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## FEDERAL UPDATE

### First New US Nuclear Reactor in 20 Years Goes Live

In 1973, the TVA, one of the nation's largest public power providers, began building two reactors that combined promised to generate enough power to light up 1.3 million homes. The first reactor, delayed by design flaws, eventually went live in 1996. Now, after billions of dollars in budget overruns, the second reactor has finally started sending power to homes and businesses. TVA President Bill Johnson said Watts Bar 2, the first US reactor to enter commercial operation in 20 years, would offer clean, cheap and reliable energy to residents of several southern states for at least another generation.

### Coal May Surpass Natural Gas for Power Generation this Winter

The Energy Information Administration reports that “coal is expected to surpass natural gas as the most common source of electricity in December, January and February,” according to an EIA analysis released in November. Steadily rising natural gas prices and cold winter weather in areas of the country that produce more coal could drive the increased coal use.

### Judge halts rule expanding overtime for millions

A federal judge in Texas issued a nationwide injunction against an Obama administration regulation expanding by millions the number of workers who would be eligible for time-and-a-half overtime pay. The regulation was scheduled to take effect Dec. 1. It would raise the salary limit below which workers automatically qualified for overtime pay to \$47,476 from \$23,660.

### President-Elect Trump Cabinet Picks

Chief-of-staff, Reince Priebus  
Chief Advisor, Stephen Bannon  
White House Counsel, Don McGahn  
Attorney General, Senator Jeff Sessions  
National Security Advisor, Lt. General Michael Flynn  
CIA Director, Representative Mike Pompeo  
U.N. Ambassador, Governor Nikki Haley  
Education Secretary, Betsy DeVos  
Deputy National Security Advisor, Kathleen McFarland  
Health & Human Services Secretary, Representative Tom Price  
Centers for Medicaid & Medicare Administrator, Seema Verma  
Transportation Secretary, Elaine Chao  
Commerce Secretary, Wilbur Ross

Treasury Secretary, Steven Mnuchin  
Deputy Commerce Secretary, Todd Ricketts  
Defense Secretary, Gen. James Mattis  
Housing & Urban Development Secretary, Dr. Ben Carson  
U.S. Ambassador to China, Governor Terry Branstad  
Homeland Security Secretary, Gen. John Kelly  
Environmental Protection Agency Administrator, Scott Pruitt  
Interior Secretary, Rep. Cathy McMorris Rodgers  
Labor Secretary, Andy Puzder  
Small Business Administration Administrator, Linda McMahon  
Secretary of State, Rex Tillerson

## STATE UPDATE

### Iowa State Engineer Developing Tools, Technologies to Make a Better, Smarter Power Grid

In the aftermath of Hurricane Matthew, images showing long, dark swaths along the Atlantic coasts of Florida, Georgia and the Carolinas. Zhaoyu Wang, an Iowa State University assistant professor of electrical and computer engineering and others are working to change the consequences of natural disasters on the grid. They're looking for ways to modernize the distribution system that brings power to homes and offices.

The engineers are working to:

- Develop tools to help utilities in recovering from natural disasters
- Create a practical model for planning and predicting power demand down to the level of homes and businesses
- Devise models to monitor and mitigate cascading power outages
- Construct an advanced business model that manages the risks and uncertainties of the power system

### Congress Approves Funds for New Federal Courthouse in Des Moines

The final authorization for funding of new federal courthouse in Des Moines is available according to the U.S. General Services Administration. Congress has approved \$136.6 million for site acquisition, design and construction of a 230,000-square-foot U.S. Courthouse that would have nine courtrooms and 13 chambers. The project is considered a key part of future development of the Market District of the East Village.

### Upcoming Activities in 2016

Guthrie County REC Annual Meeting – Panora, IA	January 7, 2017
NRECA CEO Close-Up – Ft. Lauderdale, FL	January 8 – 11, 2017
Iowa State Legislative Session Begins – Des Moines, IA	January 9, 2017
IAEC Legislative Briefing & Reception – Des Moines, IA	January 10, 2017
ABI Legislative Briefing & Reception – Des Moines, IA	January 11, 2017
CIPCO Board Meeting – Des Moines, IA	January 24, 2017
NET Conference – San Diego, CA	January 30 – February 1, 2017

### Consumer Price Index

Month	Seasonally Adjusted Change from Previous Month
October 2016	0.4%
September 2016	0.3%
August 2016	0.2%
July 2016	0.0%
June 2016	0.2%
May 2016	0.2%
<b>Unadjusted Rolling 12 Month Average: 1.6%</b>	