

Energy

Energy Regulatory Chairman Expected to Join Dec. 7

Kevin McIntyre, the fifth member of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and incoming chairman, is expected to be sworn in on Dec. 7, agency spokesman Craig Cano told Bloomberg Environment.

McIntyre, the co-leader of Jones Day's global energy practice, was confirmed by the Senate Nov. 2, along with fellow FERC Commissioner Richard Glick, who was formerly Democratic general counsel for the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee. Glick was sworn in on Nov. 29.

McIntyre will be sworn in as the Republican chairman of FERC, replacing current Chairman Neil Chatterjee. With McIntyre's addition, the independent agency will be fully staffed with five commissioners for the first time since October 2015.

Votes for Action Chatterjee has said the agency plans to act Dec. 11 on a proposed rule from the Energy Secretary Rick Perry that directs FERC take action to make

market reforms to subsidize certain coal and nuclear plants. The proposal has gotten strong opposition from all of the regional grid operators, oil, gas and renewable groups, as well as conservative think tanks.

With the addition of McIntyre, three Republicans will be on the commission, which some FERC watchers say could mean there are enough votes to move the Energy Department's proposal forward in some form.

"The saga of delaying the swearing-in for five weeks appears over, but it won't help Perry's proposal, which still has at least three votes against it," Paul Bledsoe, an energy expert at the Progressive Policy Institute and former consultant to Energy Department during the Obama administration, told Bloomberg Environment.

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