
FEDERAL UPDATE

Touchstone Energy co-ops top utility sector for customer satisfaction

Touchstone Energy cooperatives lead the utility sector in the latest American Customer Satisfaction Index with an overall score of 77. Though the Touchstone Energy score was down 4 percent from 2015, cooperatives still scored higher than investor-owned utilities at 72 and municipal utilities at 68.

Fossil fuels will continue to be part of US energy mix

Energy Secretary Moniz pledged support for clean coal research and that fossil fuels would continue to play a role in the country's energy mix at the annual gathering of the Western Governors' Association. He said, "fossil fuel use, nuclear, along with renewables and efficiency, will all remain prominent in our portfolio."

Supreme Court rejects states' request to reconsider EPA mercury rule

The Supreme Court declined to reconsider the EPA's mercury rule. The Court ordered the rule to remain in place while the EPA "fixes legal problems and comes out with a revision."

MISO survey shows Midwest generation deficit could be possible by 2018

A survey by MISO of utilities and independent power producers in 15 central US states shows a potential generation shortfall because of a wave of announced power plant shutdowns that could reduce the energy surplus from 2.7 gigawatts next summer to 900 megawatts as early as the middle of 2018.

Markets in turmoil after Brexit

Britons have voted to leave the European Union, an outcome that has shocked global financial markets, sending stocks plunging and the U.S. dollar sharply higher. The decision is expected to have global implications, some of which may take years to play out. British Prime Minister David Cameron, who led the campaign to remain in the bloc, announced that he planned to step down by October.

NRECA names former U.S. Representative Jim Matheson new CEO

NRECA announced that former U.S. Representative Jim Matheson has been selected to serve as NRECA's sixth chief executive officer. Matheson will succeed Jo Ann Emerson, who was stricken by a severe illness in August of last year. He will assume his duties as CEO in July.

STATE UPDATE

Bakken pipeline will run under sacred tribal site

State officials have lifted a stop-work order on the Bakken oil pipeline in northwest Iowa where tribal officials had objected to disrupting sacred American Indian land that includes burial grounds. Instead of digging a trench for a route through the Big Sioux River Wildlife Management Area in Lyon County, the pipeline will be located about 85 feet underground by using special boring equipment.

NextEra Energy nuclear fleet receives top innovation award

NextEra Energy announced that its nuclear energy fleet, including the Duane Arnold Energy Center in Palo, received the Nuclear Energy Institute's 2016 top innovation award for a unique program that significantly improves plant performance.

QC nuclear plant fails to clear capacity auction

Power-capacity prices fell sharply in PJM Interconnection's auction for the nation's largest electric grid, creating bad news for Exelon's Quad Cities nuclear plant. Exelon failed to win the necessary contract that would have kept the plant open until 2020.

Governor Branstad signs solar tax credit bill

Governor Branstad signed HF 2468 into law which includes the extension for the Replacement Tax Task Force, geothermal tax credits and solar tax credits.

Nebraska nuke plant to close

Iowa's neighboring nuclear power plant will join others on the shutdown list due to shifting economics in the power industry. The Omaha Public Power District voted to decommission the Fort Calhoun Nuclear Station, which sits on the Missouri River, 15 miles north of Omaha. A third-party analysis found shutting the plant would save the district \$735-\$934 million over 20 years.

Upcoming Activities in 2016

CoBank Energy Directors Conference – Colorado Springs, CO	July 12-14, 2016
CIPCO Communicators Summer Meeting – Des Moines, IA	July 13, 2016
NRECA Legal Seminar – Savannah, GA	July 18-20, 2016
CIPCO Board Meeting – Des Moines, IA	July 19, 2016
NRECA INTERACT Conference – Portland, OR	July 23-27, 2016
IAEC 25 th Annual Golf Outing – Okoboji, IA	July 27, 2016
IAEC Manager' and Board Presidents' Summer Conference – Okoboji, IA	July 28-29, 2016
NRECA Tax, Finance & Accounting Conference for Cooperatives – Washington, DC	July 31-August 3, 2016

Consumer Price Index

Month	Seasonally Adjusted Change from Previous Month
May 2016	0.2%
Apr. 2016	0.4%
Mar. 2016	0.1%
Feb. 2016	-0.2%
Jan. 2016	0.0%
Dec. 2015	-0.1%
Unadjusted Rolling 12 Month Average: 1.0%	