

Monthly Board Report – 11/16/23



Agribusiness and Water Council/NWRA

- Endangered Species Act (ESA) is a top issue at the WWF Subcommittee
- Chairman Bruce Westerman (R-AR) is Focusing on Expired Authorities
- WWF Looking at NEPA Reform - PMAs & Transmission, Veg Management
- Expect a Colorado River oversight hearing in Q1 or Q2 of 2024
- NRECA Regulatory Focus is on Wildfire, BLM Conservation Rule & ESA
- 100 House Democrats Introduce Clean Water Bill
- Supreme Court Takes up Another Chevron Doctrine Fight
- Calif. Water District Appeals to State Supreme Court Over Contract
- Urban Canal Bill Introduced in the House (H.R. 6107/S. 2160)
- House Passes Energy and Water Appropriations Bill
- Senators seek to Revive National Dam Safety Program
- Lawmakers Debate Tying Farm Bill Extension to CR
- Biden Admin Nears Settlement on Pacific Northwest Dam Dispute
- Control Aspects of Local Groundwater Stewardship Area Concerns FB

American Public Power Association

- APPA, NRECA & EEI Working on DOE Distribution Transformer Initiative
- President Seeks \$1.6 Billion in Supplemental Spending for LIHEAP
- APPA Drafted Comments - Air Emissions Reporting Requirements Proposal
- Public Power Receive DOE Hydropower Production Incentives Funding
- Maine Voters Reject Proposal for Statewide Public Power Entity

Arizona

- 7 New Water Agreements will Save 162K AC-FT in Lake Mead through 2026

- ❑ Kelly, Sinema Announce Over \$33M to Fulfill Indian Water Rights Settlements for Tribes Across Arizona
- ❑ Governor’s Bipartisan Elections Task Force Issues Election Reform Recommendations
- ❑ House Passes Stanton, Schweikert Bill Expanding Affordable Pumped Storage Hydropower in Arizona
- ❑ Sinema & Kelly Deliver Over \$61.7 Million For Arizona Wildfire Prevention, Military Installations Projects, Affordable Housing Development, and More
- ❑ Franks Joins Toma, Masters and Kern Vying for 8th District Seat

Bureau of Reclamation/Dept. of Interior

- ❑ BOR Releases Near Term Colorado River Operations SEIS
- ❑ Only 2 Alternative Considered; “No Action” & Lower Basin States Proposal
- ❑ Post-2026 Scoping Report Out, Draft EIS Anticipated by 2024
- ❑ BOEM Releases Draft Wind Energy Area in the Gulf of Maine
- ❑ Administration Announces \$65M in Rural Water Projects in 2024
- ❑ BOEM Designates Four Wind Energy Areas in Gulf of Mexico
- ❑ Laura Daniel-Davis to Fill Deputy Secretary Position Vacated by Beaudreau
- ❑ Biden Admin Moves Toward More Wind Energy in Gulf of Mexico
- ❑ Biden Approves Nation’s Largest Offshore Wind Farm Off Virginia
- ❑ Biden Admin Announces 15 Renewable Energy Projects On Public Lands
- ❑ DOI Announces Availability of \$50M for Water Conservation & Efficiency

California

- ❑ After her Appointment, Senator Laphonza Butler Will Not Run in 2024
- ❑ B. F. Sisk Dam & Reservoir Gets ROD for Additional 130K AC-FT of Storage
- ❑ CA Has Nearly Doubled Its Battery Energy Storage Capacity In Two Years
- ❑ CA Changes Law to Designate Aquifers as Natural Infrastructure
- ❑ Water Stored Underground in \$211M/280K AC-FT High Desert Water Bank
- ❑ CCA Group’s Board OKs 575-MW Wind PPA
- ❑ California Says Electric Cars Now Make Up A Fifth Of Auto Sales
- ❑ Wind and Solar Curtailments Are Rising in California Because of Congestion

Colorado River Energy Distributors Association

- No Fall HFE for 2023 at Glen Canyon Dam
- LTEMP SEIS NOI Comments Submitted on 11/1/2023
- Reclamation Announces Rick Baxter as Manager for Provo Area Office
- Reclamation Lost 1 MAF of Runoff Due to Dry Soil Conditions

Department of Energy

- DOE Announce \$3.9B for Strengthening Grid Resilience & Reliability
- DOE Unveils up to \$1.3 Billion Commitment for Three Transmission Lines
- DOE Announces Round One GRIP Funding
- Announces New 'Earthshots' Initiative Plan to Lower Energy Bills
- DOE Launches Program Focused on Clean Energy for Affordable Housing
- DOE Seeks Feedback on Interconnection Roadmap
- DOE Plans to Make \$70 Million Available to Utilities for Cybersecurity
- DOE Issues Draft Plan For Speeding Up, Improving Grid Interconnections
- Senate Democrats Call To Do More To Bolster Truck Electrification
- NREL Issues Report On Costs Of Solar, Battery Storage Systems
- DOE Issues NOPR to Streamline NEPA Reviews, Adding Categorical Exclusion for Certain Storage Systems & Revising Categorical Exclusions for Upgrading and Rebuilding Transmission Lines & Solar Power Systems
- DOE Tries To Boost US Battery Industry With Another \$3.5B In Funding

Environmental Protection Agency

- State Air Regulators Seek Direction from EPA on GHG and PFAS Regulations
- EPA Exploring Universal Waste Rulemaking Effort for Solar Panels and Lithium Batteries
- Manchin Urges EPA to Reconsider Proposed Methane Rules
- EPA Finalizes Plans for Implementing Emissions Guidelines under CAA

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission/NERC/NRC

- FERC Directs NERC to Develop Reliability Standards for Inverter-Based Resources
- FERC Accepts ISO New England Proposal to Allow Energy Storage Facilities to Operate as Transmission-Only Assets
- Barrasso and Capito Ask FERC to Weigh in on Proposed EPA GHG Rule
- FERC Held 2023 Annual Reliability Technical Conference – Focusing on Extreme Weather Impacts and GHG Rules Concerns
- NERC Anticipates 83GW of Fossil & Nuclear Retirements through 2033 & 30 GW Have Announced but Have Not Entered the Deactivation Process
- FERC Issued Final Report for Winter Storm Elliot
- FERC/NERC Remain Concerned About Loss of Everett Marine Terminal
- FERC Accepts ISO NE Plan Facilitating Storage As Transmission-Only Assets
- FERC Official Pushing To Strengthen Power Grid Planning Rule
- Regulators Call For Gas Supply Protections After Winter Power Outages
- Dangerous Winter Blackouts Could Affect More Than Half Of U.S.

Financial Focus

- American Battery Factory Break Ground on \$1.2B Lithium Iron Phosphate Battery Cell Gigafactory & Headquarters in Tucson
- U.S. GDP Grows 4.9% in 3rd Quarter
- September Border Crossings Shatters All Previous Records – 270K Illegals
- GM & UAW Reach Tentative Deal to End a Six-Week Strike
- U.S. Ended FY with Budget Deficit of \$1.7T, 23.2% increase from Last Year
- Avg. Monthly Mortgage Now 52% Higher than the Average Rent
- Office of Economic Opportunity - AZ will add 478K Jobs Over Next 10 Years
- AZ Will Add Jobs at More than 4X the US Annual Rate
- TSMC, LG and Others Help AZ Rank #1 in Foreign Investments
- Biden Unveils 'Tech Hubs' In 32 States

Industry Update

- Report from the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine Says Net Zero is Within Reach by 2050
- New England States Coordinate in Selecting Offshore Wind Projects
- EIA Data Shows Two Years of Rising Gas-Fired Power Plant Additions
- First Nuclear Enrichment Facility in 70n Years Opens in Ohio
- America's Offshore Wind Ambitions Are Coming With Bigger Price Tags
- PA Court Permanently Blocks Effort To Make Power Plants Pay For Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- US Power Use To Slide In 2023 On Milder Weather Forecasts
- US Solar Generation To Surpass Hydropower In 2024 For First Time
- UAMPS, NuScale Power Agree to Terminate Carbon Free Power Project
- Battery Storage: Capacity Surpasses 14.6 GW In Q3, 3.5 GW Planned In Q4
- World's First (Nearly) Zero-Emission Gas Plant Delayed Until 2027

Markets

- ERCOT Updates Minimum Operating Reserves for Emergency Conditions
- PJM Presents Proposal for Transmission Upgrades to Stakeholders
- Regional Transmission Needs Greatest In ERCOT, MISO, SPP: DOE
- PJM Seeking To Expand Regional Transmission System To Meet Demand
- ISO New England Proposes 1-Year Delay To 2025 Forward Capacity Auction
- Voters Sign Off on Creation of Texas Entity That Will Fund Power Plants

Meetings

- October 24th, WAPA Parker-Davis Intertie Meeting
- October 25th, 3rd Consultation – Annual Operating Plan
- October 26th, Arizona Public Power Meeting
- October 30th, 2024 Budget Work Session
- November 1st-2nd CREDA Annual Meeting (Phoenix)
- November 7th, AZ Drought interagency Coordinating Council Meeting
- November 8th-10th, NWRA Annual Meeting (San Antonio)
- Meetings w/ Local DC offices (Sinema, Schweikert, Stanton, Lesko & Kelly)

- November 15th – Meeting w/ CAP
- November 17th – ABWC Meeting (MWD)

Oil & Natural Gas

- Biden Administration Eases Sanctions on Venezuela
- Manchin: Without IRA We Would Have Zero Lease Sales
- Chevron Acquiring Oil and Gas Company Hess for \$53B in Stock
- Exxon Mobil Acquiring Pioneer Natural Resources (Oil) for \$59.5B in stock
- IEA Predicts Global Demand for Oil, Gas & Coal will Peak in @ 7 Years
- US Oil Output from Top Shale Regions Set To Fall in November
- Analysts See US Gas Storage Surplus Widening As Mild Weather Persists
- Biden Alaska Oil Plan Seen As Major Threat To Future Drilling
- AGA Says Consumers Can Expect Lower Natural Gas Prices This Winter
- Sale of O&G Leases In Gulf Of Mexico Off Again Pending Hearings On Whale Protections
- EU Considers Extending Natural Gas Price Cap as Supply Concerns Persist
- U.S. Natural Gas Utilities Paving Long Road to Hydrogen Blending
- U.S. Natural Gas Spot Prices to Average \$3.40 This Winter and Output to Hold Near 105 Bcf/d, EIA Says

Transmission/WAPA

- Southline is a Proposed 175-mile, 748 MW Transmission Line from Hidalgo County, NM to Pima County, AZ – Awarded Part of DOE \$1.3B Commitment
- National Grid and Citizens Energy - Twin States Clean Energy Link project, a 1,200-MW bidirectional transmission line linking Quebec to New England

Washington DC

- Mike Johnson of Louisiana Elected Speaker of the House
- Continuing Resolution expires on Nov. 17, Possible Short Term (Jan or Apr)
- Speaker Johnson States First Priority is Avoiding a Government Shutdown

- Speaker Johnson Floats Piecemeal Funding Stopgap
- Johnson is a Member of the Western Caucus
- House has Passed 7 of the 12 Appropriations Bills, Senate Has Passed 3
- Biden Threatens to Veto Spending Bill with Climate Cuts
- 5 House Appropriation Bills Passed, 7 to Go, Might Lead to Another CR
- Seeks to Have Farm Bill Vote in December, But Schedule Seems Aggressive
- Possible 1 Year Farm Bill Extension Possible
- Sinema Joins Powerful Senate Appropriations Committee
- Senator Kelly will now serve on the Select Committee on Intelligence
- Senator Alex Padilla (D-CA) Joins Senate Energy & Natural Resources
- Kelly Leads 119 Colleagues in Bipartisan, Bicameral Letter Urging Inclusion of his Chips Permitting Reform in Defense Bill
- Congressman Gosar Calls on Mexico to Honor Water Treaty Commitments
- House E&C Subcommittee Passes Bill Delaying Distribution Transformer Energy Efficiency Improvements by 5 Years

Wildfire

- PGE Making Headway Moving 10K Miles of Power Lines Underground
- Chavez-DeRemer Intros Bill To Allow Removal Of Hazardous Trees Near Power Lines On Federal Land Without A Timber Sale
- Tester Secures \$26M To Strengthen Montana's Energy Grid Against Wildfire