

PUBLIC POLICY REPORT

FEDERAL UPDATE

15 States Ask Court to Block EPA's Final Clean Power Plan

An emergency stay was filed with the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia to block EPA's implementation of the final rules. The states claim irreparable harm and have asked the court to place all deadlines on hold until the legal challenges to the rules have worked through the system. The request is led by West Virginia with Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, Nebraska, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Wisconsin and Wyoming signing on.

False Co-op Connection Associated with Solar Sales

Electric Co-op Today recently reported an incident in Hawaii in which a solar company presented itself as part of the local electric cooperative when approaching homeowners for potential sales. Kauai Island Utility Cooperative launched an aggressive media campaign to dispel the false information after numerous members reported being contacted by the solar company.

Philadelphia Federal Reserve State Coincident Index Released

Iowa ranked below the national average for almost the entire time span of 1993 through 2006, according to the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia State Coincident Index released last month. Iowa's best rankings occurred during the most recent U.S. recession when the Iowa economy contracted less than other areas of the country. Iowa's rank over the last 12 months is an average of 38, meaning the index views recent Iowa economic performance well below average when compared to the other states over the same timeframe.

STATE UPDATE

Iowa Utilities Board (IUB) Sued Over Bakken Pipeline

Three Iowa landowners - Brent Jesse, Verdell Johnson and Richard Lamb - have sued the IUB regarding the use of eminent domain by Dakota Access. The three individuals contend that the IUB does not have the authority to grant eminent domain rights in this situation.

Iowa OSHA Issues Declaratory Order

The Iowa Division of Labor Services OSHA Unit issued a Declaratory Order in response to IAEC's petition regarding the wearing of short-sleeved FR shirts under rubber protective sleeves. The order states lineman must wear long-sleeved FR shirts under the rubber sleeves to ensure the entire arm is covered.

Proposed Hike in Workers' Compensation Rates in Iowa

A proposed rate increase of 2.2 percent for 2016 was filed with the Iowa Insurance Commission. The proposed increase is based on recent medical loss ratios even though projected medical costs have slightly decreased. In 2015, the rate was reduced by 3.7 percent for both voluntary and assigned risk rates.

Bird Flu Costs Iowa 8,500 Jobs -- Farm Bureau Study

A recent study released by the Iowa Farm Bureau estimates the Bird flu cost Iowa approximately 8,500 jobs, some of which may not be recovered. In addition to lost jobs, the outbreak will cost Iowa nearly \$1.2 billion in lower output.

Upcoming Activities in 2015

Association of Business & Industry Fly-in – Washington, DC	September 15 – 16
NRECA Region 5&6 Annual Meeting – Minneapolis, MN	September 15 – 17
NRECA Power Up Conference – Denver, CO	September 20 – 23
Statewide Legislative Fall Fly-in – Washington, DC	September 28 – 30