

NATIONAL UPDATE

U.S. Solar Generation Grows 22.2% Even Through Pandemic

Notwithstanding the coronavirus pandemic, renewable energy sources continue to expand their share of the nation's energy production and consumption as well as electricity generation, according to an analysis of data in two reports just released by the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA). For the period January-July, solar-generated electricity expanded by 22.2 percent (compared to the same period in 2019) and provided nearly 3.4 percent of the nation's total. Wind grew by 13.0 percent and accounted for almost 8.5 percent of total generation. Combined, net electrical generation by wind and solar is 15.5 percent greater than one year ago.

FERC Rules Co-ops Control How Members' Energy Resources Can be Sold in Power Markets

Most electric cooperatives will maintain local authority over integration of distributed energy resources—ranging from solar panels and efficiency to energy storage, electric vehicles and beyond—under a landmark order by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to open regional power markets to emerging behind-the-meter technologies. NRECA said it appreciated the commission's decision, which gives state and local authorities the ability to decide locally whether third-party aggregators can bid DER on their systems into wholesale power markets run by regional transmission organizations or independent system operators. "It is important that the commission has recognized the challenges that this order could pose for small utilities, including virtually all distribution co-ops," said Louis Finkel, NRECA senior vice president of government relations.

House Passes Bills to Secure Energy Sector Against Cyberattacks

In late September, the U.S. House of Representatives unanimously passed four bills aimed at securing the power grid and other energy infrastructure against cyberattacks. All four of the bipartisan bills were approved by voice vote and supported by the leaders of the House Energy and Commerce and House Science, Space, and Technology panels. The Cyber Sense Act, primarily sponsored by Reps. Bob Latta (R-Ohio) and Jerry McNerney (D-Calif.), would require the secretary of Energy to establish a program to test the cybersecurity of products intended to be used in the bulk power system. Latta and McNerney are the primary sponsors of a second piece of legislation passed on the same day, the Enhancing Grid Security Through Public-Private Partnerships Act, which would require the Department of Energy to establish a program to enhance the cyber and physical security of electric utilities, along with issuing a report on ways to enhance security to address threats.

STATE UPDATE

Alliant Energy Reaches 1,000 MW of Wind Production in Iowa

Alliant Energy completed its plan to add 1,000 MW of wind production in Iowa, several months ahead of schedule and within budget. This achievement comes as the company completes its 130-MW Richland Wind Farm in Sac County, located in west-central Iowa. The now operational wind farm is among five wind projects across seven

counties in the state. Collectively, the projects provide Iowa customers and communities with new renewable energy and are expected to provide power to approximately 430,000 Iowa homes.

Iowa Rural Power Congressional Voter Guide

The Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives has released this year’s Congressional voter guide. In a normal election year, Iowa Rural Power advocates would attend and host events for those campaigning for Congress where questions could be asked on energy issues and rural Iowa. Because of the pandemic, the Statewide sent a candidate questionnaire to every campaign to compile the 2020 Congressional Voter Guide. Access the guide at <https://www.iaruralpower.org/voter-guide>.

Iowa Announces COVID-19 Residential Utility Disruption Prevention Program

Iowa Governor Kim Reynolds and the Iowa Economic Development Authority (IEDA) today announced the launch of the new Residential Utility Disruption Prevention Program. The program will provide eligible households with up to \$2,000 towards electric, natural gas and water bills if they are at risk of disconnection due to an inability to pay due to a COVID-19 related loss of income. Payments through the program will be made directly to utility providers and applied to the applicants account. To be eligible to receive assistance, a residential electric, natural gas and/or water utility customer must have:

- A primary Iowa residence with active residential utility accounts
- An unpaid utility bill balance or have previously entered into a payment plan with their utility provider
- An annual income that is 80% of the median family income, based on county and household size
- Experienced a COVID-19 loss of income (job loss, reduction in hours, reduction in pay) on or after March 17, 2020 that resulted in hardship in paying bills provided between March 17, 2020 and October 31, 2020.

For more information on the program, visit www.iowahousingrecovery.com.

Consumer Price Index

Month	Seasonally Adjusted Change from Previous Month
Sept 2020	0.2%
Aug 2020	0.4%
July 2020	0.6%
June 2020	0.6%
May 2020	-0.1%
April 2020	-0.8%
Unadjusted Rolling 12 Month Average: 1.4%	