

OCTOBER 2017
PUBLIC POLICY REPORT

FEDERAL UPDATE

Court Blocks President's Delay of Obama Methane Leak Rule

Judge Elizabeth Laporte of the District Court for the Northern District of California ruled the Trump administration broke the law when it tried to delay an Obama administration rule related to greenhouse gas released through oil and natural gas drilling. Laporte indicated that the Interior Department cannot use a provision in the Administrative Procedure Act to delay the rule on methane emissions on federal land.

Congressmen Press Perry on FERC Directive

During a hearing of the House Energy and Commerce Committee's energy subpanel, lawmakers criticized Energy Secretary Rick Perry for his recent proposal to prop up coal and nuclear plants with higher payments for their electricity. One Republican and several Democrats on the committee said the plan would be unnecessarily disruptive to energy markets and prop up power plants that aren't competitive.

STATE UPDATE

EPA Feels Pressure from Iowa

Gov. Kim Reynolds voiced her concern about proposed cuts to the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). She, along with Lt. Gov. Adam Gregg and local renewable fuels leaders, held a press conference in Pella following two phone calls with Washington, D.C.—one with EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt and the other with President Donald Trump. Following the events, Administrator Pruitt sent a letter to Iowa's congressional leaders saying the EPA would not make the proposed cuts.

MidAmerican Energy Upgrading Older Wind Turbines Throughout Iowa

MidAmerican Energy Company announced that it will upgrade hundreds of aging wind turbines and add additional wind energy sources through a definitive agreement with GE to bring cost savings to its Iowa-based customers. The announcement follows a decision from the Iowa Utilities Board to allow MidAmerican to repower portions of its older wind fleet for more efficient energy generation. The upgrades will include retrofitting older turbines with longer blades and components to extend the lives of each unit. According to MidAmerican, the project will reduce costs associated with generating electricity from other sources, which will help keep costs low and stable for the company's Iowa customers.

Alliant Energy announces plans for new Iowa wind farm

Alliant Energy announced an agreement with Apex Clean Energy to build a 300-megawatt wind farm in northwest Iowa. The project, dubbed the Upland Prairie Wind Farm, will bring 121 turbines to Clay and Dickinson counties. It marks Alliant's second wind expansion in the state, and will push the company's share of wind-generated energy in the state past 33 percent starting in 2020, according to Doug Kopp, president of Alliant's Iowa energy company. The

project would generate enough energy to power about 130,000 homes annually, and is expected to generate approximately \$45 million in landowner payments over the next 25 years, according to the company.

Upcoming Activities in 2017

CFC Independent Borrowers Executive Summit 2017 – San Francisco, CA
 IAEC Annual Meeting – West Des Moines, IA
 NRECA Winter School – Nashville, TN
 CIPCO Board Meeting – Cedar Rapids, IA

November 13-15, 2017
 November 30 – December 1, 2017
 December 1-6, 2017
 December 12, 2017

Consumer Price Index

| Month | Seasonally Adjusted Change from Previous Month |
|---|--|
| September 2017 | 0.5% |
| August 2017 | 0.4% |
| July 2017 | 0.1% |
| June 2017 | 0.0% |
| May 2017 | -0.1% |
| April 2017 | 0.2% |
| | |
| Unadjusted Rolling 12 Month Average: 2.2% | |