

EU states split on classifying nuclear energy as 'green'

DW / 11-11-21 - Germany, Luxembourg, Portugal, Denmark and Austria spoke out on Thursday against the classification of nuclear energy as a climate-friendly source of power.

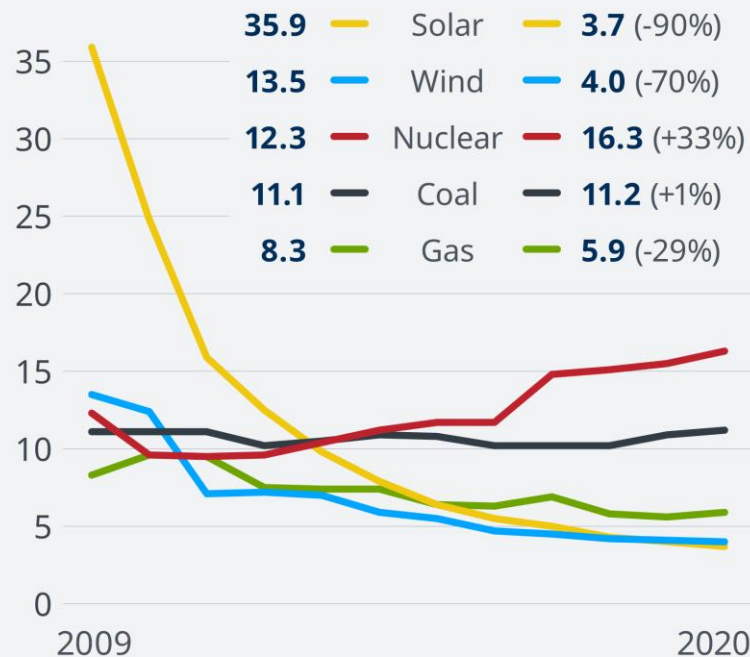
The five countries issued a statement on the sidelines of the UN climate summit in Glasgow, COP26. It comes as the European Commission is working on a so-called EU taxonomy, in which it lists what the bloc considers as "environmentally sustainable economic activities."

Some other EU countries, led by France, are seeking to add modern forms of nuclear energy to that list. France, in particular, has voiced plans to use nuclear energy as part of its efforts to phase out fossil fuel plants that are significant sources of greenhouse gas emissions.

"Nuclear power cannot be a solution in the climate crisis," said German Environment Minister Svenja Schulze.

Worldwide energy prices over the last decade

Generation costs in cents (US\$)



Source: WNISR, Lazard

"It is too risky, too slow and too expensive for the crucial decade in the fight against climate change," she added. [Full story](#)

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Biden proposes 20-year drilling ban around Chaco Culture National Historical Park, a sacred tribal site

The Washington Post / 11-15-21

The Biden administration on Monday proposed a 20-year ban on oil and gas drilling in [Chaco Canyon](#) and

surrounding areas in northwestern New Mexico, a sacred tribal site that also contains valuable oil and gas. The plan would direct the [Bureau of Land Management](#) to start the process for removing from leasing federal lands **within a 10-mile radius around Chaco Culture National Historical Park.** [Full story](#)



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California sets gas price record for second day running



CNN Business / 11-15-21 - California gas prices hit **\$4.682 per gallon on Monday**, setting a new record for the state for a second day in a row, according to the American Automobile Association.

Monday's price for regular unleaded was six-tenths of a cent higher than the Sunday average reported by AAA, which broke the all-time record of \$4.671 previously set in October 2012. [Full story](#)

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Christmas in Pittsburgh

Post-Gazette / 11-16-21 - Thanks to a petition signed by over 10,000 Pittsburghers, the Tree of Lights returns to Point State Park Thursday for another holiday season. Duquesne Light is designing a **new tree for next season that will be more energy-efficient.** [Full story](#)



**FALL
FUNDRAISER**
Online Auction




NOVEMBER 17 @ 7 PM
THROUGH
DECEMBER 1 @ 7 PM

CENTER FOR COALFIELD JUSTICE

From the Center for Coalfield Justice

Please help us to continue our work to protect public lands from fossil fuel extraction and invest in small town and rural communities to advocate for environmental and economic justice by contributing to our online auction or [making a recurring donation here](#). On the 17th we will launch the online auction with a Facebook live video at 7 PM which you can watch here: <https://fb.me/e/1ggDXtRlt>
Veronica Coptis, Executive Director

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Pittsburgh-based battery technology researchers and manufacturers look to grants in Biden’s infrastructure bill

Post-Gazette / 11-15-21 - The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act sets aside \$6 billion for grant awards meant to expand capabilities of U.S.-based battery research and development, bolster the domestic battery production and shore up the American supply chain in an industry often reliant on foreign metals and raw materials. For the U.S. to ensure its own fate in the battery market, researchers and manufacturers will need to make “critical breakthroughs” in several areas, including “dry manufacturing” — using less chemical solvents to produce a less volatile battery — and energy density, particularly when producing lithium ion batteries for electric cars. [Full story](#)

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Volkswagen appeals rejected as Supreme Court allows emissions scandal suits

The U.S. Supreme Court rejected two appeals from Volkswagen, leaving intact rulings that let state and local governments sue over a diesel emissions cheating scandal that has already cost the German automaker more than \$23 billion. The rebuffs let the



state of **Ohio and counties in Florida and Utah** press ahead with suits using laws that bar tampering with emissions systems. Volkswagen pleaded guilty in 2017 to federal charges of misleading regulators and customers about its emissions systems and obstructing investigations after officials grew suspicious.

[Full story](#)

Demand for standby generators is surging as the pandemic has turned every house into its own office park

Andrew Maykuth / Philadelphia Inquirer / 11-7-21 – The market for standby power generators has soared in the last year, driven by the pandemic, which suddenly made power interruptions more than a minor inconvenience for millions of families working from home.

Photo: A crew from All Phase Electric Co. in Upper Darby, Pa. installs a 20 kilowatt Briggs & Stratton standby generator at a home in Upper Providence. Demand for generators has soared as more people work from home. ALEJANDRO A. ALVAREZ / Staff Photographer



A standby generator is an engine housed in a box about the size of an air-conditioner condenser, permanently installed outside a house. They are linked to a fuel supply like natural gas or propane and wired directly into a house's circuitry through a transfer switch. They turn on automatically, in seconds, if utility power cuts out, and stay on until utility power is restored. Standby generators are not an inconsequential purchase. They often require a building permit. Because the engines emit deadly carbon monoxide, they need to be positioned away from windows. The zoning in some towns requires them to be located away from property lines because they can be noisy.

Two years ago, the price of a typical installation cost \$10,000 to \$12,000, said Torrasi, whose firm is based in Eagleville. Those prices have increased about \$2,000, she said, because manufacturers are charging more, and the cost of installation has climbed, driven by surging demand. [Full story](#)

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Beaver Cemetery was photographed with the Shell Pennsylvania Petrochemicals Complex in the background on Monday, Nov. 15, 2021, in Beaver. (Andrew Rush/Post-Gazette)



Nikki Wilhelm, manager for the Miniature Railroad & Village at the Carnegie Science Center, puts some finishing touches on the display after the annual refresh of the miniatures Monday, Nov. 15, 2021, in Pittsburgh. [Photos source](#)

Another addition to your 'Zoom/Webinar week'...

Duquesne University to hold discussion on local journalism as trust in media declines

By Paul Guggenheimer / TRIB / Nov 16, 2021

Between communities no longer covered by newspapers and declining trust in media, some people believe local journalism has reached a crisis stage. The question of how best to pursue balanced and trustworthy journalism in an age when the public's perception of the truth is sharply divided is the focal point of a discussion [Wednesday at Duquesne University](#).

“So, when you're not exposing yourself to local media, when you're not exposing yourself to opinions and ideas that are different from your own, all of those things contribute to the state of media today and the state of distrust.” WALCK

Wednesday, November 17, 3:00 p.m.

Charles J. Dougherty Ballroom, Duquesne University Power Center
Walk-ins are welcome, but registration is encouraged. [Register Now](#)

Can't attend? Watch the event live on YouTube.

“The Importance of Local Journalism in an Age of Declining Trust in Media”

Panel:

- **Keynote speaker:** [Kelly McBride](#); nationally renowned expert in journalism ethics, NPR Public Editor, Senior Vice President and Chair of the Craig Newmark Center for Ethics and Leadership at the Poynter Institute
- [Steve Caruso](#), House beat reporter for the Pennsylvania Capital-Star
- [Luis Fabregas](#), A'88, GA'95, Editor of the Tribune-Review
- [Lynne Hayes-Freeland](#), A'77, KDKA radio personality
- [Mila Sanina](#), Executive Director of PublicSource
- [Joshua Taylor](#), A'07, anchor, reporter and producer for KDKA-TV Sports Team
- [Dr. Pamela E. Walck](#), associate professor of multiplatform journalism, Duquesne University

[Full story](#)

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Fair Shake Environmental Legal Services, FracTracker Alliance Call on Citizens to Report Dumping of Oil & Gas Drilling Wastewater on Dirt & Gravel Roads

Fair Shake Environmental Legal Services and the [FracTracker Alliance](#) are asking citizens to report the road spreading of oil and gas wastewater in order to protect community health and the environment from chemical contamination.



[If you see this being performed in your community, notify Fair Shake Here.](#)

It would be helpful for these groups to know which township or borough the spreading was observed in and if a specific company was performing the spreading.

Your notifications will help obtain further information on this practice to help stop it going forward. [\[Read more here\]](#)

[Note: DEP changed its regulations to ban the road spreading of unconventional shale gas drilling wastewater on roads in 2016, but conventional oil and gas drillers are not included in the ban.]

Background From FracTracker

Though a 2018 legal win against unauthorized brine spreading signaled the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection to enact a statewide ban on the practice, brine spreading continues in our communities.

Brine is wastewater from oil and gas industry activities, and it can contain high levels of sodium, chlorides, and other contaminants—the health impacts of which are still mostly unknown.

Pending the DEP's evaluation of regulations around brine spreading, Fair Shake and FracTracker urge you to take action and spread awareness about this issue to protect the health of our neighbors and our environment.

In early October this year, Fair Shake was informed that the DEP's Bureau of Waste Management is currently evaluating whether the approximately 17 companies

that are ridding themselves of brine wastewater by spreading it are conforming to the “Coproduct Determination” Program.

This program falls under Chapter 287.8 of the Residual Waste Management Regulations.

The DEP’s review is in response to the increasing concern and information that gas fracking and drilling wastewater contains hazardous materials and NORMs [naturally occurring radiation].

In addition, reports and research exist that brine wastewater spreading is not as effective for dust suppression than other commercial products designed for such use. [2]

According to Chapter 287.8 regulations, a producer wishing to use a waste or “coproduct” in place of another commercial product may make a “coproduct determination,” essentially allowing that producer to self-determine and self-certify that such waste material has the same physical and chemical characteristics as an intentionally manufactured product or raw material.

The producer must also self-determine if the waste material presents no greater threat of harm to human health and the environment than the use of an intentionally produced product.

It seems to be an unchecked privilege of producers to make these determinations—to their own benefit—which presents an impressive conflict of interest.

The DEP does not oversee these determinations, and only receives reports on how wastewater is used or disposed of. [3]

This is where the hang up is and the DEP is now evaluating whether the self-determinations made by some 17 companies on the safety and chemical characteristics of wastewater brine are appropriate or not.

If some of the self-determinations are incorrect, the PA DEP has hinted that it may issue notices of violations or other enforcement.

The question remains, how is the DEP allowing brine wastewater coproduct determinations and uses of it to continue after it issued the moratorium on using it as a road dust suppressant in 2018?

Fair Shake is looking into what, if any, part of the DEP’s review process of the coproduct determinations that it can take part of or provide comment on.

[Click Here for more information.](#)

Related Article Last Week:

-- [Bay Journal: Dirt Roads & Drilling Wastewater - Dustup Rises Over Health Issues](#)

Related Articles:

-- [The Science Says: Spreading Conventional Drilling Wastewater On Dirt & Gravel Roads Can Harm Aquatic Life, Poses Health Risks To Humans - And It Damages The Roads](#)

-- [How The Conventional Oil & Gas Drilling Industry Eliminated Any Restrictions On The Disposal Of Millions Of Gallons Of Its Wastewater On PA’s Dirt & Gravel Roads](#)

-- [17 Conventional Oil & Gas Drilling Operators Under Review By DEP To Determine If They Comply With Program Allowing Road Dumping Of Drilling Wastewater](#)

-- [Penn State Center For Dirt & Gravel Road Studies: Road Dumping Of Oil & Gas Wastewater To Control Dust Is Environmentally Unsound Practice](#)

- [Conventional Oil & Gas Drilling Advisory Council Critical Of DEP For Working With Penn State On Independent Studies Of Road Dumping Drilling Wastewater They Had Been Aware Of Since August, 2020](#)
- [New Penn State Study Shows Road Dumping Oil & Gas Drilling Wastewater Has Little Dust Suppression Benefit, Contains Pollutants Harmful To Human Health, Agriculture, Aquatic Life](#)
- [DEP: Potential For Environmental Impacts From Spills Or Leaks Of Radioactive Oil & Gas Waste Materials Is Real; Health Dept. Not Aware Of All Chemicals In Oil & Gas Wastewater Making Risk Assessment Difficult](#)
- [80 Organizations, 1,800+ Concerned Citizens To DEP: Ban Road Dumping Of Drilling Wastewater; Dept. Of Health Unaware Road Dumping Is Occurring](#)
- [65+ Groups Ask Biden Administration To Reclassify Oil & Gas Drilling Waste As 'Hazardous' To Prevent Road Dumping Of Wastewater And Other Practices](#)
- [Op-Ed: Why Is the General Assembly About To Hurt Us By Authorizing Road Dumping Of Oil & Gas Wastewater?](#)
- [Op-Ed: Will Our Dirt Roads Again Be Used As Dumping Sites For Oil & Gas Well Wastewater](#)
- [Op-Ed: The Story Behind Stopping Conventional Oil & Gas Brine Spreading On Dirt Roads](#)
- [Earthworks' New Report, Interactive Map Tracks Disposal Of 380 Million Barrels Of PA Oil & Gas Drilling Wastewater, Including Road Dumping](#)
- [House Republicans Pass Bill Legalizing Road Dumping Of Conventional Oil & Gas Well Wastewater, Rolling Back Environmental Protection Standards](#)

[Posted: November 15, 2021] [PA Environment Digest](#)

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PA Wilds Center Seeks Public Meetings on Proposed Low-Level Combat Training Flights by Maryland National Guard; Asking Others to Sign-On to the Request



In response to a [proposal from the Maryland Air National Guard](#) to conduct low-altitude military training over a significant portion of the [Pennsylvania Wilds](#), the [PA Wilds Center for Entrepreneurship](#) is asking the ANG to conduct public meetings in the affected counties-- Cameron, Clinton, Elk, McKean, Potter and Tioga.

The Center is also inviting other organizations to sign on to the request.

“There is concern that the ANG has not done adequate outreach to educate the public on the proposed Duke Low MOA and the potential impacts. There is also concern that the issuance of a ‘Finding of No Significant Impact’ would be premature,” said Ta Enos, PA Wilds Center CEO. “We are asking organizations to sign on to this letter in support of the Air National Guard hosting public meetings in each of the impacted counties -- Cameron, Clinton, Elk, McKean, Potter and Tioga -- to provide informative presentations and offer opportunity for input and questions.”

The ANG seeks to control airspace by establishing the Duke Low Military Operating Area (MOA). **This MOA proposal would permit training units to fly as low as 100 feet above ground level (AGL) for up to 170 days per year.** Training is now limited to 8,000 feet above mean sea level (MSL) -- or 6,000-7,000 AGL.

The ANG released the Draft Environmental Assessment (DEA) and has issued a DRAFT Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI). The FONSI states

that the ANG finds that the increased, low-altitude flying of A10s, F-16s and other military aircraft will have no significant impact on the welfare of the region.

“This is not a one-time airshow,” Enos says. “Our understanding is this proposed MOA means residents and visitors in these counties could hear and see A-10Cs, F-16s and other military aircraft flying very low over their homes, cabins, or popular outdoor recreation destinations multiple times per day every other day of the year, if not more frequently, for many years to come. I have a hard time believing this will not impact quality of life for residents, wildlife, livestock, the visitor experience, and small businesses dependent on visitor spending.”

The public comment period for the Draft Environmental Assessment is open until December 15.

“PA Wilds Center has asked the ANG to do a full, more robust, Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) so we can all better understand what the impacts will be,” Enos says. “We encourage others to do the same and to get your comments in by Dec. 15. I know some people fear that by speaking up they will be seen as anti-military. I can say unequivocally that is not what this is about. We are a hugely patriotic region and respect and value our military. But there is potentially a lot at stake for rural PA with this proposal, and it is important for us to ask for more due diligence on it.”

[The PA Wilds Center’s letter to the ANG can be viewed here.](#)

Sign-On Letter

In addition to submitting its comments asking for a more robust Environmental Impact Statement, the PA Wilds Center is also coordinating the sign-on letter requesting public meetings.

“The Draft EA raises questions that are not answered in the document and relies heavily on military jargon and technical terms that are no doubt foreign to most residents,” Enos says. “Rural PA deserves a more transparent process. People are asking us, will they be flying low over this area or that area and the truth is - we don’t know. It would help to have in-person meetings so the public can ask questions and hear from the Air National Guard directly. Given the size of the region, we think it is important to hold multiple meetings and to extend the public comment period to accommodate these meetings.”

Enos said close to two dozen organizations have already signed on to the letter requesting public meetings, including boroughs, townships, county commissioners, Heritage Areas, economic development organizations, conservation and wildlife organizations, watershed groups, visitor bureaus, small businesses and others.

[Click Here to read or sign the letter requesting public meetings](#) by November 19.

[The ANG's Draft EA can be viewed online.](#) The public comment period closes December 15.

Related Article:

-- [Maryland National Guard Seeking Permission To Fly Combat Training Missions Within 100 Feet Of Ground Level In Cameron, Clinton, Elk, McKean, Potter & Tioga Counties - The PA Wilds](#)

[Posted: November 15, 2021] [PA Environment Digest](#)

<<<<<>>>> [BLOG](#)

Ever hear the loud, whistling, twin jet engines of a 'Warthog'? What would that mean to Pennsylvania wildlife and campers for 170 days per year? Imagine two of these Warthogs screaming above the forest floor at only 100-feet off the ground! Have a look and listen...



Video: [A-10 Warthogs - Airshow London 2018](#)

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EPA Releases Bold National Strategy to Transform Recycling

Nov. 15, 2021 – Today, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) released the **2021 National Recycling Strategy** to tackle major recycling challenges facing the nation and to create a stronger, more resilient, and cost-effective municipal solid waste recycling system. The 2021 strategy is also the first time EPA’s recycling strategy will address the climate impacts of producing, using, and disposing of materials and focus on the human health and environmental impacts of waste and waste-related facilities in overburdened communities, reflecting the Agency’s commitment to delivering environmental justice. [Full News Release](#)

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Exxon launches sale of shale gas properties in Texas

Exxon will open a data room on Thursday for its Barnett Shale holdings that include **2,700 wells across about 182,000 acres** in North Texas, home of the first horizontally drilled shale wells. The producing properties are valued at between \$400 million and \$500 million. Exxon, which suffered a historic \$22.4 billion loss in 2020, is selling assets in Asia, Africa and Europe as it focuses on production ventures in Guyana, offshore Brazil and the Permian Basin. [Full story](#)



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Organized crime is a top driver of global deforestation – along with beef, soy, palm oil and wood products

Every year the world loses an estimated 25 million acres (10 million hectares) of forest, an area larger than the state of Indiana. Nearly all of it is in the tropics. Four consumer goods are responsible for the majority of global deforestation: beef, soy, palm oil, and wood pulp and paper products. Together these commodities are responsible for the loss of nearly 12 million acres (5 million hectares) annually. There’s also a fifth, less publicized key driver: **organized crime, including illegal drug trafficking**. [Full story](#)

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LTE: Outer Banks storms are sending a message. North Carolina isn't listening.

On Nov. 7 another nor'easter struck the Outer Banks, once again demonstrating the ever-increasing hazard of living on these low, narrow barrier islands.

The time has come to discourage further development, to consider moving some existing development out of harm's way, and for everyone on the Outer Banks to contemplate the mounting losses that they will experience with the coming of the storms on time's horizon. **A systematic plan for moving off the Outer Banks is a necessity and overdue.** [Full letter](#)

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Arctic researchers want to state their case before international climate change policy makers

The Greenland ice sheet which covers an area roughly three times the size of Texas and is nearly three miles high at its thickest point. Until recently, Greenland's ice cap was relatively stable. Ice and snow loss each summer was offset by winter accumulation. But in 1990, it became unbalanced, Das said. Wetter ice is darker ice and absorbs more of the sun's heat amplifying the melt. As a result, the **Greenland ice sheet annual ice loss has accelerated from less than one gigatonne per year in the 1990s to 345 by 2011.** [Full story](#)

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Line 3 resistance to take to the air with thermal imaging of pipeline

Indigenous opponents of Line 3 are raising money to **fly a drone with thermal imaging equipment** along the oil pipeline's Minnesota route to see for themselves whether there are more drilling fluid spills or groundwater problems.

Thermal imaging is a new direction for the Indigenous-led Line 3 opposition. It comes as state environmental regulators investigate whether construction crews damaged aquifers at two locations along the Line 3 route. [Full story](#)

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Russia's Biggest Move Yet to Take Control of the European Gas Market

A deal finalized last week to develop Iran's multi-trillion dollar new gas discovery, the **Chalous field**, will see Russian companies hold the major share in it, followed by Chinese companies, and only then Iranian ones.

This is despite Chalous's position unequivocally within the Iranian sector of the **Caspian Sea**, over which the Islamic Republic has complete sovereignty. Billions of dollars in additional capital investment are scheduled to come from financial institutions in **Germany, Austria, and Italy**, as the indications are that the size of Chalous's gas reserves are even greater now than initially thought.

According to one of the senior Russian officials involved in negotiating the deal: "This is the final act of securing control over the European energy market."

[Full story](#)



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NUCLEAR ENERGY: Two SLO County leaders call for keeping Diablo open to help meet clean energy goals

Many leaders in California have come together in bipartisan fashion to oppose closing **Diablo Canyon**, currently scheduled for 2025. Diablo

Canyon is our largest producer of clean energy.

Today, Diablo Canyon accounts for 15% of the state's emission-free electricity production and 8% overall energy production. Closing Diablo Canyon in 2025 would mean increasing our dependence on gas-fired power plants to keep the lights on during periods when renewables aren't available, leading to greater CO2 emissions, not less. [Full story](#)

U.S. Coal Hits 12-Year High, Threatening More Energy Inflation

U.S. coal prices surged to the highest in more than 12 years, threatening to bloat America's already soaring electricity bills and signaling the dirty fuel isn't get phased out anytime soon. Prices for coal from Central Appalachia climbed more than \$10 last week to \$89.75 a ton on the spot market, according to figures released Monday from S&P Global Market Intelligence. **That's the highest since 2009**, when a spike in exports boosted domestic prices for the power-plant fuel. Prices in other U.S. regions are lower but have also climbed in recent months. [Full story](#)



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OPEC Says Oil Market Will Soon be Over-Supplied: Adipec Update

OPEC said the global oil market will switch from being under- to over-supplied as early as next month as the economic rebound from the coronavirus pandemic falters. The group's Secretary-General Mohammad Barkindo comments come in the shadow of U.S. politicians putting pressure on President Joe Biden to bring down gasoline prices, possibly by banning crude exports and releasing oil from the government's strategic reserve. [Full story](#)

Canadian helicopters evacuate hundreds stranded on highway after landslides

Canadian helicopters carried out multiple missions on Monday to rescue hundreds of people trapped in their vehicles on a highway after huge rainstorms sparked landslides in the western province of British Columbia. The rainstorms that started on Sunday triggered landslides, shutting roads, prompting the evacuation of an entire town, forced an oil pipeline to close and delayed flights. [Full story](#)

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Heavy Rains Shut Railroad Tracks Near Canada's Biggest Port

Railroad tracks that carry goods to and from the Port of Vancouver have been shut by heavy rains and resultant mudslides in British Columbia. This is the second time in less than five months that both of Canada's major railways have simultaneously had tracks damaged by extreme weather in the mountainous and heavily forested province. Thousands of rail cars were idled in early July by wildfires, creating a bottleneck of exports and delaying imports. [Full story](#)

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British Columbia mudslide photos and videos: Intense rain floods homes, highways and sparks a state of emergency



A local state of emergency has been declared in parts of British Columbia due to unrelenting rainfall causing flooding, mudslides and the closure of major highways across the interior of the province. "This is obviously an extreme event," Brent Ward, a professor in the earth sciences department at Simon Fraser University, told CBC News. "I've been discussing with grad students ... and we think this might be the worst series of landslides and flooding events since maybe 1983." [Full story, photos and videos](#)

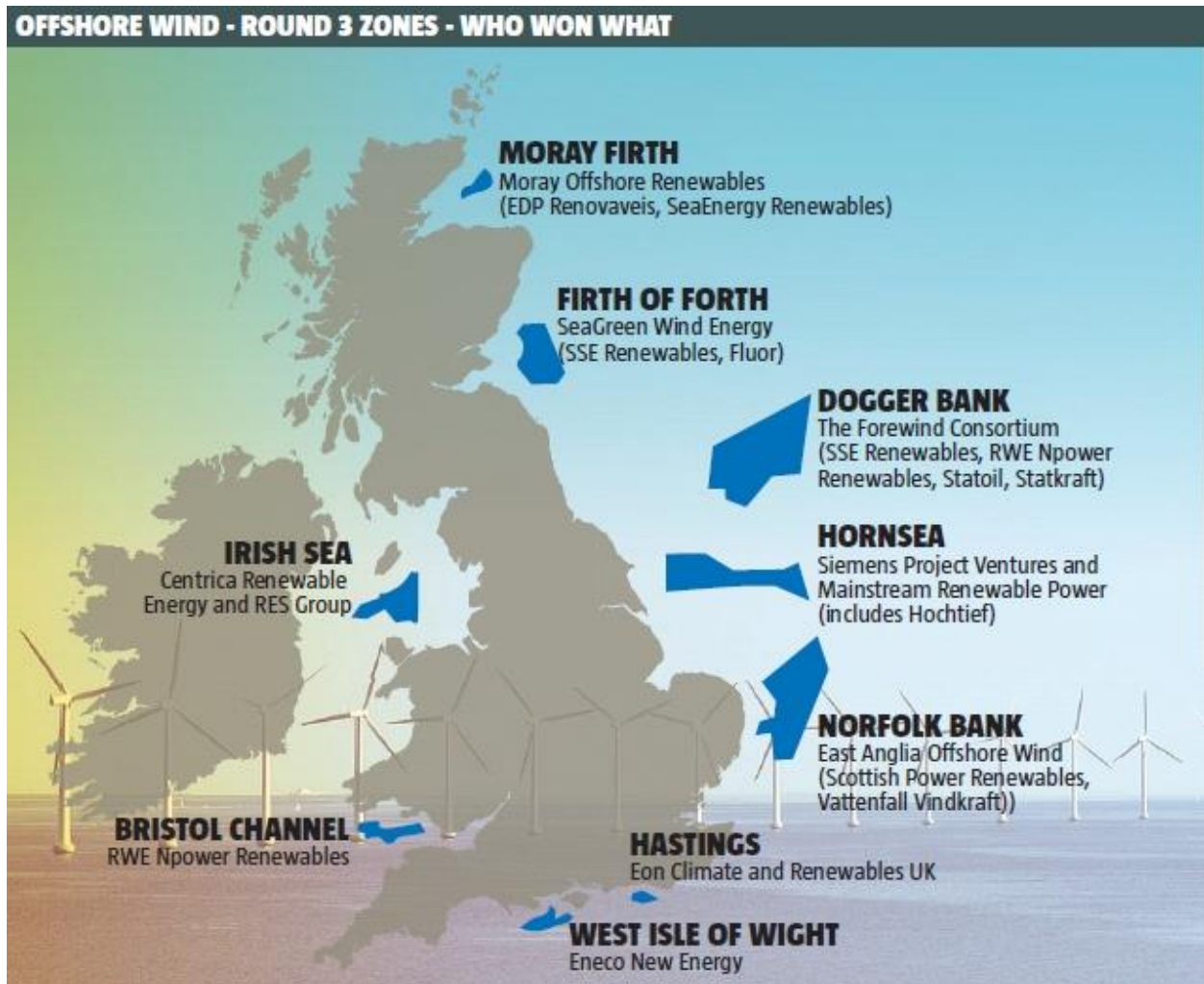
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U.K. Power Prices Soar Above £2,000 on Low Winds

Some coal and gas power stations in Britain were paid double the price of exchange-traded electricity to help plug a gap left by a drop in wind generation on Monday.

Two coal-fired units at Uniper SE's Ratcliffe station got more than 3,200 pounds (\$4,295) a megawatt-hour while four gas units received 3,500 pounds.

Intraday power in the U.K. soared to 1,500 pounds for the half-hour to 6:30 p.m. on the Epex Spot exchange, with wind-power generation falling to the lowest level in 56 days. Prices for Monday were almost double the average day-ahead rate for this year. [Full story](#)



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World's Largest Clean Energy Cargo Ship Combines Sailing with Electric Propulsion

By Otilia Drăgan / AutoEvolution/ Nov 15, 2021

Ceiba is the name of what will soon become the world's largest clean cargo ship. Sailcargo is gearing up to launch the flagship of a future fleet, set to revolutionize freight transportation. The 150-foot (46 meters) vessel is built of wood and powered by sails, but also features an electric engine, for extra power on its long journeys.

Designed as a three-masted topsail schooner, inspired by traditional boats, Ceiba features a sail area that's big enough to allow it to move even in very light winds, while also being easy to maneuver during challenging weather conditions. It's also equipped with an auxiliary electric engine that kicks in when extra power is needed. **The batteries will be charged either from solar panels or with the regenerative energy resulted from the dual propellers acting as underwater turbines.**



The zero-emission vessel is currently being built in Costa Rica, at the world's first regenerative shipyard in this region. All the lumber for the ship's construction is sustainably sourced, and Sailcargo also launched tree planting and reforestation programs.

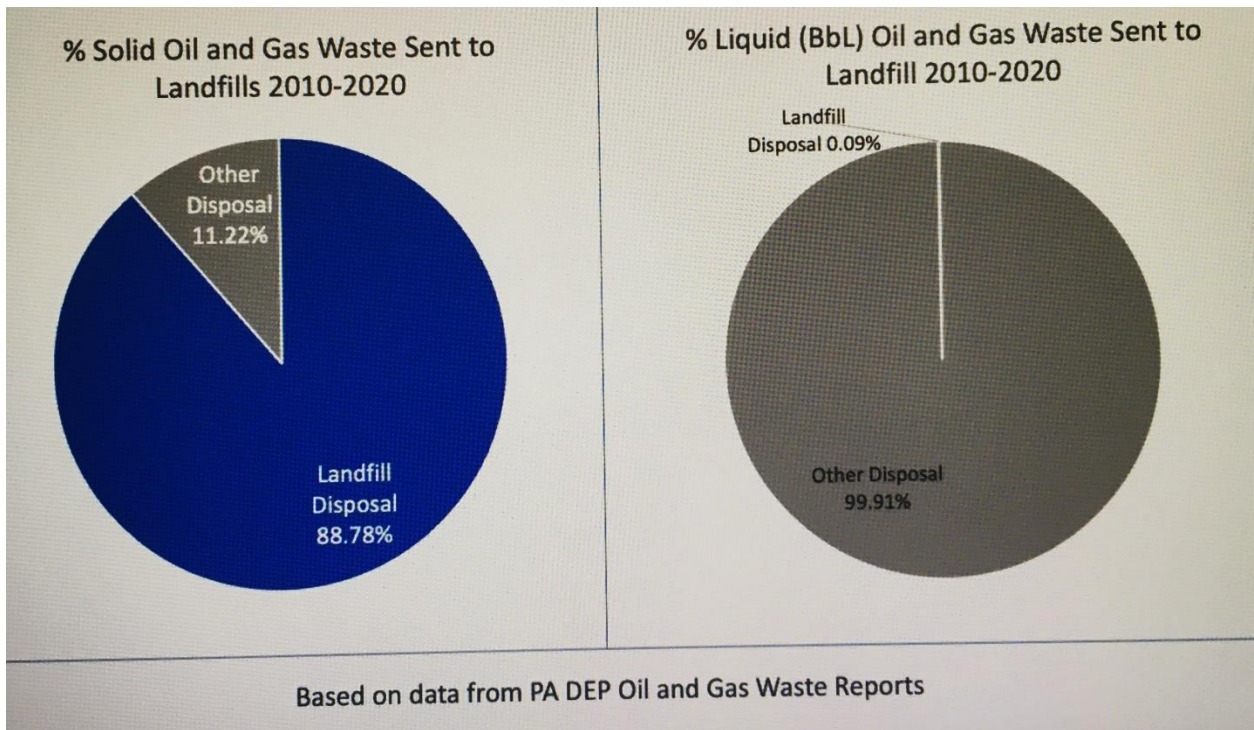
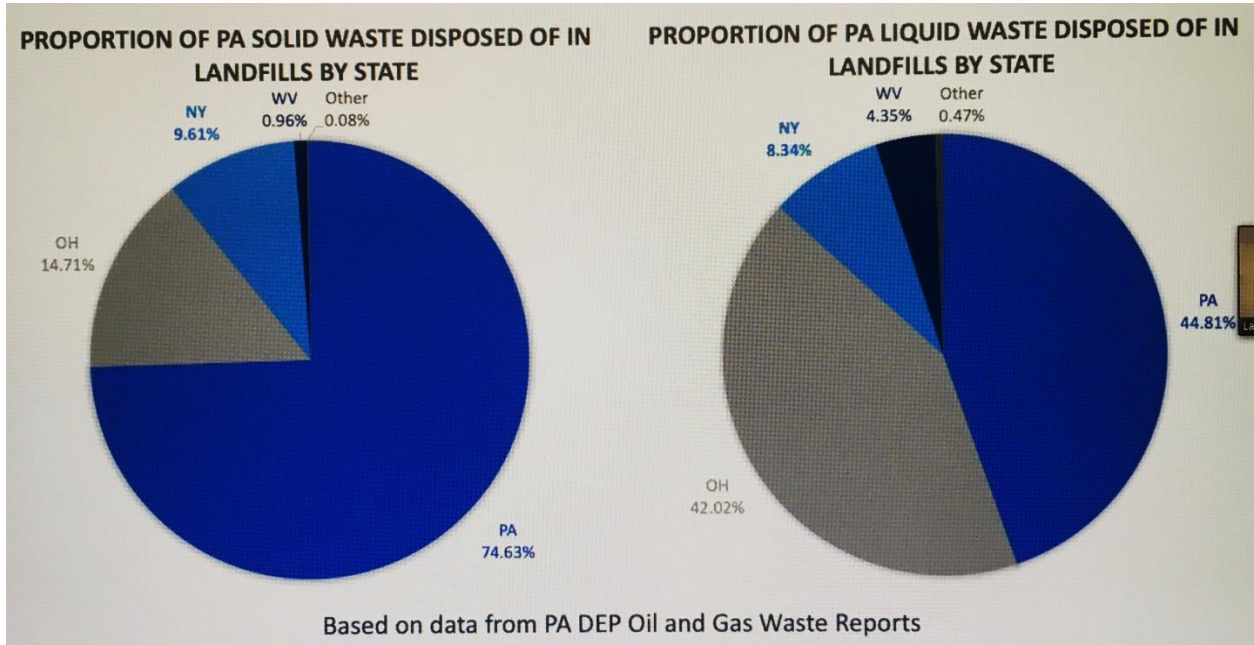
Ceiba will be able to transport 250 tons of goods, and its future sisters will incorporate more innovative propulsion technologies, such as hydrogen fuel cells, and algae biofuel.

The clean energy cargo ship will make its debut as a coffee carrier. Sailcargo has recently partnered with Café William, to transport coffee beans from South America to Sherbrooke, in Quebec, Canada. This will be a world premiere not only in the coffee industry, but also for shipping in general.

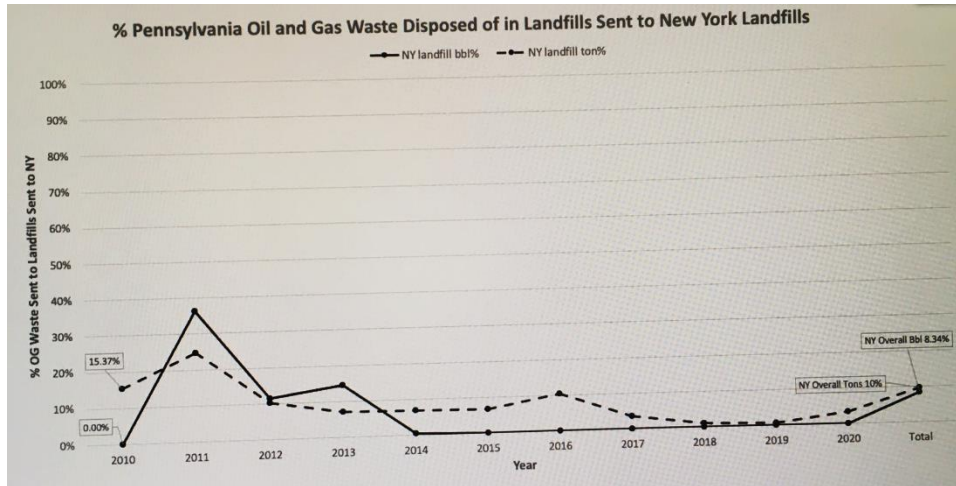
The zero-emissions sailing boat, a trailblazer for sustainable shipping, is set to enter service in 2023. [Video and Full story](#)

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Some slides from last night's Zoom webinar on NY drilling and fracking waste...



Bbl = Barrel = 42 gallons



**LESSONS LEARNED (or lessons that should be learned!)
FOR VARIOUS LANDFILLS**

1. Radon levels in landfill gas (LFG) need to be tested at the flare or other point of LFG emission! Collect the data, understand the science, then decide what action may be needed!
2. Landfill leachate tests need to include, at a minimum, gamma spectroscopy tests for Lead-214 and Bismuth-214 in combination with independent (i.e., separate) tests for Radium-226. Additional tests for Lead-210 and/or Radon-222 may be useful as well. Sample jars must be properly sealed!
3. The high results for Lead-214 and Bismuth-214 seen in Hakes leachate, and at least once in Chemung Landfill, are too numerous (even though intermittent) to be dismissed as a fluke or artifact.

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Greetings,

As you know, EIP has developed and is expanding an online database of the new petrochemical projects that have sprung up over the past decade. In the course of that work, we identified fourteen projects that hadn't yet broken ground, despite having been approved by state regulators years ago. We've since been asking EPA and state regulators to cancel these permits as the project developers failed to "commence construction" within a reasonable time, as the Clean Air Act requires. State agencies have responded by withdrawing four permits so far, for fertilizer projects in North Dakota and Ohio, a methanol plant in Louisiana, and a gas-fired power plant in Pennsylvania. These permits, now canceled, had authorized a combined total of 6.7 million tons of greenhouse gases and several thousand tons of other noxious pollutants. We're investigating "zombie" permits for eleven more projects that have yet to move forward, and we'll keep you posted.

This [document](#) provides more information about this initiative.

Sincerely,
Eric Schaeffer
Executive Director
Environmental Integrity Project
1000 Vermont Ave., NW, Ste. 1100
Washington, DC 20005
(202) 263-4440

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Pittsburgh City Council considers investment in electric vehicle charging stations

By Lauren Rosenblatt / Pos-Gazette / Nov 16, 2021 - **Councilwoman Erika Strassburger** (photo) who represents neighborhoods in Pittsburgh's East End, introduced a resolution Tuesday to ensure city-owned facilities would be capable of supporting the uptick in electric vehicles — and the charging stations they would need.



Photo: Pam Panchak/Post-Gazette

Many of us remember Erika from when she worked for a Pa. environmental group

Part of an effort to create an entirely fossil-fuel free fleet for municipal operations by 2030, the city recently purchased 36 new electric vehicles and the first electric bucket truck. It has committed to purchasing electric refuse trucks, pickups and vans in 2022, according to the resolution.

The city's Electric Vehicle Charging Strategic Plan for Pittsburgh Public Facilities, which was developed in 2020, aims to increase the number of new public charging plugs to more than 200 on city property and more than 2,000 across the city by 2025.

The plan includes a goal to make sure every household can easily access an electric vehicle charger. Every house would be within a 10-minute walk of a public Level 2 charger or a 10-minute drive of a DC fast charger. The types of chargers vary in voltage and speed at which they can fully charge a vehicle. [Full story](#)

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What, Me Worry?



In case you missed this crazy space story, and no, it's not about Elon Musk...

We not only have North Korea launching missiles randomly, China in a huge military build-up that included them recently launching a rocket (that could someday hold a nuclear warhead) which orbited Earth, and now Russia launching a rocket to destroy one of their old satellites and creating over a thousand pieces of space junk. The "final frontier" indeed, Captain Kirk.

Russia Confirms it Destroyed Satellite That NASA Says Endangered ISS Astronauts

By Mitchell Prothero / VICE / Nov 16, 2021

Astronauts on the International Space Station (ISS) scrambled to put on emergency gear as warnings arrived of a huge debris field triggered by Russia testing an anti-satellite missile, according to a recording released by NASA.

In the recording, astronauts can be heard saying they would take shelter for two orbits because of the cloud. NASA said it released the recording to protest the "irresponsible and destabilising" actions by Russia.

The dangerous cloud of debris formed after the Russian military tested a **supersonic anti-satellite missile** on a decommissioned communications satellite on Monday. It was the first time the Russians had tested such a ground-based system although the USSR regularly tested anti-satellite missiles launched by aircraft throughout much of the Cold War.



"It is true that we have successfully tested a cutting-edge system of the future. It hit an old satellite with **precision worthy of a goldsmith. The remaining debris poses no threats to space activity," Defence Minister Sergey Shoigu was quoted as saying by Russian state media during a working tour of military units near Voronezh on Tuesday.**



After strong condemnation of the test by U.S. State Department spokesperson Ned Price, the Russians released a statement of their own that accused the Americans of overstating the danger of the **estimated 1,500 pieces of satellite debris** now circling the planet at supersonic speeds.

"The United States knows for certain that the resulting fragments, in terms of test time and orbital parameters, did not and will not pose a threat to orbital stations, spacecraft and space activities," the Russian military said, according to the AFP news agency.

"The Russian defence ministry successfully conducted a test, as a result of which the Russian spacecraft 'Tselina-D', which had been in orbit since 1982, was destroyed," the military said in a statement.

Russian foreign minister Sergei Lavrov also accused the Americans of "rank hypocrisy," for suggesting the Russians had somehow put the ISS at risk.

But despite the claims that it posed no danger, the recording released by NASA shows the four Americans, two Russians and a German onboard the space station were at enough risk to be woken by mission control, told to don space suits in case

debris struck the station and **depressurised it**. The astronauts then sat for hours in emergency return vehicles in case an evacuation was needed.



The US government logged 308,984 potential space-junk collisions in 2017 – and the problem could get much worse

By Dave Mosher / BusinessInsider / Apr 15, 2018

There are millions of small, hard-to-track bits of orbital debris that can collide with satellites. There are about [23,000 satellites](#), rocket bodies, and other human-made objects larger than a softball in orbit. There may also be some 650,000 softball-to-fingernail-size objects and [170 million bits of debris](#) smaller than the tip of a pen – stuff like flecks of paint and fragments of explosive bolts.

"An additional precautionary measure of sheltering the crew was executed for two passes through or near the vicinity of the debris cloud," NASA said.

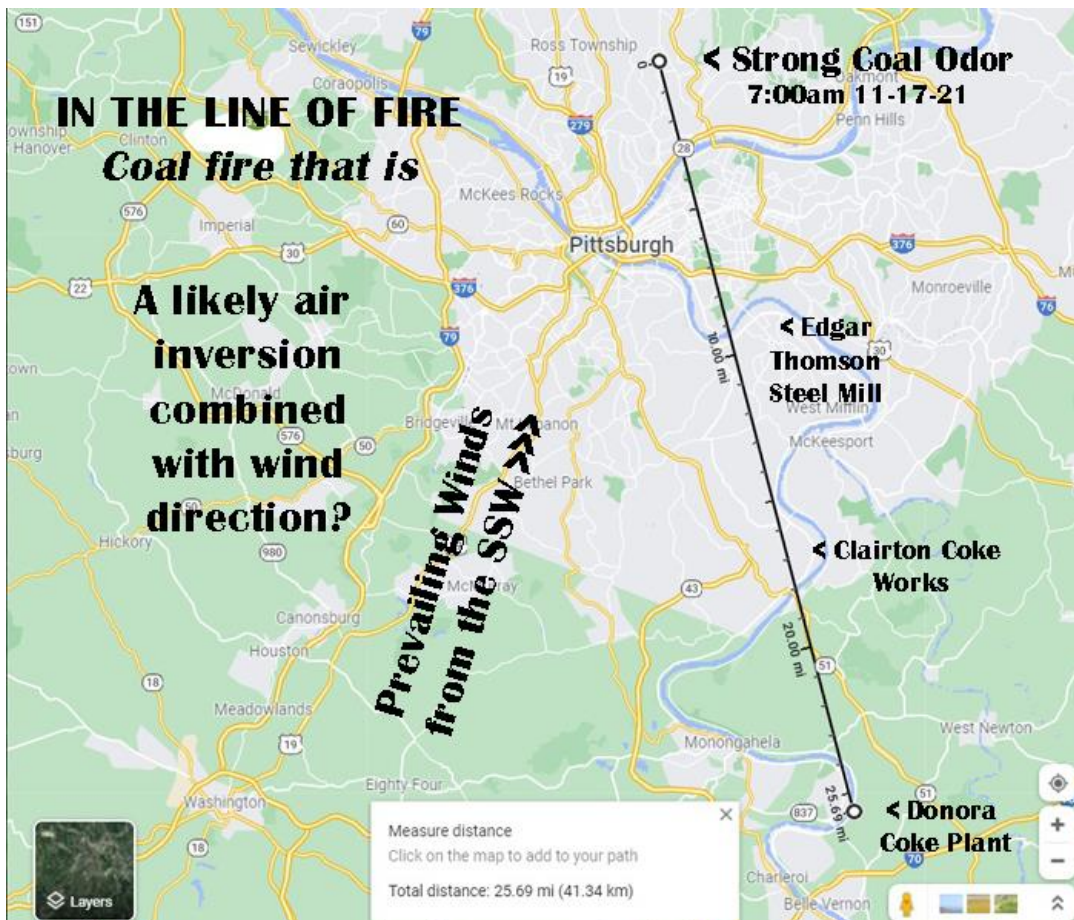
NASA administrator and former astronaut Bill Nelson rejected the Russian claims the test posed no threat.

“With its long and storied history in human spaceflight, it is unthinkable that Russia would endanger not only the American and international partner astronauts on the ISS, but also their own cosmonauts.”

“Their actions are reckless and dangerous, threatening as well the Chinese space station and the taikonauts on board,” he said. [Full story](#)

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