

FEDERAL UPDATE

China hits U.S. states with tariffs on \$3 billion of exports

The Chinese government said that tariffs on about \$3 billion worth of U.S. imports are going into effect, hitting 128 products ranging from pork to steel pipes. It's the latest move in escalating tensions between the world's two largest economies, which some experts fear could turn into a trade war.

U.S. agencies agree to slash approval times for infrastructure projects

Fourteen agencies signed an agreement that puts into effect an executive order setting a two-year goal for completing the review process issued by Trump in August. Among the agencies covered by the memo are the departments of Energy, Interior, Transportation, Commerce and Homeland Security, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

Trump acknowledges farmers likely to feel trade pinch

Despite the NAFTA picture clearing somewhat, the trade outlook for American farmers remains murky. Promising an end game with China that will strengthen their position, President Donald Trump admitted "it will take a little while to get there," tacitly admitting agriculture may suffer some short-term pain for long-term gain.

U.S. government's largest grid attack exercise crashes social media

A government exercise meant to test the nation's response to attacks against the nation's electricity grid got into the most trouble, not from simulated hackers or bomb attacks, but from its simulated news casts, Facebook, and Twitter feeds. The utility industry's grid security watchdog, the North American Electric Reliability Corporation, issued its first report on the GridEx IV exercise, showing it to be one of the largest grid and infrastructure security events of all time.

STATE UPDATE

MidAmerican's \$42 million tax break nets Iowa customers \$20 a year

MidAmerican Energy electric customers should be able to buy a cup of coffee once a month with their part of a \$42 million federal tax break the company plans to return to thousands of Iowans. The Des Moines-based utility said that Iowa electric customers will save an average of \$20 a year on their heating and cooling bills, based on a plan it submitted to the Iowa Utilities Board for consideration. Iowa gas customers would see a \$10 annual savings, according to MidAmerican, which is owned by Warren Buffett's Berkshire Hathaway.

Move over, slow down law expanded

On April 4, Governor Kim Reynolds signed an expansion of the "Move Over, Slow Down" law that has been in place since 2002. With the signing, the law now requires drivers to change lanes if there is a stationary motor with flashing lights. If a driver can't move over, they must slow down and be prepared to stop if necessary. Other changes also included changing the wording of displaying flashing lights to include all colors of flashing lights, as opposed to the

yellow, amber, white, red, or red and blue lights. The law originally required drivers to move over or slow down for stopped emergency or maintenance vehicles.

Alliant plans to share federal tax savings with customers

Alliant Energy's Iowa customers should see savings in their utility bills beginning this summer because of new lower federal taxes. The Cedar Rapids-based Alliant has proposed to deliver nearly \$75 million in tax-related savings to its customer base, including its residential, industrial and commercial customers. The savings were outlined in an updated filing to the Iowa Utilities Board, which must approve the plan. For the typical residential electric customer, the tax reform will result in an annual savings of \$50-\$60, while the typical residential natural gas customer would see an annual savings of

Upcoming Activities

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
CIPCO Board Committee Meetings – Des Moines, IA	April 23
CIPCO Board Meeting – Des Moines, IA	April 24

Consumer Price Index

Month	Seasonally Adjusted Change from Previous Month
February 2018	0.2%
January 2018	0.5%
December 2017	0.1%
November 2017	0.4%
October 2017	0.1%
September 2017	0.5%
Unadjusted Rolling 12 Month Average: 2.2%	