

FEDERAL UPDATE

FERC swears in new chairman

Kevin McIntyre was recently sworn in as the new chairman for the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. With this act, the FERC panel is now complete with five members.

More Clean Power Plan repeal hearings planned

The EPA announced it will hold three more public hearings on the Clean Power Plan (CPP) repeal. Hearings will be held in Kansas City, Missouri, Gillette, Wyoming, and San Francisco, California.

Accidentally killing birds isn't a crime

The Trump Administration says it will no longer criminally prosecute companies that accidentally kill migratory birds. The decision reverses a rule made in the last weeks of the Obama administration. A legal memo from the Department of the Interior declares that the Migratory Bird Treaty Act applies only to purposeful actions that kill migratory birds, and not to energy companies and other businesses that kill birds incidentally.

U.S. could re-join Paris climate agreement

The United States "could conceivably go back in" to the Paris climate agreement, President Trump said — but it would have to be under terms that don't punish the country for its wealth of fossil fuels.

Northey nomination still stuck

The nomination of Iowa Agriculture Secretary Bill Northey to a new undersecretary position at the U.S. Department of Agriculture is still stuck in a political battle between ethanol and oil interests. Senator Ted Cruz at one point had pushed for a meeting among the interests -- which happened, according to Northey -- to figure out ways both industries could thrive. But Senator Grassley said Cruz's idea to put a cap on the price of credits used to comply with federal law on blending ethanol "makes negotiations a dead end."

STATE UPDATE

Alliant plans Poweshiek County wind development

Alliant Energy has signed an agreement with Tradewind Energy to help develop Alliant's 170-megawatt English Farms Wind Farm in Poweshiek County. The development is one of several planned by the utility, which will get one-third of its power from wind by the end of 2020. The \$1.8 billion overall wind investment will bring 1,000 megawatts of additional wind power, enough to power 430,000 homes. Alliant will build and own English Farms Wind Farm, with major construction starting in 2018.

Three new-generation ethanol plants dwindle to one

Not even the support of the federal government and the likes of agricultural giant DuPont Pioneer could keep three

cellulosic ethanol plants chugging past an initial ramp-up stage. Cellulosic ethanol -- the stuff made of cornstalks, cobs and other biomass -- was supposed to take the place of corn, which is in heavy demand for food products. The idea was to turn waste into energy, however two of three plants opened in the past several years are already on the sale block, including DuPont's plant near Nevada.

MidAmerican Energy names new leader

MidAmerican Energy Company announced that Adam Wright has been named its new president and CEO as part of an executive shuffle at parent company Berkshire Hathaway Energy. Mr. Wright, formerly vice president, gas delivery for MidAmerican, will succeed Bill Fehrman as president and CEO. Mr. Fehrman will assume responsibilities as president and CEO of Berkshire Hathaway Energy.

Upcoming Activities

IAEC Iowa's Directors Update – West Des Moines, IA	January 31 – February 1
TSE NET 2018 Conference – St. Petersburg, FL	February 5 – 7
Momentum is Building Conference 2018 – West Des Moines, IA	February 8 – 9
NRECA Director Education Programs – Nashville, TN	February 22 – 25
NRECA Annual Meeting and EXPO – Nashville, TN	February 25 – 28
IAEC Managers' Spring Conference – West Des Moines, IA	March 12 – 13
REC Day on the Hill – Des Moines, IA	March 14
NRECA Directors Conference – Las Vegas, NV	March 25 – 28
CIPCO Annual Meeting & Reception – Altoona, IA	March 27 – 28
NIPCO Annual Meeting – Sioux City, IA	April 3
Pella Cooperative Electric Association Annual Meeting – Pella, IA	April 3
Corn Belt Power Cooperative Annual Meeting – Fort Dodge, IA	April 4
Gettysburg Leadership Experience – Gettysburg, PA	April 4 – 6
NRECA Legislative Fly In & Conference – Washington, DC	April 8 - 11
IAEC Communicators Spring Conference – West Des Moines, IA	April 18 – 19

Consumer Price Index

Month	Seasonally Adjusted Change from Previous Month
December 2017	0.1%
November 2017	0.4%
October 2017	0.1%
September 2017	0.5%
August 2017	0.4%
July 2017	0.1%
Unadjusted Rolling 12 Month Average: 2.1%	