



ABC's Weekly Federal Legislative Update November 16, 2020

Introduction

The House returns from its election recess this week and plans to address a variety of bills as well as hold leadership elections. The Senate is also in session and will be voting on President Trump's judicial nominees. As both chambers have returned to Washington, they also likely to begin negotiations over a COVID 19 relief package and FY 2021 Appropriations. Below is news from Washington, D.C.

Administration

[FERC: What to Expect from Danly's Term as Chairman](#)

Last week, President Trump demoted Neil Chatterjee and promote James Danly as FERC Chairman. The follow story outlines possible priorities during his term.

Arianna Skibell of [E&E Daily](#) wrote on November 9, "President-elect Joe Biden's weekend victory all but guarantees that Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Republican Chairman James Danly's tenure will expire in January, making it the second shortest in the agency's 43-year history. President Trump unexpectedly named Danly chairman late last week, demoting former Republican head Neil Chatterjee to a commissioner on the influential panel.

"As a lame-duck leader, Danly, a staunch conservative, will have scant time to take significant action, which analysts say is actually his preferred way to regulate.

"Danly has said he's not going to be a proactive regulator," said Ari Peskoe, director of the Electricity Law Initiative at the Harvard Law School Environmental and Energy Law Program. "I would be surprised if FERC comes out with anything it doesn't have to do in the next few months."

"Others like Todd Snitchler, president and CEO of the Electric Power Supply Association who favors a carbon tax in regional markets, said it's "premature to speculate" what actions Danly might take in terms of pricing CO2 emissions.

"Danly did have a different perspective," he said. "But when you step into the role of chairman your responsibilities change a bit."

"Danly declined comment. But Travis Fisher, who worked on Trump's FERC transition team and served as adviser to former Republican Commissioner Bernard McNamee, said he did not expect Danly to be an "activist" chairman.

"Which is what put Chatterjee on the president's bad side," Fisher said. "I think Danly believes in legal textualism and judicial restraint and will run FERC according to those principles."

"Chatterjee, who was first appointed chair in 2017, worked to approve natural gas infrastructure projects and enact market rules to ensure renewables were not advantaged over competing resources, but he also boosted clean energy and storage technologies.

"His demotion came after he paved the way for states to implement a regional carbon price, issuing a draft policy statement on the subject. Chatterjee said he was also being punished for refusing to comply with the Trump administration's governmentwide edicts against diversity training.

"Devin Hartman, a former FERC employee who now heads energy and environmental policy at the libertarian R Street Institute, said there was already a "soft plan in place" for Danly to take over as chair under a second-term Trump administration.

"But Danly's early promotion — coupled with Biden's win — amounts to an abrupt cancellation of Chatterjee's agenda, which included bolstering high-voltage transmission systems, among other efforts. Danly's tenure as chairman is set to be shorter than any previous FERC head except Bill Clinton appointee William Massey.

"Jeff Dennis, general counsel and managing director at Advanced Energy Economy, said that even if Danly wanted to be proactive, there would be "very little" he could do, because the votes are the same. The five-member panel is currently two commissioners short, with Richard Glick being the lone Democrat and Biden's likely pick for chairman.

"What [Danly will] really be able to do is ensure that things he disagrees with do not come up for a vote," Dennis said. "For example, I wouldn't expect to see the carbon pricing policy statement finalized."

"Danly criticized a technical conference FERC hosted at the end of September on carbon pricing, suggesting the commission was acting outside its jurisdiction. Others cited Danly's membership in the Federalist Society, an influential group of conservatives and libertarians that believes a regulator's job is to stick to the text of a law.

"I don't think FERC does much under Chairman Danly in lame duck," Hartman said. "The scenario to watch is President Biden with a GOP Senate. Then you have Chairman Glick with a Republican majority at FERC, potentially for an extended period of time."

"Hartman said that while it's likely Republican Mark Christie and Democrat Allison Clements — who are currently awaiting Senate confirmation, with a potential vote slated for December — will be instated, that would still leave a Republican majority.

"[In this] case, the policy alignment of Democrats with Chatterjee takes center stage," he said. "This arrangement would also allow Chatterjee to roll off next year without FERC losing a quorum, and a GOP Senate could decide whether to permit Democrats to hold a FERC majority."

"He added: "To be clear, I don't think it's good for FERC to be shorthanded. FERC works best with a full slate of qualified commissioners."

Congress

[Lame Duck Agenda](#)

The following story discusses priority items for the Congressional Lame Duck session.

On November 12, Geof Koss, Jeremy Dillion and George Cahlink of [E&E Daily](#) published, "House and Senate leaders are sending mixed signals about passing another round of COVID-19 relief during the lame-duck session, raising new questions over the viability of stimulus prospects before the new Congress is sworn in.

"While Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) called for a lame-duck stimulus deal the day after the election, he struck a different tone this week, saying he was focused on enacting an omnibus appropriations bill and "maybe another coronavirus package" before the end of the year.

"Citing better-than-expected third-quarter job growth as well as promising news about a possible COVID-19 vaccine, McConnell signaled that he will continue to oppose the \$2 trillion package pushed by Democrats.

"It seems to me that snag that hung us up for months is still there," he told reporters Tuesday of the dispute over how large a relief bill should be.

"I don't think the current situation demands a multitrillion-dollar package. So I think it should be highly targeted, very similar to what I put on the floor both in October and September," he added, referencing the roughly \$500 billion relief bills that Democrats twice rejected as inadequate.

“However, McConnell said he agreed with House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) on the need for an omnibus appropriations package to close out fiscal 2021, as opposed to another stopgap spending measure.

“To that end, Senate appropriators on Tuesday released all 12 of the annual spending bills in a bid to negotiate with the House.

“I think both sides think it would be better to do an omnibus appropriation bill before the end of the year rather than another short-term punt, so hopefully, we can get there,” McConnell said.

Dems’ demands

“Democratic leaders are signaling they won't go along with a smaller relief package, which Pelosi said last week "doesn't appeal to me at all",

“Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) said Tuesday that he and Pelosi are in lockstep agreement over the need for a comprehensive relief deal, despite the possibility of a vaccine on the horizon.

"You definitely need a strong, robust government involvement," Schumer said Tuesday. "There are so many other things that have to be done in addition to the vaccine, and it's going to take, unfortunately even under the best of circumstances, a considerable amount of time before everybody is vaccinated."

“In addition to the size of a relief package, Republicans are wary of Democrats' demands for emergency relief for states and local governments.

“The two sides are also at odds over how much unemployment insurance should be extended due to the pandemic, as well as liability provisions for schools and businesses that are a top priority for McConnell.

“In an appearance at a postelection event sponsored by *The Washington Post* yesterday, Senator Bob Casey (D-PA) said yesterday that he hoped that pandemic relief wouldn't have to wait until President-elect Joe Biden takes office.

"I hope that we can get something done this month or in December; I think that's what we should try to do," Casey said. "And when I say something, I mean something robust, something substantial, not just a very limited, scaled-down proposal that Leader McConnell has set forth a couple of times."

“Major energy policy is unlikely in any pandemic deal, but efforts related to helping water and power utilities and ratepayers remain in play.

“Yesterday, Senator Martin Heinrich (D-NM), pointing to new numbers about the impacts of the outdoor economy, asked for leaders to include the sector in relief legislation.

“I am confident that the outdoor industry can play a major role in our national recovery,” he said. “Outdoor recreation can help us solve health and access disparities, employ millions of U.S. workers restoring landscapes and rebuilding infrastructure, connect Americans to their heritage and drive local economies — particularly in rural communities,”

Energy reform push

“Top senators on the Energy and Natural Resources Committee are continuing their push to see the panel's bipartisan energy package, S. 2657, enacted before the end of the year.

"We are gearing up to try to move this in the lame duck now," Chairwoman Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) told E&E News on Tuesday. "I can tell you that I am looking for any vehicle because that is actually true."

“She and ranking member Joe Manchin (D-WV) have been trying to move the bill past the finish line since the amendment fight over regulating superpolluting hydrofluorocarbons that derailed it earlier this year was resolved.

“However, Senator Rand Paul (R-KY) objected last month to efforts to bring the measure back to the floor, where Murkowski was hoping to quickly pass it and go to conference with the House.

“Murkowski indicated on Tuesday that securing floor time and passing it as a stand-alone bill remains an option, although without consent from all senators, that may require days of floor time to work through procedural votes.

"That is going to require a little more floor time just to do the processing because we still have a holdout," Murkowski said, adding that an omnibus spending bill and the National Defense Authorization Act are also possible vehicles.

“The House passed its own energy package in September, H.R. 4447, and Murkowski said her staff and aides for Energy and Commerce Chairman Frank Pallone (D-NJ) have been working "aggressively" to reconcile their competing bills.

“She is hoping for a meeting of House and Senate lawmakers to try to figure out how to get an energy deal before the end of the current Congress.

"I think we are at that point now where it's time to say, 'All right, what's our best path forward here in both bodies, and what are we going to do to make it happen?'" Murkowski said.

“Manchin said this week that the bill "has a shot." "It's got 72 senators on that piece of legislation; 53 of those bills are all bipartisan. There's nothing like it right now, so why not pick something that basically can show that we can still work together?" he told E&E News.

Other

[Biden Administration Transition](#)

The following stories discuss the incoming Biden Administration transition including beachhead teams for various agencies and the outlook for a possible infrastructure bill.

[Adviser Expects to Work Quickly on Infrastructure Bill](#)

E&E News PM reporter Maxine Joselow published on November 12, “A top transportation adviser to President-elect Joe Biden today predicted that Congress will advance an infrastructure bill within the first 100 days of the new administration.

"There are real prospects for a bipartisan, broad infrastructure program," John Porcari, the former deputy secretary of Transportation under President Obama, said during the annual meeting of the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO).

"It's no secret to anybody that President-elect Biden has long been an advocate of infrastructure. He feels it in his bones," he added.

“Jim Tymon, executive director of AASHTO, asked whether Congress could move a long-term infrastructure bill within 100 days of Jan. 20, when Biden will be inaugurated.

"I think the short answer is yes," Porcari said in response.

“The comments by Porcari, who previously served as secretary of the Maryland Department of Transportation, came as advocates press for an infrastructure measure to help the economy recover from the COVID-19 pandemic.

“A green infrastructure bill could be Biden's best shot at passing meaningful climate policy if the Senate remains in Republican hands.

“Porcari said an infrastructure program under the new administration would likely focus on several key areas, including climate, resilience, safety, inner-city passenger rail and rural broadband.

“Robert Hickman, the transportation counsel for Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY), also spoke at the AASHTO annual meeting, which was held in a virtual format this year because of the pandemic.

"Hickman said he was cautiously optimistic about infrastructure progress under Biden after four years of inaction under President Trump.

"The jokes about Infrastructure Week are many. But there is an opportunity here," he said.

"I know a lot of people who will probably be working in the administration. I do think there's potentially a great team that really wants to get something done and not just say they're working on it, but actually get something on the president's desk to sign," he added.

"Hickman noted that the House recently passed a \$1.5 trillion infrastructure package, H.R. 2, while the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee last summer unanimously approved a \$287 billion highway bill, S. 2302.

"But Congress ultimately punted the issue by passing a one-year extension of expiring surface transportation law, he said, "in part due to partisanship and in part due to lack of focus on the part of some."

"Biden had a phone call today with Schumer and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.), during which the Democrats discussed "investments in infrastructure" as a way of creating "good-paying union jobs" and providing economic relief amid the pandemic, according to a readout of the call from the Biden transition team."

[Biden Announces Agency Review Teams](#)

Timothy Cama and Kevin Bogardus of [E&E News PM](#) wrote on November 10, "President-elect Joe Biden has named dozens of advisers to federal agency-focused teams meant to prepare his administration to take over in January.

"The "agency review teams" announced this afternoon are meant to spend the coming weeks learning about agency operations and how to effectively implement Biden's policies after he is inaugurated on Jan. 20.

"But the teams cannot access buildings, meet with agency employees or access sensitive information for the time being, since the General Services Administration has not formally acknowledged Biden's victory. President Trump is trying to challenge numerous states' election results, making unfounded claims of widespread illegal voting.

"The teams assigned to environment and energy agencies have a particularly important task. Biden has named fighting climate change as one of his top four issues going into the presidency, and has an aggressive \$2 trillion plan on the issue, as well as a list of early executive actions he plans to take — actions the agency teams are likely to play a central role in developing.

"Our nation is grappling with a pandemic, an economic crisis, urgent calls for racial justice, and the existential threat of climate change," Ted Kaufman, co-chairman of Biden's transition team, said in a statement announcing the agency teams.

"We must be prepared for a seamless transfer of knowledge to the incoming administration to protect our interests at home and abroad. The agency review process will help lay the foundation for meeting these challenges on Day One."

"Most of the agency team members are volunteers, though a handful are on the transition team's payroll, it said.

"The groups assigned to environment and energy agencies include numerous familiar names in the policy world, including many alumni from President Obama's administration, Democratic campaigns and liberal activist groups.

"The EPA team's leader is Patrice Simms, a vice president at Earthjustice. He served as an attorney in EPA's Office of General Counsel and as counsel to EPA's Environmental Appeals Board, and also was a deputy assistant general in the Justice Department's Environment and Natural Resources Division during the Obama administration.

"Numerous other Obama EPA veterans are on the team, including Ann Dunkin, EPA's former chief information officer; Matt Fritz, chief of staff under former Administrator Gina McCarthy; Cynthia Giles, who led EPA's enforcement office; Joseph Goffman, a top climate aide to McCarthy; Ken Kopocis, who headed up the Obama EPA's water office; Lisa Garcia, a top environmental justice adviser at the Obama EPA; and Amanda Aguirre, who was acting director of EPA's Office of Public Engagement and Environmental Education.

"Another team member, Michael McCabe, served as deputy EPA administrator in the later years of the Clinton administration. He led the agency on an acting basis for about 10 days before Christine Todd Whitman came on board in 2001.

"The team also includes other environmental lawyers, like Alejandra Núñez, a staff attorney for the Sierra Club's Environmental Law Program.

"The Department of Energy's team is being led by Arun Majumdar, who was the founding director of the Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy under President Obama and now teaches at Stanford University. His appointment likely signals a renewed focus on research and development efforts for DOE.

"Other notable members of the DOE team include Kerry Duggan, a former energy adviser to Biden; Jonathan Elkind, who worked in DOE's international affairs office under Obama; and Brad Markell, a senior official at AFL-CIO.

"The lead of the Interior Department's team is Kevin Washburn, who served as Interior's assistant secretary for Indian affairs under Obama. Washburn is dean of the University

of Iowa law school and a citizen of the Chickasaw Nation, likely a signal of the priority Biden plans to put on issues related to American Indians.

“Interior's team also includes Maggie Thomas, who worked on climate matters in the presidential campaigns of Washington Gov. Jay Inslee (D) and Senator Elizabeth Warren (D-MA); and Kate Kelly, who advised Interior secretaries Ken Salazar and Sally Jewell under Obama and now works at the Center for American Progress.

“Cecilia Martinez is leading the Council on Environmental Quality team. She leads the Center for Earth, Energy and Democracy and advised Biden on environmental matters throughout much of his campaign.

“Cristin Dorgelo, head of the Office of Science and Technology Policy team, was the agency's chief of staff under Obama.

'Moving along'

“Biden hopes to name some Cabinet nominees before Thanksgiving, he said in a news conference today.

“He said the Trump administration's refusal to cooperate on the transition isn't having much of an impact on his team's operations.

"We're going to be going, moving along in a consistent manner, putting together our administration, White House, and reviewing who we're going to pick for the Cabinet positions," Biden said. "And nothing's going to stop that. So I'm confident that the fact that they're not willing to acknowledge our win at this point is not of much consequence in our planning and what we're about to do between now and Jan. 20."

“Other benefits the transition team would get from GSA acknowledgement, like additional funding and access to the president's daily intelligence briefing, would be nice to have but are not necessary, he said.

"We can go through without the funding. We're in a position that we feel very good about — there's nothing that slows up our efforts to put things together."

Reporter Kelsey Brugger contributed.

On November 13, [Energywire](#) news staff published, “President-elect Joe Biden's review teams at the Department of Energy and other agencies could help him carry out his pledge to reach 100% clean electricity and cut emissions, and include appointees with extensive government experience and a past in the Obama administration.

"They're going to have to hit the ground running," Brandon Hurlbut, a former chief of staff to Obama Energy Secretary Steven Chu, said of Biden's agency picks. "Biden is inheriting many crises, and there's not going to be time for a learning curve."

“He noted that many appointees "know that DOE building very well," including Rod O'Connor, who preceded Hurlbut as chief of staff and is now president of the ROC Group and on Biden's Department of Energy advisory team.

“Several appointees are also familiar with the 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, which President Obama pushed to lift the country out of recession. Biden has proposed a \$2 trillion clean energy plan to revive the pandemic-wracked economy and provide jobs, although he could face a funding wall in Congress.

"When you are doing stimulus again, you want to know the lessons from the last time you did it," Hurlbut said.

“The appointees include scientists, electric vehicle advocates and environmentalists, but virtually no one with direct ties to the fossil fuel industry, outside of a member or two who have spoken in favor of fossil projects or performed research that can benefit oil.

“By contrast, the head of Trump's Department of Energy transition team was Tom Pyle, president of the pro-fossil fuel, anti-regulatory American Energy Alliance.

“Biden named the appointees earlier this week even as Trump refuses to concede the election and as his administration refuses to acknowledge Biden as president-elect. The General Services Administration — led by a Trump appointee — has yet to recognize Biden as the winner, meaning he has yet to gain full access to each government agency.

“DOE could play a central role in Biden's efforts to transition to green energy, and the Biden team includes a number of people who have been suggested as a potential Energy secretary.

“They include DOE team leader Arun Majumdar, who runs the Precourt Institute for Energy at Stanford University.

Majumdar was the first director of DOE's flagship agency for innovation, the Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy, and got praise for securing congressional support for the fledgling division across the political aisle. Observers said he would bring both scientific credibility and political expertise to the job.

“Other transition members mentioned as potential nominees for DOE secretary include longtime Biden energy adviser Kerry Duggan, a former DOE official and former Energy Secretary Ernest Moniz's ex-liaison to the city of Detroit.

“At DOE, Duggan was director of stakeholder engagement; director of legislative, regulatory and urban affairs; and a senior policy adviser to the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy.

“Also in the mix for the top post is DOE transition member Dan Arvizu, the director of the National Renewable Energy Laboratory, DOE's chief research and development board for energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies.

A KXL backer?

“Biden has pledged that his plan would create millions of green energy jobs, and his transition teams include union representation.

"There are significant and important labor union folks on these panels which will keep the labor/jobs issues front and center," said Frank Maisano, a senior principal at Bracewell LLP, in an email.

“Brad Markell, executive director of the AFL-CIO's Industrial Union Council and an advocate for carbon capture technology, is on the DOE team. He was also involved in the negotiations leading to tailpipe emissions standards for light-duty vehicles during the Obama administration.

“And Dave Barnett of the pipe fitters union is on the team for the Transportation Department, which handles pipeline safety.

“Building trade unions are the biggest supporters of pipeline construction in the Democratic coalition, seeing them as a significant source of jobs.

“Barnett is the director of pipeline and gas distribution at the union, whose full name is the United Association of Journeymen and Apprentices of the Plumbing and Pipe Fitting Industry of the United States and Canada and is commonly abbreviated to UA.

“In 2017, he testified before the Nebraska Public Service Commission in favor of the Keystone XL pipeline, which Biden has opposed.

"Keystone XL presents a significant opportunity for many jobs to be created for UA members," Barnett said.

“He also testified in support of Enbridge's Line 3 crude oil pipeline replacement in Minnesota — a project that has drawn fire from Democrats. And he has spoken in favor of replacing the thousands of miles of old pipe made from cast or wrought iron.

"I've been in this industry all my life — I don't want to see the industry go away," Barnett said in a 2013 presentation.

“Barnett has been active in the BlueGreen Alliance, a joint effort of labor and environmental groups that endorsed Biden, and he's a member of DOT's Technical Hazardous Liquid Pipeline Safety Standards Committee.

“Carl Weimer, former executive director of the Pipeline Safety Trust and now an adviser to the group, said Barnett's selection is a mixed bag.

"He brings a good labor perspective," Weimer said. "It would be nice to have someone with a little deeper understanding of how some of these policies actually impede safety."

“At the Office of Science and Technology Policy, another transition member has indirect research links to fossil fuels. Pavneet Singh, a Brookings Institution fellow on leave, has expertise in machine learning and analytics that "can solve complex data challenges" in a variety of industries, including the oil and gas industry, according to his Brookings profile.

The EV connection

“Biden's selections also point to his support for electric vehicles and clean transportation. Biden has called for 500,000 new electric vehicle charging stations across the country — a coordinating task that could involve multiple agencies.

“The Department of Transportation team is being led by Phillip Washington, the top official at the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority.

“That agency was one of the first nationally to set a goal of converting all of their buses to battery electrics in coming years.

“Washington is joined in the DOT group by top officials from other jurisdictions that set their sights on a similar 100% transition of bus fleets: Vinn White, a senior transportation adviser to New Jersey's governor; Polly Trottenberg, New York City's transportation commissioner; and Patty Monahan, a member of the California Energy Commission.

“Monahan, the CEC's lead commissioner on transportation, has worked to advance clean energy technologies and reduce pollution, with a focus on promoting energy equity, according to her CEC biography.

“That includes helping to oversee the CEC's school bus replacement program, which awards funding for schools in low-income communities to replace diesel school buses with electric ones.

“Recently, Monahan contributed to a plan outlining how California will start ramping up EV infrastructure as the state moves to phase out new internal-combustion cars by 2035, CapRadio reported.

"This transition should benefit everything," including those in disadvantaged and rural communities, she told CapRadio.

“One former transportation commissioner for Chicago and the District of Columbia who is part of the same DOT transition team, Gabe Klein, has worked on new-mobility projects that include one of the country's first bike shares and formerly served as an executive for Zipcar, the car-sharing company.

“Another DOT member, Austin Brown, executive director of the University of California, Davis' Policy Institute for Energy, Environment and the Economy, worked as an assistant director for clean energy and transportation in the Obama White House's Office of Science and Technology Policy. Since Brown joined UC Davis in 2017, the university has been tapped by the state to research some of the nation's most complex issues around electric vehicle adoption.

“On the Office of Science and Technology Policy team, Erin Szulman would bring experience with electric vehicle infrastructure. She is director of performance improvement and internal operations at EVgo, which operates one of the nation's largest charging networks.

Renewables

“Jason Miller, the team lead for the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative, is a former deputy director of the National Economic Council during the Obama administration, where he led manufacturing policies intended to stoke domestic production of parts used in electric vehicles. Miller also helped develop the Obama-era fuel efficiency standards for light-duty cars as well as the nation's first policy for automated vehicles.

“As an executive agency, USTR is the nation's lead office for trade policy. It has played an important role in setting import policies for renewables and clean energy under the last two administrations, most notably with tariffs on solar panels and cells. Some energy analysts have said that the Biden administration could repeal Trump fees on clean energy imports.

“Miller also has argued in favor of multilateral trade pacts like the Trans-Pacific Partnership, saying they are key to reenforcing the country's role as a global leader.

“At least two transition members have researched how international trade rules can clash with national and state attempts to jump-start clean energy industries.

“One paper co-authored by Mark Wu, an international legal scholar at Harvard Law School on the USTR team, argued that environmentalists and fair trade advocates should focus on "narrowly amending" trade remedies such as tariffs on Chinese solar panels so as to avoid "a harmful green trade war."

“A white paper published last year by Todd Tucker, a political scientist and fellow at the Roosevelt Institute, proposed a "Global Green New Deal to complement the domestic one." Tucker is on the USTR and Department of Commerce teams.

“In the document, Tucker noted that the World Trade Organization had ruled against “buy local” requirements of seven U.S. states’ renewable goals, meaning ambitious U.S. industrial policies could run into similar problems.

“Instead, he argued, “the obligations of extant international trade treaties should be temporarily suspended” and replaced by two-way agreements between nations. Those that implement Green New Deals would waive all tariffs for each other’s goods for a period of 10 years, Tucker wrote.

“Much of Biden’s group that will review international development also has past work around sustainability, including promoting growth in renewable industries abroad.

“Elizabeth Littlefield, one of the members on Biden’s international development agency team, was an Obama-era president of the Overseas Private Investment Corp. (OPIC), a federal agency for development finance. She oversaw a tenfold expansion in the agency’s renewable portfolio and now heads a sustainability practice at Albright Stonebridge Group, a Washington-based strategic diplomacy firm.

“And Brian O’Hanlon, a principal at the Rocky Mountain Institute, also oversaw billion-dollar pipelines of large-scale power projects at OPIC and directed business development within the agency’s renewable finance group.

Grid threats and cybersecurity

“At the Department of Homeland Security, Biden’s transition team contains a number of prominent cybersecurity players who were a part of the Obama administration.

“Caitlin Durkovich of Toffler Associates, former DHS assistant secretary for infrastructure protection under Obama, has been heavily involved in grid cyberthreats and resilience for decades. Durkovich is an adviser for several energy-focused organizations, such as the Electric Power Research Institute and the grid security advocacy group Protect Our Power.

“Durkovich was also a recent co-author of an Atlantic Council [report](#) that called for several major reforms of DHS, including boosting available resources and making the agency the lead in defending domestic cybersecurity threats from hostile nations, particularly around attacks on critical infrastructure. Durkovich said that DHS needs to stay nonpartisan and rise “above politics.”

“Another notable name is Paul Rosen, now a partner at Crowell and Moring LLP, Rosen was the DHS chief of staff from 2015 to 2017 and before that served several leadership roles within the agency. Rosen was counsel to then-Delaware Senator Biden on the Judiciary Committee from 2006 to 2009.

“Robert Silvers, a partner at Paul Hastings LLP and co-chair of its privacy and cybersecurity practice, was the assistant secretary for cyber policy at DHS. Silvers was a

part of the Obama administration's largely successful efforts to curb Chinese theft of U.S. intellectual property.

“John Cohen, senior expert on global threats at DOE's Argonne National Laboratory, is another DHS transition official. Cohen was acting undersecretary for DHS's Office of Intelligence and Analysis, which provides threat reports to state and local governments, and was previously the agency's counterterrorism coordinator.

“Jonathan Meyer, a partner at Sheppard Mullin, was deputy general counsel at DHS during the Obama administration, where he advised the agency on cybersecurity matters. Meyer was also counsel to Biden on the Senate Judiciary Committee from 1999 to 2001.

DOE

“Beyond rumored contenders for DOE secretary like Majumdar, the DOE landing team includes many former government officials and academics with expertise on issues including carbon capture technology and building efficiency.

“They include:

- Rhonda Carter, vice president of culture and operations at the Marguerite Casey Foundation, which invests in grassroots activism on behalf of low-income families. Carter was the White House liaison at DOE under Obama, as well as deputy chief of staff at the Department of Transportation.
- Madelyn Creedon, who served as principal deputy administrator of the National Nuclear Security Administration under Obama and who began her career as a trial attorney at the Department of Energy.
- Noah Deich, executive director and co-founder of Carbon180, who **wrote** last month about the importance of scaling up efforts at the government and corporate levels to remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.
- Jonathan Elkind, a senior research scholar at the Columbia University School of International and Public Affairs' Center on Global Energy Policy, who worked on international energy and climate issues at DOE from 2009 to 2017, leaving as assistant secretary for international affairs.
- Bryan Garcia, president and CEO of the Connecticut Green Bank, the first bank in the country that seeks to accelerate the deployment of clean energy using public funds to attract private investment in clean energy.
- Kathleen Hogan, former deputy assistant secretary for energy efficiency in DOE's Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy.
- Hannah Lee, who works for the state of California's Office of Digital Innovation.
- John MacWilliams, a senior fellow at Columbia's Center on Global Energy Policy who served as associate deputy secretary at DOE in 2015. He also served as DOE's chief risk officer.

- Trisha Miller, senior director for advocacy and government relations at Gates Ventures and former senior adviser to the secretary at the Department of Housing and Urban Development, where she helped create the Office of Economic Resilience and worked to advance Obama's Climate Action Plan.
- Adrianna Quintero, senior director of diversity, equity and inclusion at the Energy Foundation, which works on energy efficiency and renewable energy in the power, transportation and buildings sectors.
- Ramamoorthy Ramesh, a professor in the physics department at the University of California, Berkeley.
- Roque Sanchez, who served as a White House climate adviser under Obama and is now a senior scientist and engineering analyst at High Water Mark, a New Mexico-based environmental consulting service.
- Dave Turk, who last month was appointed deputy executive director of the International Energy Agency. Turk also served in the Obama administration as deputy assistant secretary for international climate and technology at the Department of Energy.
- Rama Zakaria, senior manager of regulatory policy and analysis at the Environmental Defense Fund. Zakaria also worked at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission as an adviser to Obama appointee Norman Bay. She was also deputy associate director for energy and climate change at the White House Council on Environmental Quality, where she focused on issues related to Obama's Clean Power Plan.

Reporters Carlos Anchondo, Lesley Clark, David Iaconangelo, Mike Soraghan, Christian Vasquez and Miranda Willson contributed.

Correction: *An earlier version of this story misstated Jonathan Meyer's title during the Obama administration.*