




Central Iowa Power Cooperative
A Touchstone Energy Cooperative 

OCTOBER 2016

PUBLIC POLICY REPORT

FEDERAL UPDATE

Congress Investigating Solar Firms for Tax Fraud

The Senate Finance Committee and the House Ways and Means Committee have opened formal investigations into potential fraud by solar-energy companies that resulted in billions of dollars in tax incentives. The companies being investigated include several in the residential solar industry, such as SolarCity Corp and Sunrun Inc.

Department of Energy Report Indicates Costs for Wind and Solar Dropping

A new Energy Department report catalogs the significant price decline for renewables. According to the report, since 2008 the costs have dropped 41 percent for offshore wind turbines, 54 percent for rooftop solar and 65 percent for utility-scale solar farms. As a result in 2015, wind turbines and solar panels accounted for more than two-thirds of the power generation installed on the U.S. grid, with wind accounting for more than 40 percent of the total.

US Nuclear Output at 79 Percent

The US nuclear output has fallen to 81,600 megawatts, or about 79 percent of capacity, according to Energy Information Administration data, the lowest since 2006.

STATE UPDATE

Bakken Pipeline Protesters Arrested Blocking Construction Site

Protesters rallied in Boone County near the Farm Progress Show against the Bakken pipeline. About 20 protesters were arrested on a trespassing charge and taken to the Boone County Jail. Organizers said the point of their demonstration is to draw attention to the pipeline issues even as construction on the pipeline is already underway. The protesters formed a line across the road into one of the construction sites. Boone County sheriff, deputies, and state troopers are at the scene.

Disaster Declaration

Gov. Terry E. Branstad has received word that President Obama approved his request for a Presidential Disaster Declaration for eight counties impacted by severe storms in August. The counties included in the declaration are: Allamakee, Chickasaw, Clayton, Fayette, Floyd, Howard, Mitchell, and Winneshiek. The governor sent the request for a declaration on Sept. 19, 2016, in response to significant damage that was caused by severe storms and flooding from Aug. 23-27, 2016.

Move faster, Consumer Advocate Tells Alliant, IUB

Iowa's Consumer Advocate wants Alliant Energy's billing issues fixed before winter. The Iowa Utilities Board has received more than 230 complaints over unexpectedly high bills. Alliant informed the IUB of the issue Oct. 3, attributing the spike in charges to hotter weather and a new billing system. Alliant has apologized and agreed to suspend late payment fees and disconnections until Dec. 31 and spread charges over the next 12 months without penalizing customers.

Upcoming Activities in 2016

G&T Legal Seminar – Clearwater, FL
CFC Independent Borrowers Executive Summit – Charleston, SC
NRECA Safety Leadership Summit – Fort Worth, TX
NRECA CCD/BLC Courses – West Des Moines, IA

November 3-4, 2016
November 7-9, 2016
November 16-18, 2016
November 30, 2016

Consumer Price Index

Month	Seasonally Adjusted Change from Previous Month
August 2016	0.2%
July 2016	0.0%
June 2016	0.2%
May 2016	0.2%
April 2016	0.4%
Unadjusted Rolling 12 Month Average: 1.1%	