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ISPrinT

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Controversy met by Biden's \$8 billion Oil Drilling Plan

The revealed oil drilling project by the Biden Administration is also known commonly as the 'Willow Project' originally proposed by Conocophillips, a petroleum refineries company. It is predicted to be one of the largest oil and gas developments on federal territory and will occur on Alaska's north slope.

This news has sparked outrage among environmentalists who claim this decision contradicts President Biden's goals which strove toward reducing climate change. A large number of them have gone to social media in order to protest with hashtags and petitions trending like, #StopWillow and "say no the willow project". The Native village of Nuiqsut would be the most effected by the plan in the northernmost area of Alaska. Locals from the village have repeatedly expressed their disapproval of the situation.

"Willow is a carbon bomb that cannot be allowed to explode in the Arctic," said Karlin Nageak Itchoak, senior regional director at the non-profit Wilderness Society. Many had also stated the project would take away a stable way of life for the local communities in the increasingly warming Arctic. It would also heighten the level of air pollution in the region.



Climate activists urge President Biden to reject the Willow Project at the U.S. Department of Interior on November 17, 2022 in Washington, D.C. (JEMAL COUNTESS/DAMIAN GILLIE/GETTY IMAGES/CONSTRUCTION PHOTOGRAPHY/AVALON)

According to the administration's own estimates, the project would be able to generate enough oil to release 9.2 million metric tons of carbon pollution a year, heavily contributing to global warming. This would be equivalent to adding 2 million gas-powered cars to the roads. Throughout a span of 30 years, climate groups have estimated the Willow project would release around 278 million metric tons of carbon pollution.

In spite of the fact that it was met with controversy, it has its fair share of supporters as well. For instance, the state's law makers claim the multi-billion dollar project will create jobs, boost domestic energy production, and create a necessary new source of revenue for the region. However, an environmental assessment conducted by the interior department was recently released and revealed reductions added to the original large scale plan. Instead it would produce about 600m barrels of oil over 30 years, with around 180,000 barrels of crude oil a day.

The project was first approved by the Trump Administration but later, the decision was reversed by a federal judge who mentioned a flawed environmental review. The latest review released by the Bureau of Land Management offers that a scaled-down Willow project would lessen the impact on vulnerable species such as polar bears, yellow-billed loons and caribou. ConocoPhillips said it needs to drill to make the project profitable to which this scaled down version would still meet the profit requirements.

The interior department has not yet finalized its decision but the possibilities are open to either entirely rejecting the plan or sticking with the scaled-down version. In spite of the changes made to scale the project down, officials still believe it will have a harmful impact on the wild life and Alaskan native communities. Not only could this effect the environment but is has already begun to negatively effect the President's climate credibility. The final decision is expected to be released in about a month's time.



Climate activists hold a demonstration to urge President Joe Biden to reject the Willow Project at the US Department of Interior on Nov. 17, 2022, in Washington, D.C. (Jemal Countess/Getty Images for Sunrise AU/TNS)

**WRITTEN BY: FATIMA
MONAWAR**

Earthquakes in Turkey kill thousands

As of February 10th, more than 21,000 people have lost their lives to earthquakes and aftershocks in Turkey and Syria, making them the deadliest since 2000. On February 6th, a magnitude 7.8 earthquake hit near the town of Gaziantep, Turkey, and ever since rescue workers have been racing to save potential survivors from the rubble of ruined buildings. As many as 2,818 buildings have collapsed so far. In addition to this, the harsh winter weather, including snow and rain, has hindered their progress, and is causing flight disturbances across the country.

So what is being done to help? According to Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, 70 countries have offered help so far. Notably, Austria who pledged \$3 million, the US who pledged \$45 million, and Canada who said they would provide \$10 million in immediate aid. Furthermore, IGOs such as the United Nations and the World Health Organization are offering supplies. Unfortunately, however, according to CNN, "It took until Thursday for the first United Nations aid convoy to cross from Turkey into northwestern Syria." Therefore, it seems there's still a lot to be done to stabilize the country.



Hatay, Turkey. February 7.

<https://edition.cnn.com/middleeast/live-news/turkey-syria-earthquake-updates-2-10-23-intl/index.html>
<https://www.nytimes.com/2023/02/09/world/europe/turkey-syria-deadliest-earthquakes.html>
<https://www.directrelief.org/2023/02/delivering-urgently-needed-meds-to-earthquake-impacted-turkey-syria/>

**WRITTEN BY:
GABRIELLA GUTHRIE**

New peer mentoring program!

A new program is launching in the upper school — Peer mentoring! If you've been struggling recently, and don't feel entirely comfortable talking to a counselor, this is for you! Peer mentors will become available soon, and are there to listen without judgment and build a stronger support system for you. If you're interested, keep an eye out for further updates, and visit the Upper School Counselor's site to book an appointment.

Here's the link to the website:

<https://sites.google.com/isp.cz/upper-school-counseling/peer-mentorship>

Up to 40 countries could boycott the Olympics

It is possible that up to 40 countries could boycott the Paris Olympics in 2024 if Russian and Belarusian athletes participate, states Kamil Bortniczuk, Poland's sports minister.

Bortniczuk's comments came after Poland, Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia together declined an International Olympic Committee (IOC) plan that would agree to let Russian and Belarusian athletes compete in the Olympics. After this, the Olympic committees of Finland, Denmark, Iceland, Norway, and Sweden rejected the plan.

Ukraine has claimed that it would boycott the Olympics if the plan was approved.

The United States Government has also confirmed that it supports revoking Russian and Belarusian sport governing bodies from participating at international sports events and is encouraging other organizations to stop broadcasting events in these countries.



(CNN)

The IOC has declared that it will "explore a pathway" for Russia and Belarus to participate in the Olympics with a neutral flag, insisting that "no athlete should be prevented from competing just because of their passport".

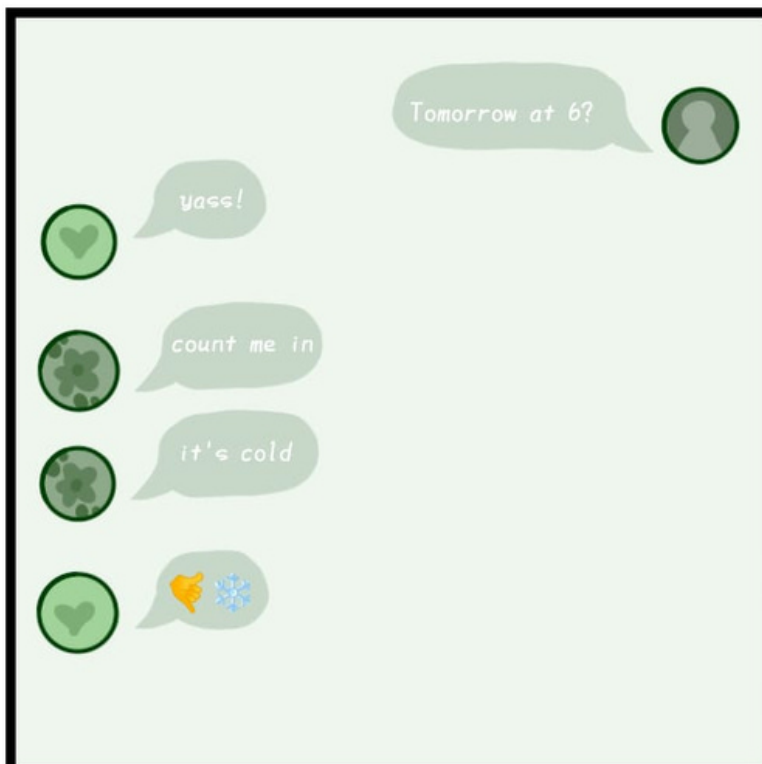
After Russia's invasion of Ukraine during February 2022, the IOC's executive committee imposed a ban on Russian and Belarusian athletes. Vadym Guttsait, Ukraine's sport minister, states that the country's sporting bodies need to reinforce this ban in order to "strengthen communication" with international federations.

However, Thomas Bach, the president of IOC said that the ban was only aimed as a "protective" measure on the athletes, and that now the athletes shouldn't be discriminated against.

"Threatening a boycott of the Olympic Games, which the National Olympic Committee (NOC) of Ukraine is currently considering, goes against the fundamentals of the Olympic movement and the principles it stands for," reported the IOC in a question-and-answer statement.

The statement also said that the participation of Russian and Belarusian athletes in the Paris Olympics in 2024 "has not been discussed yet."

A comic by Alisa Krotov



Prince Harry and Meghan Markle Have Been Asked to Leave Their U.K. Home

On March 1, 2023, Prince Harry and Meghan Markle confirmed that they had been evicted and asked to leave their UK residence, Frogmore Cottage, by the royal family. The property was given to the couple as a gift from the late Queen Elizabeth in 2019, and even after the couple stepped down from their royal duties and relocated to the United States in 2020, they continued to use it as their UK base. Numerous reports in the British press have indicated that King Charles III was the one who wished to reclaim Frogmore Cottage from them.

Why? According to reports, King Charles III wants his younger brother, Prince Andrew to occupy the five-bedroom cottage instead. Prince Andrew presently lives in a 31-bedroom Royal Lodge. However, following his settlement of a sexual assault case, brought against him by Jeffrey Epstein victim Virginia Giuffre, and subsequent loss of royal titles in April 2022, the King intends to terminate Andrew's yearly £249,000 subsidy in April. This decision could leave Prince Andrew incapable of maintaining the £30 million estate. However, Prince Andrew is declining to vacate his residence at the Royal Lodge and is instead requesting a mansion "fit for a King" as he 'insists' he's still a top royal.

This move would result in Prince Harry and Meghan Markle needing to find their own secure lodging and safety measures when they return to the UK, as Frogmore Cottage is located on a private estate within Windsor Castle, and provides protection from intrusion by the public and media. It remains unclear when the couple will return to the UK, but with King Charles's coronation coming up on May 6th, it raises questions about their future in the country.

The Duke and Duchess of Sussex are currently planning on living permanently at their residence in Montecito, California.

The recent notice to vacate their cottage is just the latest development in an ongoing conflict between the couple and the rest of the royal family. The conflict started in 2020 when the couple decided to step back from royal life, and has continued to escalate over the years. In January, Prince Harry released a controversial tell-all memoir called "Spare," in which he made a number of allegations against the British Royal family, and further fueled tensions between him and the Windsors.



(Robb Report)

**WRITTEN BY: MARIA
CHERKASOVA**

South Carolina lawyer sentenced to life in prison for murder

On March 3, Alex Murdaugh, a powerful lawyer was convicted of murdering his wife and son. Almost two years after reporting the deaths, Murdaugh was sentenced to two life terms without the possibility of parole. The investigation into the murders uncovered several other crimes that were brought to light.

At the age of 57, the Murdaugh's housekeeper Gloria Satterfield died two weeks after allegedly falling down the stairs on the family's hunting property. Interestingly, her two sons did not get the payout for her life insurance policy. Instead, Murdaugh reportedly embezzled the insurance money with the help of a local banker.

Just a year later, Murdaugh's son Paul drunkenly drove a motorboat into a bridge, causing the death of 19-year-old passenger Mallory Beach. Beach's parents later sued the family, and their lawyer began to look into Alex Murdaugh's financial situation. This led to the law firm where Murdaugh worked to look into suspicious activity concerning his finances, leading to the discovery of even more embezzled money, both from clients and from the firm themselves.

Prosecutors explained that in an attempt to draw attention away from his criminal activity and draw sympathy from the community, Murdaugh shot his wife, Maggie, and one of two sons, Paul, with a shotgun. Following their deaths, seeking sympathy and hoping to alleviate scrutiny, Murdaugh allegedly hired his own cousin as a hitman for himself. He was indeed shot through a car window but survived the incident.



(NBC News)

**WRITTEN BY: LILY
ECKEL**

About Us

ISPrint is a student-led newsletter which brings to you the best and latest of school happenings, local news, and world events— all in bitesize reports and easy-to-read segments. With motivated student-journalists and editors from different countries, we strive to provide coverage as diverse as the team that puts it together. In doing so, we hope to promote global awareness, intercultural understanding, and engagement in the school community.

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