

PUBLIC POLICY REPORT

FEDERAL UPDATE

Enabling Wind Power Nationwide

The U.S. Department of Energy released a new report, *Enabling Wind Power Nationwide*, which recommends the use of larger, taller wind towers to increase the production of wind based energy. The report relies on introducing new technologies to increase wind energy production, particularly in areas of the country currently not flourishing. It is projected that advanced wind energy systems will generate more electricity per dollar invested. The report is available at <http://www.energy.gov/eere/wind/downloads/enabling-wind-power-nationwide>.

Appeals Panel Won't Block EPA Plant Rules Before They Are Finalized

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit ruled that all challenges related to the EPA rules for the Clean Power Plan must wait for the rules to be implemented. An organization cannot legally challenge pending rules, they must wait until final action has taken place.

Fast Track Trade Authority

After a protracted battle, the House and Senate have both passed the trade bill giving the President fast track authority to execute trade deals. Congress ultimately has an up or down vote, however no amendments may be added to the bill.

STATE UPDATE

State Legislative Session Update

On Friday, June 5, the State Legislature completed work on the 2015 Session, five weeks past the scheduled end date. Of note, HF645 successfully passed the legislature which carves out solar tax credits specifically for utilities. The passage of the gas tax was the largest piece of legislative change for the year. Additionally, the Governor has 30 days from the end of Session to review bills for signature. Because of the length of this year's Session, this time period runs beyond the start of the fiscal year, therefore additional legislation was required to allow the departments to operate with temporary funding until the Governor reviews the bills. Ultimately, Legislators may not be done. There are discussions of a special Session to deal with additional school funding issues.

Avian Flu Update

Currently, there are 77 confirmed Avian Flu cases in Iowa affecting 18 counties. On May 1, Governor Branstad declared a State of Emergency for Iowa related to the outbreak. The declaration was originally set to expire May 31^t but was extended until July 1. Over 31.5 million chickens and turkeys have been destroyed due to the virus.

Unemployment Rate				
	March 2015	April 2015	May 2015	May 2014
Iowa	4.0%	3.8%	3.8%	4.4%
U.S.	5.5%	5.4%	5.5%	6.3%

Upcoming Activities in 2015

IAEC Managers & Board Presidents Summer Conference – July 8-10

NRECA 2015 INTERACT Conference – July 11-15

CoBANK Energy Director’s Conference – July 13-15

CIPCO Golf Outing & Annual Meeting – July 22-23

Okoboji, Iowa

Denver, Colorado

Colorado Springs, Colorado

Altoona, Iowa