

NATIONAL UPDATE

US Energy Storage Posts Second-Largest Quarter, with More Growth Expected as COVID-19 Recedes

The U.S. saw 168 MW of energy storage deployed in Q2 2020, the industry's second-largest deployment behind Q4 2019 according to the U.S. Energy Storage Association. COVID-19 triggered a slowdown in commercial and industrial installations. Utility-scale installations are expected to drive growth through the next several years.

Corps of Engineers Formally Launches Dakota Access Pipeline Study

Federal officials formally launched what promises to be a lengthy environmental review of the Dakota Access Pipeline, amid a longstanding court battle that became increasingly complex this summer. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers published a notice in the Federal Register that it is preparing a court-ordered environmental impact statement on the pipeline that American Indian tribes and environmentalists have resisted for years. The public has until Oct. 26 to provide input on the scope of the review, which is expected to take at least 13 months. U.S. District Judge James Boasberg, who is overseeing a federal lawsuit over the pipeline filed by American Indian tribes four years ago, in March ordered the study. The dispute over Boasberg's rulings requiring an EIS and revoking the easement during the review process continues to play out in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit. Meanwhile, the Corps is evaluating whether to continue allowing Dakota Access to move oil, since the pipeline is now considered an "encroachment" on federal property due to its invalidated permit. The agency has indicated it might make a decision within two months, or it could decline to act. It's seeking input from other federal agencies, including the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration and the Department of Energy.

STATE UPDATE

Governor Reynolds Extends Disaster Proclamation for Derecho-impacted Counties

Gov. Kim Reynolds has extended a disaster proclamation for counties impacted by the Aug. 10 derecho. The proclamation allows state resources to be utilized to respond to and recover from the effects of this severe weather in Audubon, Benton, Boone, Cass, Cedar, Clarke, Clinton, Dallas, Greene, Grundy, Guthrie, Hardin, Iowa, Jackson, Jasper, Johnson, Jones, Linn, Madison, Marshall, Muscatine, Polk, Poweshiek, Scott, Story, Tama, and Washington counties. In addition, the proclamation temporarily suspends regulatory provisions pertaining to weight limits and hours of service for disaster repair crews and drivers delivering goods and services and the movement of loads related to responding to the severe storm system throughout the state of Iowa.

City of Decorah Signed a Franchise Agreement with Alliant Energy

The Decorah City Council approved a franchise agreement, ending a lengthy fight between the city and Alliant Energy. The City had previously filed a complaint with the Iowa Utilities Board (IUB) over the utility's activities surrounding a local project. The IUB recently filed an opinion that Alliant was not guilty of wrongdoing.

Updated State Figures Show 5.4 Percent Net Revenue Decline Since Beginning of Pandemic

Iowa's state tax revenue has declined 5.4 percent year-over-year during the COVID-19 pandemic, according to the newest fiscal update released by the Legislative Services Agency. From March 19 through Sept. 8, net state tax

revenue declined by \$235.9 million. Much of the decline that began around April 8 was the result of tax due-date delays. A partial recovery that began in mid-July is likewise due to individual and corporate income tax payments made as the delayed due date for those tax payments approached.

Consumer Price Index

Month	Seasonally Adjusted Change from Previous Month
Aug 2020	0.4%
July 2020	0.6%
June 2020	0.6%
May 2020	-0.1%
April 2020	-0.8%
March 2020	-0.4%
Unadjusted Rolling 12 Month Average: 1.3%	