pipeline projects are under attack across the nation. It's time to end delays and allow for energy that is essential for our daily lives to move around our nation. Find out more about how Pipelines Power America here: <http://bit.ly/2wG6Ij9> \*\*

*To view online:*

<https://www.politicopro.com/tipsheets/morning-energy/2017/09/more-pruitt-non-commercial-travel-emerges-024806>

### **Stories from POLITICO Pro**

**Price traveled by private plane at least 24 times** [Back](#)

By Rachana Pradhan and Dan Diamond | 09/21/2017 05:58 PM EDT

Health and Human Services Secretary Tom Price has taken at least 24 flights on private charter planes at taxpayers' expense since early May, according to people with knowledge of his travel plans and a review of HHS documents.

The frequency of the trips underscores how private travel has become the norm — rather than the exception — for the Georgia Republican during his tenure atop the federal health agency, which began in February. The cost of the trips identified by POLITICO exceeds \$300,000, according to a review of federal contracts and similar trip itineraries.

Price's use of private jets represents a sharp departure from his two immediate predecessors, Sylvia Mathews Burwell and Kathleen Sebelius, who flew commercially in the continental United States. HHS officials have said Price uses private jets only when commercial travel is not feasible.

But many of the flights are between large cities with frequent, low-cost airline traffic, such as a trip from Washington to Nashville that the secretary took on June 6 to make a morning event at a medication distributor and an afternoon speech. There are four regular nonstop flights that leave Washington-area airports between 6:59 a.m. and 8:50 a.m. and arrive in Nashville by 9:46 a.m. CT. Sample round-trip fares for those flights were as low as \$202, when booked in advance on Orbitz.com. Price's charter, according to HHS' contract with Classic Air Charter, cost \$17,760.

HHS spokespeople did not respond to questions about specific aspects of Price's travels, including how many charter trips he has taken. Charmaine Yoest, the agency's top spokesperson, said Price's travel for official business "comes from the HHS budget."

In a statement, Yoest said, "The Secretary has taken commercial flights for official business after his confirmation. He has used charter aircraft for official business in order to accommodate his demanding schedule. The week of September 13 was one of those times, as the Secretary was directing the recovery effort for Irma, which had just devastated Florida, while simultaneously directing the ongoing recovery for Hurricane Harvey . . . Some believe the HHS Secretary should be Washington-focused. Dr. Price is focused on hearing from Americans across the country."

Nonetheless, POLITICO identified at least 17 charter flights that took place before the first storm — Hurricane Harvey — hit in late August, and included flights that did not appear to be for urgent HHS public health priorities.

For example, Price took a Learjet-60 from San Diego to the Aspen Ideas Festival — a glamorous conference at the Colorado resort town — that arrived at 3:33 p.m. on Saturday afternoon, June 24, nearly 19 hours before his scheduled panel. That flight likely cost more than \$7,100, according to one charter jet agency estimate.

"If you're going to a conference, you have some [advance] flexibility to book travel" and shouldn't need last-minute charters, said Walter Shaub, who was the Barack Obama-appointed director of the United States Office of Government Ethics until July. "This shows a complete disregard for the expense to the taxpayer."

Since being confirmed in early February, Price has developed a reputation inside the agency for flying on private charters rather than taking other means of transportation, people inside and outside the Trump administration said.

After a POLITICO investigation identified five private flights that Price took up and down the East Coast last week, Price took a charter jet to Oklahoma on Tuesday of this week, Sept. 19, where he met with Native American tribes and toured health care facilities by car — although HHS initially explored flying him by charter around the state, two people with knowledge of Price's travels said. "There was a push from political [staff] at HHS to fly him and not drive him to these small communities," said one of the people.

Price's staff cut short his news conference in Oklahoma on Wednesday when reporters raised questions about his use of taxpayer funds, an attendee said.

Price's frequent trips around the country have rankled staff inside the White House, with a senior official saying many trips aren't related to priorities like Obamacare repeal and other items on the president's agenda. While Price has flown to Maine, New Hampshire, Oklahoma and Pennsylvania since last Wednesday, President Donald Trump and Senate Republicans have been frantically rallying support to pass an Obamacare repeal bill by Sept. 30. After that date, the GOP will need 60 Senate votes, not 50, to overturn the 2010 health law.

"No one is quite sure what [Price] is doing," a senior White House official said. "You look at this week, we're doing a last final push trying to get this over the finish line, and he's nowhere to be found."

Many of Price's trips have centered on making announcements related to the use of opioids and holding listening sessions about the epidemic, which Trump labeled a national emergency and continues to contribute to rising death rates from drug abuse. Price has labeled fighting the opioid epidemic one of his top priorities.

But rather than fly commercially to these events, which are scheduled well in advance, Price tends to rent corporate-style jets. Sometimes, he ferries big-name guests along with him. In May, Price and Kellyanne Conway — the White House counselor and former Trump campaign manager who traveled with Price to Philadelphia last week to tour an addiction treatment center — made stops in four different states in the span of two days.

The pair traveled to Lansing, Michigan, and Charleston, West Virginia, for opioid-related meetings in the morning and early afternoon on May 9. That happened to be the same day Trump abruptly fired FBI Director James Comey. On May 10, Conway and Price were in Augusta, Maine, and Concord, New Hampshire, for more opioid-related events.

On July 6, Price again made an opioid-related visit to Chattanooga, Tennessee, where he took a private plane, according to two sources with knowledge of the situation. According to records, HHS signed a \$14,570 charter plane contract for Washington to Tennessee travel with a July 6 effective date.

In June, Price spoke at a physicians association conference in San Diego, where he vowed to wring out wasteful spending in the government's health care programs. Getting "value" for

spending "is incredibly important," he said.

Price took a private plane to get to the meeting, which was one stop on a five-state sprint of charter travel that cost \$50,420.

*Josh Dawsey and Josh Gerstein contributed to this report.*

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### **Trump win churns U.S.-Mexico water talks** [Back](#)

By Annie Snider | 11/26/2016 07:41 AM EDT

Negotiations between the U.S. and Mexico to seal a water-sharing deal over the dwindling supplies on the Colorado River are confronting a new deadline: the inauguration of Donald Trump.

A 16-year drought has sent water levels at the river's most important reservoir, Lake Mead, to their lowest point since it was first filled in the 1930s, threatening supply cuts for 40 million people across seven U.S. states and two Mexican states. It's also raising the stakes for the two countries as they try to hammer out an extension of a four-year-old agreement on how to share the water.

That agreement expires at the end of 2017, but negotiators who have worked for years are pressing to finish a new pact before President Barack Obama leaves office — or put at risk years of fruitful collaboration on the sharing of cross-border water supplies that are vital to both countries.

The fear is not only that Trump — who has called Mexicans criminals and vowed to erect a massive border wall — could derail any potential deal, but that even turning the talks over to new negotiators would stall the process at a critical moment, since it would take them months to get up to speed.

The issue is just one of dozens of crucial international topics, from relationships with NATO and Russia to Asian trade deals, that may take a dramatic shift under a Trump team that campaigned on an "America First" platform.

Farmers and cities in Arizona and Nevada could face their first cuts in water supplies a year from now, just as the existing agreement ends. Without a new agreement with Mexico, it is unclear whether or how those cuts could be shared across the border, raising the prospect of either deeper, swifter cuts to U.S. states or a bitter cross-border dispute.

Water policy experts say that even before Trump's election, the Obama administration had been pressing to tie up a new deal for the Colorado River and avoid any delays caused by the change in administrations.

"There's pressure to finish off any type of arrangement that you start with one administration," said Carlos de la Parra, a Mexican water analyst who advised his country's lead negotiator on the previous water sharing deal. "Now there's this surprise, and there's a President-elect Trump, and obviously that becomes a little more acute given his discourse."

The Colorado River provides the lifeblood of much of the American Southwest, feeding desert metropolises including Phoenix, San Diego and Las Vegas, and supplying farmers who grow 15 percent of the nation's food. The river rises on the Continental Divide in Rocky Mountain National Park, and snakes 1,450 miles before finally draining into the Gulf of California on the Mexican side of the border — although most of the time there's barely a trickle left by the time the river reaches its delta.

Experts say the arrival of a potentially hostile new U.S. president doesn't necessarily mean Mexico will settle for less than it wants. Mexico holds significant leverage since its water is the most protected as a treaty obligation. It also has the right to take the U.S. to international arbitration, and controls the delivery of Rio Grande water to American farmers in Texas.

While Mexico has been "very fair to the U.S. — more than it had to be" in previous negotiations, the water treaty is a sovereignty issue that "gets down to the raw material of Mexican nationalism," said Stephen Mumme, a political science professor at Colorado State University.

"There are big incentives on both sides to get this done, and done in a way that's sustainable," he said. "But it's not going to come at Mexican expense and Mexico cannot be bullied or pressured in this. I think that's one of those things that's going to be a little bit of a wake-up call for the Trump administration."

Negotiators are focusing on the technical aspects of crafting a water-sharing deal and hoping to keep politics out of the talks. Sally Spener, foreign affairs officer at the International Boundary and Water Commission, the U.S.-Mexican agency that negotiates and applies the treaties, said the American commissioner "has instructed his staff to continue with our work and we continue to do that."

Roberto Salmon, the lead Mexican negotiator, told POLITICO the primary urgency to sign a new deal comes from the ongoing drought and dire predictions for the basin, rather than "political issues or political aspects or the political life of either country." But keeping calm heads only stands to get harder as flows on the river continue to dwindle.

Under a 1944 treaty with Mexico, the U.S. must send 1.5 million acre-feet of water — nearly half a trillion gallons — across the border each year, an amount that's roughly enough to supply 3 million homes. But the treaty's provisions laying out rules on what happens during a drought are vague and undefined.

Moreover, hydrologists now realize that the period in the early 20th century when the Colorado River's water supply was divvied up was unusually wet. And as temperatures rise and climate change shrinks the winter snow pack that feeds the Colorado, the river is likely to carry even less water in the future.

The strain is already being felt: Water levels behind the Hoover Dam at Lake Mead this year

plummeted to the lowest level since the reservoir was built. Under existing law, Arizona and Nevada must start taking cuts when water levels reach 1,075 feet above sea level in late summer. The Bureau of Reclamation estimates a 50-50 chance that the lake will hit that level next year, triggering the first supply cuts for the U.S. — and potentially Mexico — in 2018.

In fact, if the existing compacts and treaties had been strictly followed, the cuts would already have begun. But after years of battling each other in court and across the negotiating table, the U.S. and Mexican governments and the seven U.S. states in the Colorado River basin decided to stop fighting and start working together, ultimately staving off water delivery cuts for several years.

In the U.S., the lower basin states of Arizona, Nevada and California have struck several deals to undertake and fund aggressive water conservation programs. The U.S. and Mexico struck a similar deal as part of the water sharing agreement signed in 2012 that is set to expire next year. Under that deal, called Minute 319, the states and the U.S. government are investing \$21 million in water conservation programs in Mexico like lining canals to reduce leaks and improving water efficiency at farms.

That deal also takes steps to restore the parched river delta south of the border, and allows Mexico to store some of its Colorado River water supplies in Lake Mead to make up for capacity that was lost in Mexico after a 2010 earthquake damaged its dams. That helped Mexico solve its shortage problem while bolstering water levels at the critical reservoir.

But that history of collaboration may be tested if the negotiations drag on into the new Trump administration, which has focused much of its most bombastic rhetoric on international trade agreements and immigration from Mexico.

"All this blustering, all of these insults being hurled around just doesn't help, because we depend on Mexico in so many ways," Mumme said.

Trump hasn't spoken about the Colorado River's issues, and his transition team did not respond to a request for comment. But during the campaign he championed the plight of farmers in the Central Valley of California, who have had their water deliveries cut because of a five-year drought combined with endangered species protections that restrict pumping from the Sacramento-San Joaquin delta in the northern part of the state. In a May campaign stop in Fresno, Trump vowed to fix the state's "insane" water problem to "bring jobs back."

And in what could be signal of the type of policies to expect, David Bernhardt, a former Interior Department solicitor who is now the top lobbyist for a powerhouse Central Valley water district, was tapped to lead Trump's initial transition for the Interior Department.

Getting a Colorado River deal done before Trump's inauguration will be a heavy lift. Mexico has indicated it doesn't want to sign the deal until a separate but related agreement is in place on the U.S. side of the border. That deal, a drought contingency plan among California, Arizona and Nevada, calls for the states to conserve additional water above and beyond mandatory cuts in order to increase reservoir levels and stave off the most severe scenarios. Although the states have agreed to top-line numbers, they've haven't yet worked out with their farmers, cities and other users how to share the cuts. And in Arizona, the state legislature must give its approval to

any pact.

Water experts agree it's only a matter of time until a shortage declaration is declared on the river, and without a new U.S.-Mexico deal in place, what would happen then is anyone's guess.

The U.S. could simply implement the delivery cuts agreed to under the 2012 deal, hoping that Mexico wouldn't object to extending those provision under the expired deal. But it's not clear whether those cuts would still be acceptable to Mexico.

"Without a U.S.-Mexico agreement, it's entirely possible that Mexico asserts that it does not have to take a shortage," said Jennifer Pitt, Colorado River project director for the National Audubon Society.

Moreover, whatever the U.S. does on the Colorado River could have knock-on effects elsewhere. In particular, the same treaty that governs the Colorado River also covers the Rio Grande, where Mexico is obliged to deliver water to the U.S.

It was Mexico's failure to deliver agreed-upon water volumes from the Rio Grande to the U.S. that last raised U.S.-Mexico water issues to the presidential level. That was in 2005 under President George W. Bush, who was acutely aware of the importance of that water to farmers in his home state of Texas.

Cross border tensions were also high in the mid-2000s, when some of the United States' Colorado River water was seeping into the ground and over the border and being pumped by Mexican farmers. The two countries also feuded during the late 1960s over salinity levels in the water that the U.S. was sending south, a dispute still fresh in the minds of water experts on both sides of the border. Mexico repeatedly threatened to sue the U.S. over that issue, and ultimately President Richard Nixon appointed a special ambassador to deal with the problem.

Key players on the Colorado River hope that relations won't get that bad anytime soon, even as they acknowledge that Trump's fiery campaign rhetoric presents a major wild card.

"On the merits, having Mexico conserve more water to improve the reliability of the Colorado River water supply for 36 million users in the U.S., for 15 percent of U.S. agricultural output, that seems to me to have enormous value," Pitt said.

"On that basis, I have confidence. But on the basis of how rhetoric can sometimes get detached from those merits — I don't know," she said.

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**Biofuel producers unite against potential EPA biodiesel cuts** [Back](#)

By Eric Wolff | 09/27/2017 06:57 PM EDT

Biofuels producers and their farm-state backers in Congress are keeping the pressure on EPA,

accusing the agency of betraying President Donald Trump's promises to back the Renewable Fuel Standard after the agency signaled it would cut its biodiesel volume mandates.

EPA's Tuesday notice seeking input on whether to reduce the already set 2018 biomass-based biodiesel requirement and shrink the mandate in 2019 is drawing opposition from both biodiesel and ethanol producers, who say EPA's move marks its second attempt to undermine the program this year.

The new EPA notice has already driven down prices for biofuel credits, which are used by refiners to meet the obligations under the RFS. That's a boon to refiners like CVR Energy, the company owned by former Trump adviser Carl Icahn who had joined with other fuel processors like Valero Energy earlier this year in an unsuccessful effort to shift the compliance burden of the RFS away from their companies.

Trump has repeatedly offered public support for ethanol producers and the RFS, and just last month, he told Sen. Chuck Grassley (R-Iowa) to assure Iowans he had their backs on the RFS — a position Trump staked out early in his presidential campaign and which helped him carry Iowa and other Midwestern states.

On Wednesday, Sen. Joni Ernst (R-Iowa) blasted the new EPA move, saying in a letter to Trump that the biodiesel cut would be "bad for American farmers, American manufacturing and American rural communities," adding that she hoped "that your EPA has not forgotten about the pledges that were made to my constituents and to farmers across the country."

That letter came a day after Grassley said the proposal "seems like a bait-and-switch from the EPA's prior proposal and from assurances from President Trump himself and Cabinet secretaries in my office. ... This all gives me a strong suspicion that Big Oil and oil refineries are prevailing, despite assurances to the contrary."

And biodiesel makers are drawing strong support from the ethanol industry, who see the EPA's move as a step toward undercutting the RFS.

"This would undermine renewable fuel production in the U.S. and cause severe harm to our friends in the biodiesel industry," Robert Walther, vice president of federal advocacy for ethanol producer POET, told POLITICO. "That harm would radiate throughout the entire biofuel value chain from starch biofuel plants, to cellulosic facilities now scaling up, to the corn and soybean farmers who voted overwhelmingly for Trump."

In its Tuesday notice, EPA relied on letters from Valero, the American Petroleum Institute, and the American Fuel and Petrochemical Manufacturers to argue the agency expects biodiesel prices to climb because of the expiration of a tax credit last year — as well as the new tariffs the administration is putting on biodiesel imports from Argentina and Indonesia.

As a result, the agency asked for comment on revising down the amount of biodiesel to be used in 2018 by 15 percent, and on setting 2019 biodiesel requirements possibly as low as the 1 billion gallon floor laid out in the law, less than half the original 2018 level of 2.1 billion gallons.

Biodiesel credits are linked to the ethanol credits — called Renewable Identification Numbers —

since U.S. ethanol producers typically fall short of supplying the volumes required under the RFS program. Oil refiners then must buy biodiesel RINs to meet requirements, according to research by University of Illinois economist Scott Irwin.

While corn ethanol credit prices are cheaper than biodiesel RINs, the two tend to move in tandem, so the effect of EPA's notice on RIN prices for ethanol, advanced biofuel and biodiesel was immediate: a 20 percent decline in prices for credits of biodiesel and ethanol after EPA's notice, according to the fuel price tracking service OPIS.

The proposal to cut the biomass-based fuel shocked the biodiesel makers such as Gene Gebolys, CEO of World Energy, who said the industry "froze" as soon as the notice came out.

"The more baffling part is Trump has been consistently supportive of the RFS, over and over and over and over again, he has been supportive of the RFS," he said. "This has been a frontal assault on the RFS. You have to ask yourself, is EPA taking direction from the White House or the oil industry?"

EPA also did not respond to a request for comment. Nor did API or Valero, both of whom EPA cited in its notice, although the AFPM trade association was pleased by the action.

"EPA is on the right track in adjusting renewable fuel requirements," AFPM CEO Chet Thompson said in a statement. "This proposal more appropriately advances Congress's stated purpose of bolstering America's energy independence. American drivers shouldn't have to shoulder more costs to help foreign biofuel producers."

But ethanol producers think EPA may be putting key states in play if it follows through and makes cuts to biodiesel.

"If I am a Democrat thinking of taking Trump on in Iowa and Wisconsin in 2020, I am licking my chops," Walther from POET said.

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## **FERC amends pipeline study to add climate impact [Back](#)**

By Darius Dixon | 09/27/2017 04:31 PM EDT

FERC [announced](#) today that it is amending an environmental study for a natural gas pipeline to meet a federal court's requirement that it include an assessment of greenhouse gas emissions from the power plants that may use the fuel.

The [new 5-page analysis](#) of the Southeast Market Pipelines Project, which consists of three natural gas pipelines under construction in Alabama, Georgia and Florida, conducted by FERC staff says they "would not result in a significant impact on the environment" so long as the developer followed the mitigation measures mentioned in the final 2015 environmental impact statement.

The original EIS didn't include an assessment of carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide emissions associated with use and combustion of the natural gas that would be transported by the project when it was done. Last month, the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals sided with the Sierra Club and vacated FERC's approval of the project, saying the agency must redo the EIS it used in its decision.

FERC's move to issue a supplemental EIS on greenhouse gas emissions suggests that it may not appeal the court's decision.

The analysis also states that using the social cost of carbon in its greenhouse gas analysis "is not appropriate for use in any project-level NEPA review."

**WHAT'S NEXT:** FERC has until Oct. 6 to decide whether it will appeal the D.C. Circuit's Aug. 22 ruling, which could require the agency to revisit the EISs it conducted for several pipelines.

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**Trump: Shipping industry doesn't want Jones Act waiver for Puerto Rico recovery** [Back](#)

By Ben Lefebvre | 09/27/2017 03:40 PM EDT

President Donald Trump cited objections from the shipping industry when asked today why his administration has not waived the Jones Act to help deliver fuel and other goods to hurricane-ravaged Puerto Rico.

"We're thinking about that, but we have a lot of shippers and a lot of people and a lot of people who work in the shipping industry that don't want the Jones Act lifted," Trump told reporters outside the White House today. "And we have a lot of ships out there right now."

The Jones Act stipulates that only U.S.-flagged vessels can ship goods between domestic ports.

DHS said earlier today that it was not likely to grant a Jones Act waiver to Puerto Rico, where water, fuel and other necessities are in short supply since Hurricane Maria hit the island last week. Enough ships are available to deliver goods to the U.S. territory, with the problem being the lack of delivery logistics on the island itself, a department spokesman said.

DHS waived the Jones Act for fuel deliveries to Texas and Florida after hurricanes hit those states earlier this year.

**WHAT'S NEXT:** Congress has promised to ramp up aid to Puerto Rico.

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**DHS says it hasn't denied Jones Act waiver for Puerto Rico — yet** [Back](#)

By Tanya Snyder | 09/27/2017 11:35 AM EDT

DHS officials said today that they have not yet decided how to act on the Jones Act waiver [request](#) sent Monday from eight members of Congress.

However, senior DHS officials made it clear that a waiver is unlikely and that an official determination could take days or weeks, as it requires coordination with other federal agencies.

Under statute, the Jones Act, which requires that goods moved between U.S. ports must be carried on U.S.-owned and -operated vessels, can only be waived for reasons of "national defense" or if there aren't enough U.S.-flag vessels to meet demand. In the wake of Hurricanes Harvey and Irma, the Department of Defense requested a Jones Act waiver for Texas and Florida, which was issued quickly. In the absence of a Pentagon request, DHS needs to make those determinations itself, consulting with MARAD on vessel availability.

DHS officials also told reporters that the department had "not received a formal waiver request," since Congress is not a traditional pathway for these kinds of requests. Still, the officials said they are evaluating the request and working as quickly as possible to make a determination.

The officials also reiterated that a Jones Act waiver would not help move goods within the island, which is the real problem Puerto Rico is facing right now.

The U.S. Virgin Islands are statutorily exempt from the Jones Act.

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## **Oil industry backs GOP tax proposal, but utilities, renewables industries wary** [Back](#)

By Eric Wolff | 09/27/2017 04:02 PM EDT

The oil and gas industry praised the [tax proposal](#) released Wednesday by Republican leaders, though the utility and renewables industries withheld their verdicts for now.

The "Big Six" Republican tax writers — consisting of Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin, National Economic Council Director Gary Cohn and key congressional leaders — called for lowering the corporate tax rate for businesses to 20 percent, and allowing companies to write off the full value of capital investments. But they [left many details out of the plan](#), including how to pay for their tax cuts. The proposal would partially curb the interest tax deduction for businesses, and it would alter how overseas profits would be taxed.

Allowing companies to fully expense their spending would benefit the oil and gas sector, which says it pours an average of \$232 billion a year in capital expenditures in the U.S. The proposal also shifts international taxes to a territorial system, under which profits from overseas subsidiaries would not be taxed, and it allows profits currently held overseas to be repatriated without being taxed.

"The right pro-growth tax policies can accelerate these economic investments and create more jobs while keeping energy affordable for consumers. This includes strong cost-recovery provisions, which are a critical part of any pro-growth tax code to allow new investment and help fuel the U.S. economy," American Petroleum Institute President Jack Gerard said.

Wednesday's tax proposal was vague on the fate of the interest tax deduction, saying it would be "partially limited" but leaving tax-writing committees to work out the details.

The Edison Electric Institute, which represents Investor-owned utilities, said it was still reviewing the proposal; but in an interview earlier this week, Eric Grey, EEI's director of government affairs, said the group was concerned about the loss of the interest tax deduction. EEI says utilities spend \$125 billion a year on capital investments, and they depend on debt and equity markets to fund transmission lines, substations and wires. Grey said utilities wouldn't get an immediate benefit from 100 percent expensing.

"For us, the interest deduction is how we raise capital," Grey said. "Our companies are in the debt and equity markets every single day trying to build the necessary financing for the large [capital expenditure] we do."

The Solar Energy Industries Association and the American Wind Energy Association both said they were still studying the proposal. SEIA CEO Abigail Ross Hopper told POLITICO last week that the industry was concerned about the interaction between the investment tax credit and full expensing.

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**EPW to host EPA, NRC nomination hearing Oct. 4** [Back](#)

By Anthony Adragna | 09/27/2017 04:25 PM EDT

The Senate Environment and Public Works Committee will hold a confirmation hearing Oct. 4 on a host of President Donald Trump's picks for posts at EPA and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

The session will include four EPA nominees: Matthew Leopold to be general counsel, William Wehrum to run the air office, Michael Dourson to run the Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention and David Ross to run the water office. Lawmakers will also consider Jeff Baran's re-nomination to the NRC.

The committee [shelved a hearing](#) planned for last week on the picks after the Senate adjourned earlier than expected for Rosh Hashanah. Wehrum's and Dourson's nominations have attracted the most controversy from Democrats and the environmental community.

**WHAT'S NEXT:** The full EPW Committee will consider the nominees at the Oct. 4 hearing.

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## **Court delays coal ash arguments to November [Back](#)**

By Alex Guillén | 09/27/2017 04:54 PM EDT

The D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals today [granted a one-month delay](#) in arguments over EPA's 2015 coal ash rule following Administrator Scott Pruitt's [decision to reconsider](#) key parts of the regulation.

Arguments had been scheduled for Oct. 17, but a three-judge panel ordered them delayed until Nov. 20.

The judges ordered EPA to reveal by Nov. 15 which portions of the rule will be reconsidered "and setting forth with specificity the timeline for reconsideration." In addition, all sides, including industry and environmental challengers, are supposed to file new briefs by Oct. 11 addressing whether the new [state-based coal ash permitting program](#) that passed Congress as part of the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act at the end of 2016 affect the broader lawsuit at all. And the court told attorneys to be ready at arguments to discuss whether a longer delay in the lawsuit is appropriate, opening up the possibility of further delay.

The court set 90 minutes' worth of arguments in total, split into four sections: Three dealing with various legal and technical challenges to the rule and one on whether the case should be delayed longer.

The case will be heard by Judges Karen LeCraft Henderson, a George H.W. Bush appointee, and two Obama appointees, Judges Patricia Millett and Cornelia Pillard.

**WHAT'S NEXT:** The parties must submit briefs regarding the permitting program by Oct. 11. Oral argument is scheduled for Nov. 20.

*To view online [click here](#).*

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Yes, very	Somewhat	Neutral	Not really	Not at all

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**This email was sent to heather swift@ios.doi.gov by: POLITICO, LLC 1000 Wilson Blvd.  
Arlington, VA, 22209, USA**

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**To:** Russell Newell[russell\_newell@ios.doi.gov]; Laura Rigas[laura\_rigas@ios.doi.gov]; Heather Swift[heather\_swift@ios.doi.gov]  
**From:** DuBray, Daniel  
**Sent:** 2017-09-28T08:15:06-04:00  
**Importance:** Normal  
**Subject:** Fwd: Bernhardt Minute 323 Photos  
**Received:** 2017-09-28T08:15:21-04:00

[B1878-800-135.jpg](#)  
[B1878-800-136.jpg](#)  
[B1878-800-137.jpg](#)  
[B1878-800-138.jpg](#)  
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[B1878-800-162.jpg](#)  
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[B1878-800-165.jpg](#)  
[B1878-800-166.jpg](#)  
[B1878-800-167.jpg](#)  
[B1878-800-168.jpg](#)

FYI. Photos of David from the Minute 323 event.  
d

Dan DuBray  
Chief, Public Affairs  
Commissioner's Office  
Bureau of Reclamation  
1849 C Street, NW MS-7069  
Washington, DC 20240  
Direct: (202) 513-0574  
Cell: (571) 277-1197  
[ddubray@usbr.gov](mailto:ddubray@usbr.gov)  
Twitter: @DuBray

----- Forwarded message -----  
**From:** Stephens, Alexander <[astephens@usbr.gov](mailto:astephens@usbr.gov)>  
**Date:** Thu, Sep 28, 2017 at 12:23 AM  
**Subject:** Bernhardt Minute 323 Photos  
**To:** Daniel DuBray <[DDUBRAY@usbr.gov](mailto:DDUBRAY@usbr.gov)>  
**Cc:** Peter Soeth <[psoeth@usbr.gov](mailto:psoeth@usbr.gov)>

Attached are the photos of Deputy Secretary Bernhardt from the Minute 323 Ceremony and post press call. I thought you might want to share these with DOI folks.

- Alex

**To:** DuBray, Daniel[[ddubray@usbr.gov](mailto:ddubray@usbr.gov)]  
**Cc:** Laura Rigas[[laura\\_rigas@ios.doi.gov](mailto:laura_rigas@ios.doi.gov)]; Heather Swift[[heather\\_swift@ios.doi.gov](mailto:heather_swift@ios.doi.gov)]  
**From:** Newell, Russell  
**Sent:** 2017-09-28T08:28:10-04:00  
**Importance:** Normal  
**Subject:** Re: Bernhardt Minute 323 Photos  
**Received:** 2017-09-28T08:28:20-04:00

thank you Dan

Russell Newell  
Deputy Director of Communications  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
(202) 208 6232  
[@Interior](mailto:@Interior)

On Thu, Sep 28, 2017 at 8:15 AM, DuBray, Daniel <[ddubray@usbr.gov](mailto:ddubray@usbr.gov)> wrote:

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Commissioner's Office  
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Direct: (202) 513-0574  
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[ddubray@usbr.gov](mailto:ddubray@usbr.gov)  
Twitter: [@DuBray](https://twitter.com/DuBray)

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From: **Stephens, Alexander** <[astephens@usbr.gov](mailto:astephens@usbr.gov)>  
Date: Thu, Sep 28, 2017 at 12:23 AM  
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**To:** Heather Swift[heather\_swift@ios.doi.gov]  
**From:** David Bernhardt  
**Sent:** 2017-09-28T09:17:23-04:00  
**Importance:** Normal  
**Subject:** Help  
**Received:** 2017-09-28T09:17:31-04:00

Heather: This article is false. I was never a lobbyist for Cadiz. I want a correction.

**CBD SEEKS RECORDS ON BLM DECISION LINKED TO CADIZ:** The Center for Biological Diversity has filed a public records request with the Interior to figure out why the agency earlier this month reversed a legal interpretation it made under the Obama administration that would have required Cadiz Inc. to go through an environmental review process to use a railroad right of way for its controversial water pipeline in California. Interior's second in command, David Bernhardt, was a lobbyist for Cadiz before joining the agency but an Interior spokesman in an emailed statement said Bernhardt was not involved in the decision to revoke the legal finding.

Sent from my iPhone

**To:** David Bernhardt (b) (6) [redacted]@ios.doi.gov]  
**From:** Heather Swift  
**Sent:** 2017-09-28T09:18:07-04:00  
**Importance:** Normal  
**Subject:** Re: Help  
**Received:** 2017-09-28T09:18:15-04:00

Will do

Heather Swift  
Press Secretary  
Department of the Interior

On Sep 28, 2017, at 9:17 AM, David Bernhardt <(b) (6) [redacted]@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

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Sent from my iPhone

**To:** Anthony Adragna[aadragna@politico.com]  
**From:** Swift, Heather  
**Sent:** 2017-09-28T09:47:28-04:00  
**Importance:** Normal  
**Subject:** CORRECTION - ME  
**Received:** 2017-09-28T09:48:14-04:00

Hey Anthony - the blurb below incorrectly states Bernhardt was a lobbyist for Cadiz...  
He was never a lobbyist for Cadiz.

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-

Heather Swift  
Department of the Interior  
@DOIPressSec  
[Heather\\_Swift@ios.doi.gov](mailto:Heather_Swift@ios.doi.gov) | [Interior\\_Press@ios.doi.gov](mailto:Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov)

**To:** Laura Rigas[laura\_rigas@ios.doi.gov]  
**Cc:** Newell, Russell[russell\_newell@ios.doi.gov]; Heather Swift[heather\_swift@ios.doi.gov]; Alex Hinson[alex\_hinson@ios.doi.gov]  
**From:** Nachmany, Eli  
**Sent:** 2017-09-28T09:49:16-04:00  
**Importance:** Normal  
**Subject:** DRAFT: DOI Daily Report 09/28  
**Received:** 2017-09-28T09:49:23-04:00

## INTERIOR DAILY COMMUNICATIONS REPORT

### NEWS TO SHARE:

#### Washington Post: Yes, Trump can revoke National Monuments

*“Nothing in the Antiquities Act forbids the president from revoking or shrinking a national monument. And the theory is belied by history: Seven presidents have shrunk national monuments, including President William Howard Taft, who reduced the Navajo National Monument by nearly 90 percent. Without law or history on their side, opponents of the review are left with an argument that would have repercussions far beyond the Antiquities Act — repercussions they will decry when the political winds shift. They argue that the president’s authority should be interpreted narrowly because the Constitution assigns the power to regulate federal lands to Congress rather than the president. The Antiquities Act does not expressly authorize the president to revoke or modify national monuments; therefore, he lacks that power.”*

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*“The meeting also included two speakers with ties to President Donald Trump. The U.S. Department of Interior is going through a transformation to change the culture, said Vincent DeVito, counselor on energy policy for the agency. ‘The Department of Interior being a better business partner for investors, those that want to develop on federal land, is the key to our strategy to energy dominance,’ he said, adding his department is focused on responsibly developing federal land.”*

#### E&E News: Interior officials ready a big fashion statement

*“‘Getting new uniforms for field personnel is actually a topic that is frequently brought up,’ said Interior Department spokeswoman Heather Swift. ‘The secretary and deputy secretary are both motivated to get this done for the [Interior] team.’ The motivation comes from the bottom up. Though seemingly mundane, the new uniform issue has become one of the pressing topics repeatedly cited by career employees on Interior’s electronic ‘ideas box,’ established about a month ago (Greenwire, Sept. 25). In a recent department-wide memo, Deputy Interior Secretary David Bernhardt advised employees, without any hemming or hawing, that ‘your comments have reinforced the very real need’ of updating uniforms.”*

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*“‘We don’t have a choice,’ said Jack Burns, who has worked in Zion since 1982. ‘We have to do something. If this going to remain a place of special importance for generations, we have to do something now.’ The National Park Service was created in 1916 to protect the country’s growing system of parks and monuments. Its mandate is to conserve scenery and wildlife while also protecting visitor enjoyment for generations to come. For years, the lack of a reservation system for park entry aligned with the service’s ethos of democracy and discovery: Anyone could*

*come, pretty much anytime. (The service has long required permits for hiking in more remote areas.) But lately, both visitors and nature are suffering. Mr. Burns, who is on a team that is considering a reservation system, said some people showed up for a vacation they had planned for months, spent a day in the gridlock and turned around. Rangers, stressed by the frustrated masses, have started a monthly meeting to discuss "visitor use" that some say has turned into a group-therapy session.*

### **TALKING POINTS**

- A major issue in our National Parks is the maintenance backlog that has left many of these sites in the "Eisenhower Era."
- Many National Parks across the country already rely on public private partnerships for things like lodging, concessions, and enhanced visitor experiences. Secretary Zinke is dedicated to expanding and replicating successful public private partnerships in National Parks to update and build more campgrounds, provide transportation within parks, rebuild trails, and improve things like bathrooms, picnic areas, and other facilities, thereby addressing the deferred maintenance issue.
- In July, Secretary Zinke established a public-private partnerships advisory committee as part of President Trump's "Made in America" Week to deal with some of these issues on public lands.
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*"Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke walked into a big gathering of the National Petroleum Council on Monday already facing at least two government probes for his management of the department's workforce of 70,000 — but that didn't stop him from bashing his employees. Zinke told the gathering that he figured upon taking his post that nearly a third of the people at the department were disloyal. The comment may have shed light on the secretary's reasons for directing department officials to reassign approximately 50 top managers in June, as soon as the move may have been legally permissible."*

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- The media reports were incomplete and mischaracterized the Secretary's analogy.
- The Secretary is a Navy man and used the analogy of seizing a ship in battle and changing policies and procedures.
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the bad actors who are frequently the subject of IG reports who resist any change because they know it will lead to accountability.

###

--

Sincerely,  
Eli Nachmany  
Writer, U.S. Department of the Interior  
Office of Communications

**To:** Nachmany, Eli[eli\_nachmany@ios.doi.gov]  
**Cc:** Laura Rigas[laura\_rigas@ios.doi.gov]; Newell, Russell[russell\_newell@ios.doi.gov]; Alex Hinson[alex\_hinson@ios.doi.gov]  
**From:** Swift, Heather  
**Sent:** 2017-09-28T09:55:32-04:00  
**Importance:** Normal  
**Subject:** Re: DRAFT: DOI Daily Report 09/28  
**Received:** 2017-09-28T09:56:19-04:00

good

-

Heather Swift  
Department of the Interior  
@DOIPressSec  
[Heather\\_Swift@ios.doi.gov](mailto:Heather_Swift@ios.doi.gov) | [Interior\\_Press@ios.doi.gov](mailto:Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov)

On Thu, Sep 28, 2017 at 9:49 AM, Nachmany, Eli <[eli\\_nachmany@ios.doi.gov](mailto:eli_nachmany@ios.doi.gov)> wrote:

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*“Nothing in the Antiquities Act forbids the president from revoking or shrinking a national monument. And the theory is belied by history: Seven presidents have shrunk national monuments, including President William Howard Taft, who reduced the Navajo National Monument by nearly 90 percent. Without law or history on their side, opponents of the review are left with an argument that would have repercussions far beyond the Antiquities Act — repercussions they will decry when the political winds shift. They argue that the president’s authority should be interpreted narrowly because the Constitution assigns the power to regulate federal lands to Congress rather than the president. The Antiquities Act does not expressly authorize the president to revoke or modify national monuments; therefore, he lacks that power.”*

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Sincerely,  
Eli Nachmany  
Writer, U.S. Department of the Interior  
Office of Communications

**To:** Swift, Heather[heather\_swift@ios.doi.gov]; Newell, Russell[russell\_newell@ios.doi.gov]; Laura Rigas[laura\_rigas@ios.doi.gov]  
**From:** Frank Quimby  
**Sent:** 2017-09-28T10:05:01-04:00  
**Importance:** Normal  
**Subject:** routine Land Buy back Program release on offers to Spirit Lake Tribe  
**Received:** 2017-09-28T10:05:20-04:00  
[ATT00001.htm](#)  
[LBBP Spirit Lake Offers Press Release v5.docx](#)  
[lbbp blanket approval from Jim Cason on LBBP routine offer releases.docx](#)  
[ATT00002.htm](#)

Is lbbp clear to issue this standard release approved by Cason

LBBP had sent this last week and we ask them to make sure it was cleared by Jim Cason they sent it to him and he has given them blanket approval (see attached file) on these routine buy back offer releases.

So LBBP would like to release this ASAP. OK?

here is gist of Cason clearance:

**From:** John Mcclanahan [[mailto:john\\_mcclanahan@ios.doi.gov](mailto:john_mcclanahan@ios.doi.gov)]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 31, 2017 7:37 PM  
**To:** Laura Rigas <[laura\\_rigas@ios.doi.gov](mailto:laura_rigas@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Cc:** James Cason <[james\\_cason@ios.doi.gov](mailto:james_cason@ios.doi.gov)>; Brendan Quinn <[brendan\\_quinn@ios.doi.gov](mailto:brendan_quinn@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Subject:** Routine Buy-Back Offer Announcements

Hi Laura: Mr. Cason reviewed our next routine offer announcement (attached), which is slated for next Wednesday.

He's also okay with the Program working directly with your office on future offer announcements. Going forward we will share a draft of these routine announcements with your staff at least 72 hours before planned release to see if your shop has comments or edits. (I will share the drafts with Mr. Cason for awareness but we will not need approval to move forward.)

I will, however, make sure to clear other non-routine announcements with Mr. Cason before we move forward on those.

Happy to discuss any thoughts or question you might have with this approach.

**From:** Nachmany, Eli  
**Sent:** 2017-09-28T10:07:07-04:00  
**Importance:** Normal  
**Subject:** DOI Daily Report for 09/28  
**Received:** 2017-09-28T10:07:12-04:00

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Sincerely,  
Eli Nachmany  
Writer, U.S. Department of the Interior  
Office of Communications

**To:** Rein, Lisa[Lisa.Rein@washpost.com]  
**From:** Swift, Heather  
**Sent:** 2017-09-28T10:07:28-04:00  
**Importance:** Normal  
**Subject:** Re: hi Heather  
**Received:** 2017-09-28T10:08:15-04:00

Lisa, I'm crashing on your questions but will need more time than COB today so expect them tomorrow.

Are you looking into previous Secretary's travel as well? As you noted, Interior secretaries travel a lot, so I want to make sure the piece is framed in that light. We have tens of thousands of staff based at over a thousand locations across 12 time zones.

-

Heather Swift  
Department of the Interior  
[@DOIPressSec](mailto:@DOIPressSec)  
[Heather\\_Swift@ios.doi.gov](mailto:Heather_Swift@ios.doi.gov) | [Interior\\_Press@ios.doi.gov](mailto:Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov)

On Wed, Sep 27, 2017 at 3:18 PM, Rein, Lisa <[Lisa.Rein@washpost.com](mailto:Lisa.Rein@washpost.com)> wrote:

Sorry for the delay. I was going to do the firing story, which I found really interesting, but Darryl put it into the piece yesterday on the secretary's comments at the event Monday. I might have framed it differently, as in here's an agency that is really taking misconduct seriously.. but so be it. I am definitely interested in this misconduct stuff.

So-It's a legitimate question and yes we are trying to learn more about all Cabinet secretaries' travel priorities and patterns in the wake of the Price stuff. In the meantime, though, we are considering a separate story on Sec Zinke, in part because we have more information about his travel given that Interior secretaries do a fair amount of travel.

Lisa Rein

Staff Reporter

Washington Post

202-334-5190

Cell 202-821-3120

[@Reinlwapo](https://twitter.com/Reinlwapo)

[Send me a confidential tip](#)

**To:** Swift, Heather[heather\_swift@ios.doi.gov]  
**From:** Anthony Adragna  
**Sent:** 2017-09-28T10:27:19-04:00  
**Importance:** Normal  
**Subject:** Re: CORRECTION - ME  
**Received:** 2017-09-28T10:27:28-04:00

Ok. We'll update to say he did legal work on the project. Thanks for flagging.

--

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POLITICO  
Cell: 571-351-0749  
Desk: 703-647-8563  
aadragna@politico.com  
@AnthonyAdragna

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**Date:** Thursday, September 28, 2017 at 9:47 AM  
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**To:** Anthony Adragna[aadragna@politico.com]  
**From:** Swift, Heather  
**Sent:** 2017-09-28T10:29:22-04:00  
**Importance:** Normal  
**Subject:** Re: CORRECTION - ME  
**Received:** 2017-09-28T10:30:09-04:00

I don't think that's true.

-

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**To:** Anthony Adragna[[aadragna@politico.com](mailto:aadragna@politico.com)]  
**From:** Swift, Heather  
**Sent:** 2017-09-28T10:29:30-04:00  
**Importance:** Normal  
**Subject:** Re: CORRECTION - ME  
**Received:** 2017-09-28T10:37:20-04:00

Cadiz has never been a client of his.

-

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**To:** David Bernhardt (b) (6) [redacted] ios.doi.gov]  
**From:** Swift, Heather  
**Sent:** 2017-09-28T10:29:53-04:00  
**Importance:** Normal  
**Subject:** Re: Help  
**Received:** 2017-09-28T10:30:40-04:00

was Cadiz ever a client?

-

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On Thu, Sep 28, 2017 at 9:18 AM, Heather Swift <[heather\\_swift@ios.doi.gov](mailto:heather_swift@ios.doi.gov)> wrote:

Will do

Heather Swift  
Press Secretary  
Department of the Interior

On Sep 28, 2017, at 9:17 AM, David Bernhardt <(b) (6) [redacted] ios.doi.gov> wrote:

Heather: This article is false. I was never a lobbyist for Cadiz. I want a correction.

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Sent from my iPhone

**To:** Swift, Heather[heather\_swift@ios.doi.gov]  
**From:** Anthony Adragna  
**Sent:** 2017-09-28T10:31:35-04:00  
**Importance:** Normal  
**Subject:** Re: CORRECTION - ME  
**Received:** 2017-09-28T10:31:45-04:00

He listed it as such in his financial disclosure: <https://www.politicopro.com/f/?id=0000015b-f3e9-de0a-a15f-fff92f3d0001>

--

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**Date:** Thursday, September 28, 2017 at 10:29 AM  
**To:** Anthony Adragna <[aadragna@politico.com](mailto:aadragna@politico.com)>  
**Subject:** Re: CORRECTION - ME

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**To:** Swift, Heather[heather\_swift@ios.doi.gov]  
**From:** Anthony Adragna  
**Sent:** 2017-09-28T10:40:04-04:00  
**Importance:** Normal  
**Subject:** Re: CORRECTION - ME  
**Received:** 2017-09-28T10:40:14-04:00

Is his disclosure incorrect then?

Under Section 4 — Filer's Sources of Compensation Exceeding \$5,000 in a Year — Number 16 is Cadiz Inc. for "legal services."

<https://www.politicopro.com/f/?id=0000015b-f3e9-de0a-a15f-fff92f3d0001>

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