

FEDERAL UPDATE

Clean Energy Outshines Coal

Clean energy infrastructure in the U.S. generated almost 68.5 million megawatt-hours of power in April, eclipsing the 60 million that coal plants produced that month and marking the first-time renewables have outgunned the fossil fuel, reports Bloomberg. Coal is forecast to return to second place behind natural gas as coal-burning units sidelined for maintenance in April returned to service this summer. But in the future, the U.S. Energy Information Administration forecasts renewable energy will continue to outpace coal.

Senate Passes Cybersecurity Bill to Decrease Grid Digitization, Move Toward Manual Control

A bipartisan cybersecurity bill passed the Senate that will study ways to replace automated systems with low-tech redundancies to protect the country's electric grid from hackers. The Securing Energy Infrastructure Act (SEIA) is a two-year pilot program and was included in the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2020. The House has introduced a companion bill.

U.S. EV Sales in First Half of 2019 Climb Nearly 12% on Year

Electric vehicle sales and deliveries in the US in the first half of 2019 totaled 148,704 units, an 11.7% increase over first-half 2018 sales, according to data provided by an EV industry publication that tracks EV monthly sales. As expected, in the first half of 2019, Tesla was far and away the dominant market leader in terms of EV sales.

STATE UPDATE

New Iowa DNR Director Named

Gov. Kim Reynolds announced the appointment of Decorah native Kayla Lyon as the new department director. Ms. Lyon, the governor's legislative liaison and lead policy advisor on agriculture and natural resources issues, has spent her career in government working on ag, renewable fuels, water quality and environmental policy, including a stint as government affairs director at the Iowa Institute for Cooperatives. She will become the eighth director of the DNR, replacing Bruce Trautman, who has been the acting director since May 2018.

MidAmerican Tops 50% From Renewables

MidAmerican Energy Co. got 51.4% of its energy from renewable sources such as wind last year, the Iowa Utilities Board confirmed. The figure refers to the amount of renewable energy generation as a percentage of total retail energy delivered. That is up slightly from 2017. The utility plans to increase the percentage with planned wind power installations, without seeking rate increases.

Upcoming Activities

NRECA Summer School – Branson, MO	August 2-7,2019
TSE Mainstreet Summit – Des Moines, IA	August 6-8, 2019
IAEC District 4&6 Meeting – West Des Moines, IA	August 7, 2019
Iowa State Fair – Des Moines, IA	August 8-18,2019
IAEC District 1&2 Meeting – Coralville, IA	August 9, 2019
NRECA INTERACT Conference – San Francisco, CA	August 19-21, 2019
Maquoketa Valley Electric Annual Meeting – Farley, IA	August 22, 2019
T.I.P. REC Annual Meeting – Brooklyn, IA	August 24, 2019
Consumers Energy Annual Meeting – Marshalltown, IA	August 24, 2019
CIPCO Board Committee Meetings – Des Moines, IA	August 26, 2019
CIPCO Board Meeting – Des Moines, IA	August 27, 2019
Farm Progress Show – Decatur, IS	August 27-29, 2019

Consumer Price Index

Month	Seasonally Adjusted Change from Previous Month
June 2019	0.1%
May 2019	0.1%
April 2019	0.3%
March 2019	0.4%
February 2019	0.2%
January 2019	0.0%
Unadjusted Rolling 12 Month Average: 1.6%	