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One dead in fire at KMCO chemical plant in Crosby



Inside C2

Southern DAILY

Make Today Different

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Citing climate differences, Shell walks away from U.S. refining lobby

LONDON (Reuters) - Royal Dutch Shell Plc on Tuesday became the first major oil and gas company to announce plans to leave a leading U.S. refining lobby due to disagreement on climate policies.

In its first review of its association with 19 key industry groups, the company said it had found “material misalignment” over climate policy with the American Fuel & Petrochemical Manufacturers (AFPM) and would quit the body in 2020.

The review is part of Shell’s drive to increase transparency and show investors it is in line with the 2015 Paris climate agreement’s goals to limit global warming by reducing carbon emissions to a net zero by the end of the century.

It is also the latest sign of how investor pressure on oil companies, particularly in Europe, is leading to changes in their behavior around climate.

Last year, Shell caved in to investor pressure over climate change, setting out plans to introduce industry-leading carbon emissions targets linked to executive pay.

Its chief executive, Ben van Beurden, has since repeatedly urged oil and gas producers to take action over climate and pollution, staking out a more radical position than the heads of other major oil companies.

“AFPM has not stated support for the goal of the Paris Agreement. Shell supports the goal of the Paris Agreement,” the Anglo-Dutch company said in its decision.

“The need for urgent action in response to climate change has become ever more obvious since the signing of the Paris Agreement in 2015. As a result, society’s expectations in this area have changed, and Shell’s views have also evolved,” van Beurden said in the report.

The company has disagreed with AFPM on a number of issues for some time, according to two lobbying sources. Shell said it also disagreed with AFPM’s opposition to a price on carbon and action on low-carbon technologies.

Shell and AFPM have also been at odds in recent months over regulation over the use of renewable fuels. While Shell and other large refiners invested in cleaner fuel technology, AFPM has fought hard against standards requiring refiners to blend or subsidize the blending of biofuels into the gasoline pool - saying it hurts independent refiners.

Shell and rivals Exxon and BP have in recent years also left the American Legislative Exchange Council, a conservative political group, over its stance on climate change.

AFPM Chief Executive Chet Thompson thanked Shell for its “long-standing collaboration.”

“We will also continue working on behalf of the refining and petrochemical industries to advance policies that ensure reliable and affordable access to fuels and petrochemicals, while being responsible stewards of the environment,” Thompson said in a statement.

AFPM counts around 300 U.S. and international members including Exxon Mobil Corp , Chevron Corp , BP Plc and Total SA that operate 110 refineries and 229 petrochemical plants, according to its 2018 annual report.

Shell’s review was welcomed by Adam Matthews, director of ethics and engagement for the Church of England Pensions Board, which invests in Shell and led discussions with the company over its climate policy.

“This is an industry first,” Matthews said.

“With this review Shell have set the benchmark for best practice on corporate climate lobbying not just within oil and gas but across all industries. The challenge now is for others to follow suit.”

WALK AWAY

Shell also found “some” misalignment with nine other trade associations, including the American Petroleum Institute, the oil and gas industry’s main lobby.

Shell said that while it had some climate-related differences with API, it welcomed the lobby’s advocacy on a range of state and federal issues such as trade and transport, as well as the API’s efforts to reduce methane emissions.



FILE PHOTO: Ben van Beurden, chief executive of Royal Dutch Shell, speaks during a news conference in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, February 15, 2016. REUTERS/Sergio Moraes/File Photo



FILE PHOTO: The logo of Royal Dutch Shell is seen at a petrol station in Sint-Pieters-Leeuw

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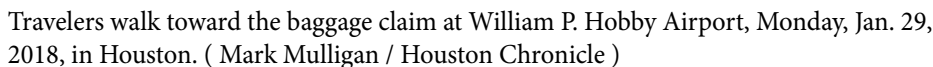


One dead in fire at KMCO chemical plant in Crosby

A shelter in place has been ordered for all residents within a 1-mile radius of the plant.

The fire apparently started when a transfer line

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Editor's Choice



Moshe Feiglin, leader of Zehut, an ultra-nationalist religious party, speaks at an election campaign event in Tel Aviv, Israel



Cars carrying ministers of the cabinet exit Downing Street as a protester holds a placard in London



FILE PHOTO: Rachel Heck tees off on the 15th hole during the first round of the U.S. Women's Open golf tournament at Trump National Golf Club in Bedminster



A gondolier rows his gondola with tourists on Grand Canal in Venice



FILE PHOTO: Algerian President Abdelaziz Bouteflika is seen in Algiers



Traders wear Levi's clothing during the Levi Strauss & Co. IPO at the New York Stock Exchange in New York



FILE PHOTO: Bottles of prescription painkiller OxyContin made by Purdue Pharma LP on a counter at a local pharmacy in Provo



U.S. President Trump meets with NATO Secretary General Stoltenberg at the White House in Washington

The Local Initiatives Support Corporation, known as LISC, is one of the largest organizations supporting projects to revitalize communities and bring greater economic opportunity to residents. These include more affordable housing, better schools, safer streets, growing businesses and programs that improve the financial outlook of people. We provide the capital, strategy and know-how to local partners to get this done. Our work impacts the lives of millions of Americans in both rural areas and urban centers across the country. See our reach as a national nonprofit and see how we work.



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same. We receive our funding from banks, corporations, foundations and government agencies. We, in turn, use that funding to provide financing (loans, grants and equity) and technical and management assistance to local partners and developers. Through our 33 local offices, a rural program that

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Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor

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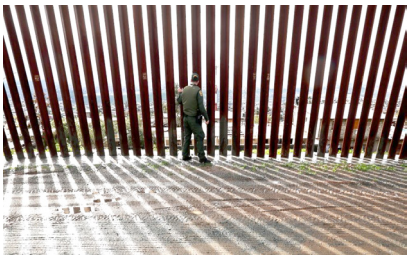
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In a stunning about-face, State Department officials said that President Donald Trump is cutting off all direct assistance to the so-called Northern Triangle countries of El Salvador, Honduras and Guatemala. “At the Secretary’s instruction, we are carrying out the President’s direction and ending FY [fiscal year] 2017 and FY 2018 foreign assistance programs for the Northern Triangle,” a State Department spokesperson told ABC News, referring to U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo. “We will be engaging Congress as part of this process.” These three countries are the primary source of migrants to the U.S., but for years the U.S. has worked with them to stabilize their political environments and economies and end violence and corruption so that migrants wouldn’t leave in the first place. Trump hinted at the cuts earlier on Friday, telling reporters, “I’ve ended payments to Guatemala, to Honduras, and to El Salvador. No money goes there anymore.” While the president has threatened these cuts before, this time the administration is actually following through.



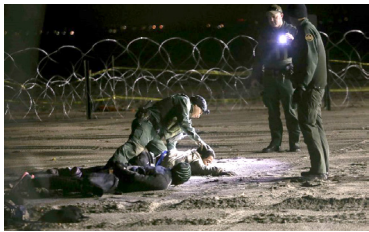
Border Patrol agent Vincent Pirro inspects a section of the border wall separating Tijuana, Mexico, behind, from San Diego, Feb. 5, 2019, in San Diego. Trump said the funds totaled \$500 million, but it wasn’t clear Friday if that figure was accurate. The State Department announced in December that the U.S. would mobilize \$5.8 billion in public and private american investment to these three countries. “We’re not paying them anymore because they haven’t done a thing for us,” he added. His senior-most advisers, however, have carried a very different tune, talking very often about the importance of this assistance to stem the flow of illegal immigration.



The Economist

Pence to immigrants: ‘If you can’t come legally, don’t come at all’
Homeland Security Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen was in Mexico and Honduras this week meeting with their leadership to sign new partnership agreements. Pompeo testified before the House of Representatives on Wednesday about the administration’s efforts, saying the president had instructed him and Nielsen to use U.S. funding to “develop a set of programs that reward effective outcomes, that reward good leadership, that get us to a place

where we actually achieve the outcomes.” In a speech in Brazil last June, Vice President Mike Pence touted the “significant resources” the administration was putting toward this effort, though much of those resources were allocated under former President Barack Obama’s administration.

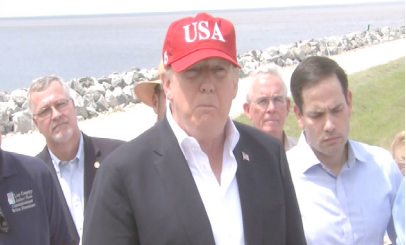


Decision Was Made Friday Night
Trump Cuts All Direct Assistance To “Northern Triangle Countries”- Honduras, El Salvador, Guatemala
Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor

A U.S. Border Patrol agent pats down a Honduran migrant after he crossed onto U.S. territory from Tijuana, Mexico, Nov. 30, 2018. Thousands of migrants, who traveled via a caravan, want to seek asylum in the U.S.
“The United States of America has never been more committed to strengthening our partnership with the nations in the Northern Triangle to help ... tackle the problems facing our shared neighborhood,” Pence said in October when hosting leaders from the Northern Triangle and Mexico at the State Department with Pompeo. Trump’s previous threats to pull the plug, however, had often left U.S. officials scratching their heads and straining to explain why these funds described as key to stemming migration would be cut off -- as punishment for not stemming migration. When Pompeo was challenged on the president’s previous threatening tweets on Wednesday, he told Congress, “I’m not going to comment on my evaluation. You asked me about the U.S. policy, and I’ve done my level-best to articulate it.” (Courtesy abcnews.com)
Related
U.S. Slashes more than \$500 million in aid to El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras
The United States will be slashing hundreds of millions of dollars in aid to El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras — also known as the Northern Triangle — according to the U.S. Department of State. “At the Secretary’s instruction, we are carrying out the President’s direction and ending FY 2017 and FY 2018 foreign assistance programs for the Northern Triangle,” a department spokesperson told the Miami Herald in a statement. “We will be engaging Congress as part of this process.”



A caravan of more than 1,500 Honduran immigrants checks in to their local authorities in Esquipulas, Guatemala. (Photo/Getty Images)
The aid affects about \$500 million in 2018 funds and several millions more from the prior fiscal year, officials said. The money goes toward programs that address violence, poverty and employment. On Friday, President Donald Trump took to Twitter, threatening to close the border, or at least stretches of it, next week if Mexican officials don’t “stop illegals from entering the U.S.” A congressional delegation visiting El Salvador on Saturday said in a statement they were “extremely disappointed” about the fund cutoff and said they plan to “push back.”



Trump cuts all direct assistance to Northern Triangle countries Honduras, El Salvador, Guatemala - ABC News
“The president’s approach is entirely counterproductive. It will only result in more children and families being forced to make the dangerous journey north to the U.S.-Mexico border,” the statement said. Included in the delegation are New York Rep. Eliot L. Engel, California Rep. Zoe Lofgren and New York Rep. Jerrold Nadler. The White House could not be reached for comment Saturday afternoon. (Courtesy https://www.miamiherald.com)

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