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(3) CIÊNCIAS HUMANAS, CIÊNCIAS SOCIAIS APLICADAS

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Clean Energy 'Moving Forward' Despite Trump's E.P.A. Pick, Experts Say

By CORAL DAVENPORT DEC. 8, 2016

WASHINGTON — President-elect Donald J. Trump's choice of a fossil-fuel advocate and climate-change denier to head the Environmental Protection Agency comes at a moment when the American energy market has already shifted away from the most polluting fossil fuels, driven more by investors and economics than by federal regulations. Those market forces could make Mr. Trump's promise to create at least half a million energy jobs a year in the nation's coal mines and oil shale fields all but impossible.



But if Mr. Trump's promised jobs are unlikely to materialize, the impact on the planet from his policies would be significant. Without additional government policies, energy and environmental experts say, the shift from coal, oil and natural gas will not be rapid or substantial enough to stave off the worst impacts of a warming atmosphere, including rising sea levels, more powerful storms, more devastating droughts and food and water shortages.

"The good news is that on its own, the U.S. economy has become less carbon intensive, and that trend will continue overall," said Robert N. Stavins, the director of the environmental economics program at Harvard University. The bad news, he said, is that markets alone will not lower emissions enough to offset the worst impacts of global warming.

President Obama's Clean Power Plan was already criticized for not doing enough. Even if the plan was implemented, it would not reach the targets set under last year's Paris climate change accord, which committed nearly every country to take action to curb global warming. The targets "will be unachievable," Mr. Stavins said.

Mr. Trump formally tapped Scott Pruitt, the Oklahoma attorney general, to head his E.P.A. on Thursday, with an announcement on Facebook that emphasized job creation and energy production over environmental protection. "Mr. Pruitt will be deeply involved in the implementation of President-elect Trump's energy plan, which will move America toward energy independence, create millions of new jobs and protect clean air and water," the statement said. "Mr. Pruitt will ensure that we conserve our natural habitats, reserves and resources, while unleashing an energy revolution that will bring vast new wealth to our country."

That rebalancing of priorities, the president-elect said, will create "at least a half million jobs each year" and "\$30 billion in higher wages." The irony of Mr. Pruitt's zeal to target President Obama's climate change and environmental rules, which focus on reducing carbon pollution from coal-fired power plants, is that many of the nation's largest electric utilities — the entities that would be regulated under the plan — have already begun plans to shutter coal plants and build new wind and solar farms.

Even the chief executives of coal companies agree that Mr. Pruitt can only do so much to restore the industry. Mr. Pruitt "is going to do what needs to be done at the E.P.A. — to cut the numbers of bureaucrats there who have done nothing but write regulations daily, and send them back to the radical environmentalists who wrote them," said Robert E. Murray, the chief executive of the Ohio-based Murray Energy Corporation.

However, he added, "Coal can't come back to where it was." The plummeting cost of wind and solar energy, helped along by federal tax incentives, has led to a boom in the use of such "no-carbon" power sources. And the nation's largest electric utilities, many of which have joined Mr. Pruitt in his lawsuit against the climate regulations, have at the same time realigned their long-term investment strategies.

Fonte: Adaptado de <http://www.nytimes.com/2016/12/08/us/politics/trump-climate-epa-coal-jobs.html?action=click&contentCollection=Politics&module=RelatedCoverage®ion=EndOfArticle&pgtype=article>

