**Environmental activists, scientists say Trump win is bad for the planet**

**By Associated Press**

MARRAKECH, Morocco — The day after the U.S. presidential election, environmental activists and climate scientists expressed alarm for the future of the planet. The election of a man who rejects global warming could have a serious effect on the environment.

The newly elected president, Donald Trump, promised during his campaign to undo President Barack Obama's climate policies. Several scientists warned that the election results could see global warming reaching dangerously high levels.

People are asking whether the United States will continue supporting an international climate deal, the Paris Agreement. A conference was held in Paris in December 2015. The deal finally went into effect on November 4.

**"The Rest of The World Will Continue To Work"**

Climate change includes the harmful effect humans have on the environment, such as driving cars, littering and drilling for gasses. Climate talks are being held in Morocco this month. Many people said that without a U.S. president fighting against climate change, it is up to the rest of the world to do so. Others hope that Trump will change his position and honor U.S. commitments to the Paris Agreement.

More than 100 countries, including the United States, have formally signed the agreement. One goal is to reduce emissions of gasses that are harmful to the environment. The agreement also pledges to help countries adapt to rising sea levels, heat waves, the spreading of deserts and other changes from global warming.

"I'm sure that the rest of the world will continue to work on it," Moroccan chief negotiator Aziz Mekouar said at the climate talks.

Others were not so sure. Scientists and environmental activists called Trump's election a disaster for the planet.

"The Paris Agreement and any U.S. leadership in international climate progress is dead," environmental expert Dana Fisher said. However, she added that the movement toward cleaner energy is established enough in the United States that it could continue without money from the government.

**Paris Agreement Success Would Slow**

Under President George Bush, the United States refused to sign a climate deal in 1997. Without the United States, the deal did not have a significant impact. But when President Obama was elected in 2008, he promised to fight for climate change. He became very important in helping the Paris Agreement come together last December.

However, Trump pledged in May to "cancel" the Paris deal.

The deal's goal is to keep the rise in global temperature below 2 degrees Celsius ( 3.6 degrees Fahrenheit) since before the Industrial Revolution. Temperatures, though, have already gone up by half that amount.

Scientist Michael Oppenheimer said that without U.S. involvement, the success of the Paris Agreement would slow and reduce. He warned that it would be impossible to avoid a 2- degree temperature rise without the help of the United States. In addition, the United States is responsible for about 20 percent of the deal's cutbacks in greenhouse gas emission.

**Coal Industry Will Not Be Coming Back**

Trump has supported removing regulations on the production of coal, oil and natural gas. He has also promised to end the Clean Power Plan, an Obama administration program to fight climate change.

Trump told an oil and gas conference in North Dakota that he would "save the coal industry." He promised to stop using tax money to fight global warming.

But Trump's actions most likely will not benefit coal mines or coal-fired power plants. The availability of cheaper natural gas from fracking has ended the coal industry in the United States, said Jay Apt, director of an electricity industry center. However, fracking can be dangerous too. It a process that drills into the earth for gasses and many say it is extremely harmful to the environment. Apt said the nation might use even less coal if Trump opens more drilling and the price of natural gas drops.

The American Energy Alliance supports the use of fossil fuels, sources of energy that increase global warming. This group said Trump's victory presents a chance to reset "harmful energy policies" in the United States. But shocked American activists did not agree. They cried and embraced at the climate talks in Morocco following the election results.

**U.S. Pledge Could Be Ignored**

U.S. withdrawal from the deal would take four years under the terms of the agreement. However, Trump could also decide to simply ignore the U.S. pledge to reduce emissions. There is no punishment for countries that miss their targets.

Norwegian scientist Glen Peters said that without the United States fighting against climate change, the rest of the world will not do much either.

Trump's win sparked hopes among the minority of researchers who do not believe that global warming is a major threat.

"The danger just isn't there," John Christy of the University of Alabama, Huntsville, said.

**Questions**

1. Read the quote from the section "The Rest Of The World Will Continue To Work."

*"The Paris Agreement and any U.S. leadership in international climate progress is dead," environmental expert Dana Fisher said.*

What does the word "dead" imply in Fisher's statement above?

(A) People will die as a result of continued climate change.

(B) No more progress will be made toward fixing climate change.

(C) Climate change will likely end at some point in our lifetimes.

(D) Many people do not understand the dangers of climate change.

1. Read the last two paragraphs of the article.

*Trump's win sparked hopes among the minority of researchers who do not believe that global warming is a major threat.*

*"The danger just isn't there," John Christy of the University of Alabama,*

*Huntsville, said*.

What does the word "minority" mean in the sentence above?

(A) a diverse group (B) a small number

(C) a strong opinion (D) a shared goal

1. Which two people in the article have the MOST similar perspective on climate change?

(A) Dana Fisher and Michael Oppenheimer (B) Dana Fisher and Donald Trump

(C) Michael Oppenheimer and John Christy (D) Barack Obama and John Christy

1. According to the article, Trump does not believe global warming is a major issue. Which line from the article BEST shows the potential effects of that belief?

(A) Others hope that Trump will change his position and honor U.S. commitments to the Paris Agreement.

(B) However, Trump pledged in May to "cancel" the Paris deal.

(C) Apt said the nation might use even less coal if Trump opens more drilling and the price of natural gas drops.

(D) But Trump's actions most likely will not benefit coal mines or coal-fired power plants.

1. Write a short response to summarize the disagreement between any two people or organizations in the article. If you were to support the claims made by only one of these parties, who would it be? Why?