

## FEDERAL UPDATE

### **Secretary Perry Believes Trump Should Stay in Paris Climate Pact; He Should “Renegotiate” It**

Energy Secretary Rick Perry is encouraging President Trump to stay in the Paris climate change agreement but renegotiate its terms. During an interview at the Bloomberg New Energy Finance Event, Perry said, “I’m not going to tell the president of the United States let’s just walk away from the Paris accord. ... But, what I’m going to say is that I think we probably should renegotiate it.”

### **Trump Nominates Chatterjee and Powelson to FERC**

President Trump nominated Neil Chatterjee, a senior energy adviser to Senate Majority Leader McConnell, and Rob Powelson of the Pennsylvania Utility Commission to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. Senator Jim Inhofe of Oklahoma praised the appointment of the two highly qualified, industry experts.

### **Votes by McCain, Graham and Collins Lead to the Senate Upholding Methane Climate Rule**

The Senate voted 51-49 to uphold an Obama-era climate change regulation to control the release of methane from oil and gas wells on public land.

### **Grassley Knocks Perry on Wind Energy Study**

Senator Grassley raised concerns that Energy Secretary Perry commissioned a potentially poor study on electric grid reliability that appears slanted to undermine the wind energy industry.

### **Secretary Perdue Announces USDA Reorganization**

U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue announced the creation of an undersecretary for trade and foreign agricultural affairs, an undersecretary for farm protection and conservation, and the move to have rural development agencies report directly to the Secretary. As part of the reorganization of USDA, Perdue also announced the standing up of a newly-named Farm Production and Conservation mission area focused on customer issues.

## STATE UPDATE

### **Governor Branstad Signs Extended Drug Testing Bill**

SF 32 allows employers to use hair for pre-employment drug testing. There was bipartisan support for this bill in the Legislature which gives employers another tool when it comes to keeping the workplace safe. The bill will go into effect July 1, 2017.

### **Foreign Relations Committee Approves Branstad**

Governor Branstad's nomination cleared the Senate Foreign Relations Committee by a voice vote. The governor sailed through his hearing and his nomination could be voted on by the full Senate shortly.

### DNR Proposes Higher Air Quality Fees

The Iowa Environmental Protection Commission on May 23 will consider increased air pollutant emissions fees during a telephone meeting. The per ton fees would rise to \$70 from \$67.50 on July 1, if approved. Iowa plants and other facilities were expected to cut emissions by 21 percent, meaning less revenue for the Iowa Department of Natural Resources' air quality bureau.

### Iowa Environmental Council Director Rosenberg to Retire

Longtime Iowa environmentalist and former state lawmaker Ralph Rosenberg plans to retire on September 30. Rosenberg will help IEC during the search for a new director. He has held the position since 2012. He intends to remain active with nonprofit consulting and as an adjunct faculty member for local colleges and universities.

### Upcoming Activities in 2017

ACES 2017 Members Conference – Indianapolis, IN	June 1 – 2, 2017
ABI Taking Care of Business Conference – Dubuque, IA	June 6 – 8, 2017
NRECA Summer School East – Charleston, SC	June 9 – 14, 2017
Iowa Youth Tour – Washington, DC	June 9 – 15, 2017
CFC Forum 2017 – San Antonio, TX	June 11 – 14, 2017
CIPCO Informational Meeting & Reception – Altoona, IA	June 21, 2017
CIPCO Annual Meeting – Altoona, IA	June 22, 2017
CoBank 2017 Energy Directors Conference – Colorado Springs, CO	June 27 – 29, 2017

### Consumer Price Index

Month	Seasonally Adjusted Change from Previous Month
April 2017	0.2%
March 2017	-0.3%
February 2017	0.1%
January 2017	0.6%
December 2016	0.3%
November 2016	0.2%
Unadjusted Rolling 12 Month Average: 2.2%	