

## FEDERAL UPDATE

### **Trump Names Democrat LaFleur Acting FERC Chair**

President Trump has selected Democrat Cheryl LaFleur to be the acting chairwoman of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. President Obama previously appointed LaFleur to the FERC. Even though she is a Democrat, LaFleur has had the support of a number of top congressional Republicans.

### **Svinicki Appointed as the Nuclear Regulatory Commission Chair**

Regulatory Commission Commissioner Kristine Svinicki has been appointed by President Trump to be chairman of the NRC, replacing the current chairman Stephen Burns effective immediately.

### **Power Sector Carbon Emissions Lowest in Nearly 25 Years**

According to a recent analysis by the Energy Information Administration, power sector carbon emissions are expected to be the lowest since 1992. Carbon emissions for the first six months of 2016 hit a record low of 2,530 million metric tons. The agency attributed the drop to mild weather and the shift from coal to cleaner-burning natural gas and renewable energy in US power production.

### **Trump Clears the Way for Completing Dakota Access Pipeline**

President Trump signed new orders designed to speed up the completion of the Dakota Access Pipeline and to restart the Keystone XL Pipeline. Construction of the nearly complete Dakota Access line was halted last month when the Obama administration ordered an environmental review. President Trump's order seeks to speed up the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' review so work on the pipeline can resume. Shortly following the President's announcement, TransCanada Corp. filed a new application with the Department of State seeking approval of the Keystone XL pipeline. Their previous application was rejected by President Obama in 2015.

### **USDA Provided \$622 million for Rural Development Programs in 2016**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture issued \$622 million in rural development grants in Iowa during 2016. The funds supported the retention of 1,400 jobs, assisted 2,000 households with home purchases, and funded community improvements. The program provided \$214 million in guaranteed and direct mortgage loans, \$18 million in rental assistance for residents at USDA-financed apartment complexes, and \$1 million in loans and grants for home repairs. Rural businesses received \$46 million through loan guarantees to lenders; electric cooperatives and rural municipal utilities received \$7 million; and businesses received \$2 million for energy efficiency improvements. Another \$331 million was provided for a range of uses, including improvements for community facilities, education opportunities, health care access, water and wastewater systems, and broadband services provided by rural independent telephone companies.

### **President-Elect Trump Cabinet Picks - Since the Last Board Meeting**

Secretary of Agriculture, Governor Sonny Perdue  
Secretary of Veterans Affairs, Dr. David Shulkin  
Senior White House Advisor, Jared Kushner

Director of National Intelligence, Dan Coats  
 Chair, U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, Jay Clayton  
 U.S. Trade Representative, Robert Lighthizer  
 Special Representative for International Negotiations, Jason Greenblatt  
 Homeland Security & Counterterrorism Advisor, Thomas Bossert  
 White House Press Secretary, Sean Spicer  
 Counselor to the President, Kellyanne Conway  
 Army Secretary, Vincent Viola  
 Budget Director, Rep. Mick Mulvaney  
 Secretary of Interior, Rep. Ryan Zinke  
 Secretary of Energy, Rick Perry

## STATE UPDATE

### Rock Island Clean Lines Pulls Petition

Rock Island Clean Lines notified the Iowa Utilities Board of their intent to withdraw their petition to build an electric transmission line across Iowa. The 500-mile overhead line was intended to send wind energy across 16 of Iowa's counties. The project had received significant opposition as it related to the possible use of eminent domain.

### New Coalition to Advocate for Iowa Energy Investments Launched

Iowans for a Reliable Energy Future announced plans for a bipartisan coalition to drive discussion around Iowa's energy issues. The group is expected to highlight the potential value of investments to update and secure the power grid, expand clean energy, and provide consumers with better, more personalized services. It will have six co-chairs from across the state.

### Upcoming Activities in 2017

IAEC Directors' Update – West Des Moines	February 1-2, 2017
Momentum is Building Conference – West Des Moines	February 9-10, 2017
NRECA Director Education Programs – San Diego, CA	February 23-26, 2017
NRECA Annual Meeting & Expo – San Diego, CA	February 26-March 1, 2017
NRECA TechAdvantage Conference – San Diego, CA	February 26-March 1, 2017
CFC Annual Meeting – San Diego, CA	February 27, 2017

### Consumer Price Index

Month	Seasonally Adjusted Change from Previous Month
December 2016	0.3%
November 2016	0.2%
October 2016	0.4%
September 2016	0.3%
August 2016	0.2%
July 2016	0.0%
<b>Unadjusted Rolling 12 Month Average: 2.1%</b>	