

BIDEN'S ENVIRONMENTAL TEAM

President-elect Joe Biden on December 17 confirmed his selection of former Michigan Gov. Jennifer Granholm to be secretary of energy and a key member of his team with John Kerry to advance his climate policy and strengthen safeguards against pollution.

The Democrat also tapped North Carolina environmental regulator Michael Regan for Environmental Protection Agency administrator (see separate article) and Rep. Deb Haaland of New Mexico for secretary of the Interior.

The team also includes Brenda Mallory as chair of the Council on Environmental Quality, Gina McCarthy as national climate adviser, and Ali Zaidi as deputy national climate adviser.

"This brilliant, tested, trailblazing team will be ready on day one to confront the existential threat of climate change with a unified national response rooted in science and equity," Biden said in a statement.

Granholm is a strong advocate of alternative and renewable energy as well as low-carbon recovery. Mallory served as general counsel for the Council on Environmental Quality under the Obama administration. McCarthy is president of the Natural Resources Defense Council and former EPA administrator under Obama. Haaland, a Native American, is a strong proponent of environmental justice. Zaidi currently leads New York State's efforts on climate change.