

POLITICO New York Energy

Digest of the day's top energy news, condensed from New York Pro's essential early morning brief

Cuomo's storm response

By **DAVID GIAMBUSSO** and **MARIE J. FRENCH** | 10/02/2017 09:59 AM EDT

With help from Maya Parthasarathy.

CUOMO'S STORM RELIEF EFFORTS — The Wall Street Journal's Mike Vilensky:

"Gov. Andrew Cuomo is known to dash to the scene of natural disasters in New York. Now, he is taking that approach out of state, with trips to the storm-ravaged U.S. Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico that could raise his national profile ahead of the 2020 presidential election. 'He's following a standard paradigm for governors with presidential aspirations,' said Gerald Benjamin, a political historian at the State University of New York at New Paltz. 'You try to establish a record worthy of presidential consideration, and then find places to become a national spokesman.' Mr. Cuomo, a Democrat, was the first governor to head to the Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico after they were hit by hurricanes Irma and Maria. He has since launched a recovery fund with celebrities such as Jennifer Lopez, deployed a state rescue ship to Puerto Rico, and deputized state troopers to assist with the island's recovery. Moreover, he has made remarks on the crisis in Puerto Rico that segued into his broader approach to governing. 'We can wish people our best wishes, we remember them in our prayers, but...the job of government is to act,' he said." Read more here.

NAVY SECRETARY MEETS ON TOXIC PLUMES — Newsday's Emily C. Dooley:

"Navy Secretary Richard Spencer and Sen. Chuck Schumer met Friday with representatives of local water districts to discuss toxic plumes emanating from a Bethpage site where the Navy and the company that is now Northrop Grumman operated for decades. Spencer and Schumer (D-N.Y.) and members of the Bethpage, Massapequa and South Farmingdale water districts discussed the plumes, speeding up the cleanup and addressing possible

radioactive contamination. A Bethpage School District representative was also in attendance. ‘The Navy knows its responsibilities,’ Spencer said after the gathering. ‘The Navy is not going anywhere. The Navy is part of this community . . . and we will do what is the right thing to do.’ Schumer and Spencer also toured a well site owned by Bethpage Water District, which has two forms of treatment in place to remove contaminants from the plumes. The district has spent millions on treatment to meet safe drinking water standards. ‘We’re building facilities like this and it’s getting very expensive,’ Water District Superintendent Mike Boufis told the Navy secretary during a tour at the well site on Park Lane.” Read more here.

GOOD MONDAY MORNING: Let us know if you have tips, story ideas or life advice. We’re always here at dgiambusso@politico.com and mfrench@politico.com.

And if you like this letter, please tell a friend and/or loved one they can sign up here.

AROUND NEW YORK:

— **After finding algae toxins in city of Syracuse** water intake pipes in Skaneateles Lake for nearly two weeks, officials said late Friday the latest samples had come up clean.

— **A closer look at** how the DEC raises millions of trout and other fish species at a network of 12 hatcheries scattered around the state.

— **OPINION: Mimi Bluestone, a co-leader of 350Brooklyn**, urges Cuomo to block Williams Co.’s Northeast Supply Enhancement Project, which would supply natural gas to New York City.

— **The Second Circuit didn’t appear keen** to disagree with New York federal judges who have found that the Bethpage Water District was too late to sue Northrup Grumman Corp. over well contamination.

— **An NRDC attorney** is concerned about contaminated wells in Hampton Bays.

— **New York farmers** fear the effects of a federal crackdown on immigrants.

— **Avangrid, the company behind the proposed** North Ridge Wind Energy Project, has filed another legal action against Gary P. Snell, a local member of the Siting Board for the project.

— **Warren County leaders hope a proposed amendment** to the state constitution can help solve a longstanding stalemate over a closed bridge over the Schroon River.

— **Local and state officials say** the Department of Defense needs to go beyond testing in Newburgh.

— **The company that revived the Jericho Rise** wind farm project in the towns of Chateaugay and Bellmont, EDP Renewables, has proposed another wind project in the same area.

— **Scenic Hudson is turning over** the popular Riverfront Park to Irvington after cleaning it up.

PERRY'S ELECTRIC MARKET REDESIGN — The Wall Street Journal's Timothy Puko: “The Trump administration is urging independent energy regulators to change how electricity is priced, proposing new rules that would bolster revenue for coal-fired and nuclear power plants. The Energy Department is mandating that the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission consider new rules that would effectively raise power prices to pay more to plants considered more resilient. The department suggests nuclear and coal-fired plants as potential recipients, and charges FERC with tweaking electricity markets so they give more of a reward to plants that have at least three months of fuel on site and can run uninterrupted through extreme weather, disasters or other emergencies.” Read more here.

— **Attorney General Eric Schneiderman** blasted the proposal as a giveaway to dirty coal plants.

MINERS' SECOND CAREER — The New York Times' Diane Cardwell: “From the mountain hollows of Appalachia to the vast open plains of Wyoming, the coal industry long offered the promise of a six-figure income without a four-year college degree, transforming sleepy farm towns into thriving commercial centers. But today, as King Coal is being dethroned — by cheap natural gas, declining demand for electricity, and even green energy — what's a former miner to do? Nowhere has that question had more urgency than in Wyoming and West Virginia, two very different states whose economies lean heavily on fuel extraction... Now, though, new businesses are emerging.” Read more here.

NUKE BAILOUT — The Wall Street Journal's Miguel Bustillo: “The Trump administration on Friday offered an additional \$3.7 billion in loan guarantees to a troubled nuclear power plant project in Georgia that is billions over budget and years behind schedule, raising the total federal loan guarantees to \$12 billion.” Read more here.

COW FARTS TO BLAME — The Washington Post's Chris Mooney: “The second-most potent greenhouse warming agent — the hard-hitting, if short-lived, gas known as methane — presents more of a mystery [than carbon dioxide]. There has clearly been an

alarming uptick in atmospheric methane in recent years, following a flattening of concentrations from 2000 to around 2007. But the cause of this particular pattern has been hotly debated, with some blaming the fracked natural gas boom (natural gas is primarily composed of methane) and others pointing to causes such as agriculture. Now, new research published Thursday in the journal *Carbon Balance and Management* by three scientists with the Joint Global Change Research Institute, a center of the University of Maryland and the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, point the finger at agriculture once again. And more specifically, at cattle and other livestock." Read more here.

MUSK'S MARS SHOT — The Wall Street Journal's Andy Pasztor: "Elon Musk unveiled plans to build the most powerful rocket ever and use it to launch a giant, reusable manned spacecraft to Mars—potentially in less than a decade—in the billionaire's most aggressive expression yet of his vision for privately funded space exploration." Read more here.

SALMON FUGITIVES UNDER THE NET — Bloomberg's Noah Buhayar: "In a giant refrigerated warehouse 90 miles north of Seattle, 43,500 Atlantic salmon were stacked in plastic crates, frozen pariahs in a kingdom where Pacific salmon rule. ... The Atlantic salmon are fugitives, escapees from a fish farm." Read more here.

ALL HAIL PENGUINS — The New York Times' Steph Yin: "There are not many jellyvores in the world, or so scientists have long thought. Gelatinous sea animals, like jellyfish and ctenophores, have traditionally been regarded as 'dead ends' in food webs. Because they are so low in calories (jellyfish are about 95 percent water), it was thought that most predators would not benefit from eating them. But a recent study has identified a new, unexpected jelly-eater: penguins." Read more here.

FUTURES:

— **Oil prices swung between** small gains and losses Friday, as investors reacted to the latest data measuring U.S. production, The Wall Street Journal reports.