"Panicked rush to gas" could hike energy costs, report warns

A new report by an energy and climate policy think tank warns that some utilities, particularly in the South, are making a "panicked rush to gas" and calls on state officials to slow the push for new natural gas power plants.

What we're reading:

- Some state lawmakers believe they can use the science to force fossil fuel companies to pay for the damages caused by disasters. Researchers in the emerging field of "attribution science" try to determine whether a natural disaster was caused or intensified by climate change, and tally the greenhouse gas emissions associated with an oil company's product.

- From a natural disaster can be tied to the historic emissions of individual oil companies. Some lawmakers want oil and coal companies to pay into climate funds based on their emissions. But their "climate Superfund" would not be supported in previews.

- House. The bill is designed to relieve the state's worsening teacher shortage, though teacher advocates expect the program to have little effect, the South Carolina Daily Gazette reports. The bill still must gain full Senate and House approval.

- Gov. Greg Abbott signed into law on Wednesday, when Abraham Lincoln was president, will move forward in the state Senate, while Republicans in the House for the second week in a row blocked efforts to repeal the law, according to the Austin American-Statesman.

- New Mexico governor to call special session on crime, reports. The bill still must gain full Senate and House approval.