

**DECEMBER 2017**  
**PUBLIC POLICY REPORT**

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## **FEDERAL UPDATE**

### **Trump appoints Iowa's DeJong as FSA state director**

President Donald Trump has appointed Iowa Corn Growers Association staffer Amanda DeJong to serve as Iowa state executive director for the Farm Service Agency, part of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. DeJong joined the Iowa Corn staff in 2011 as the senior policy adviser and has been a key team member working on behalf of Iowa Corn Growers Association members on the farm bill, crop insurance, the Renewable Fuels Standard, and trade.

### **Sweeney appointed Iowa rural development director**

Former state Representative Annette Sweeney has been appointed as Iowa rural development director, President Donald Trump's administration announced. Sweeney has been active on Iowa Corn Growers Association committees on animal agriculture and water quality. She served in the House from 2009 to 2012, chairing the Iowa House Agriculture Committee.

### **Senate action gives FERC full panel**

Senate action to confirm the last two nominees to the five-member Federal Energy Regulatory Commission finally gives the agency its first full panel of regulators in nearly two years. Kevin McIntyre, co-leader of the global energy practice at the law firm Jones Day, is expected to succeed Neil Chatterjee as chairman when he is sworn in. He will serve a term ending June 2018 and then a full term that ends June 2023. Richard Glick will serve out the remainder of a term ending June 2022. He was general counsel for the Democrats on the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee and a former policy adviser at the Department of Energy.

### **Administrator Pruitt announces more EPA hearings on Clean Power Plan**

The Environmental Protection Agency announced it will host three more public hearings on its move to repeal the Clean Power Plan after the agency was criticized for not conducting a transparent review process. The EPA had planned only one public hearing, which was held in Charleston, West Virginia. The new hearings will be held in San Francisco, California; Gillette, Wyoming; and Kansas City, Missouri, at dates and times to be determined.

## **STATE UPDATE**

### **MidAmerican Energy proposes lower costs, new energy efficiency program**

MidAmerican Energy Co.'s proposed energy efficiency program would save commercial customers an average of \$152 per year, with industrial power users saving \$6,500. Residential customers would save about \$67 a year. The investor-owned utility filed its energy efficiency program proposals for 2019 through 2023 with the Iowa Utilities Board. In 2016, 47 percent of MidAmerican's power came from renewable sources. That is expected to climb to 95 percent in 2021 after new wind projects are completed. Because of far lower fuel costs, the utility is looking give customers a break.

**Sam Clovis withdraws his nomination for USDA science position**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s chief scientist nominee, Sam Clovis, withdrew his name from consideration amid revelations that he was among top officials on the Trump campaign who were aware of efforts by foreign policy adviser George Papadopoulos to broker a relationship between the campaign and Russian officials.

**Upcoming Activities**

|  |                               |
|--|-------------------------------|
| Guthrie County REC Annual Meeting – Panora, IA           | January 6, 2018               |
| NRECA CEO Close-Up – Palm Desert, CA                     | January 7 – 10, 2018          |
| IAEC Legislative Welcome Back Reception – Des Moines, IA | January 9, 2018               |
| ABI Legislative Reception – Des Moines, IA               | January 10, 2018              |
| CIPCO Board Meeting – Des Moines, IA                     | January 30, 2018              |
| IAEC Directors Update – West Des Moines, IA              | January 31 – February 1, 2018 |

**Consumer Price Index**

| Month                                     | Seasonally Adjusted Change from Previous Month |
|---|--|
| October 2017                              | 0.1%   |
| September 2017                            | 0.5%   |
| August 2017                               | 0.4%   |
| July 2017                                 | 0.1%   |
| June 2017                                 | 0.0%   |
| May 2017                                  | -0.1%  |
|   |  |
| Unadjusted Rolling 12 Month Average: 2.0% |  |