

Monthly Board Report – 10/18/24



Agribusiness and Water Council/NWRA

- NWRA Names Greg Morrison as New EVP
- Dan Keppen, FFA, to Step Down, National Search Started
- States Call for Doubling Length of Water Pollution Permits
- Committee Approves ESA Bill After Heated Debate
- Republicans Press Leaders for Farm Bill Vote
- Net Farm Income Down 23% Since 2022 Underscores Need for Farm Bill
- US Lifts Farm Income Forecast as Egg and Livestock Prices Jump
- 140 House Member Sent Letter to GOP Leadership to Pass 2024 Farm Bill
- BLM Issues Proposed Grazing Amendment for Sonoran National Monument
- USDA Announce \$2.8B In Clean Energy Funding Across Midwest
- Farm Credit System (AgWest & Others) Provides \$398B in Ag Loans
- Sheldon Jones to serve as Deputy Director of Programs at AZ Dept of Ag
- Heather Flowers to serve as Deputy Director of Operations and Strategy
- Drought Shrivels Cotton, Delays Wheat Planting In US Plains

American Public Power Association

- Public Power Utilities Recipients of Hydropower Improvement Project
- APPA Details Priorities for Water Resources Development Act Conference
- EPB Network hosts National Laboratory's First Run on Commercial Quantum Network
- Idaho Falls Power Negotiating PPA with Modular Nuclear Reactor
- House Committee Approves APPA-Backed FEMA Bills
- Pueblo, Colo., Votes in Favor of Funding Municipal Utility Study
- APPA Provides Comments on Combustion Turbine Federalism Consultation
- Hurricane Milton Knocks Out Power to Over 3M Customers in FL
- Public Power Crews Deploy to FL for Hurricane Milton Restoration Efforts

Arizona

- Grijalva Not to Seek Reelection in 2026 (Likely to Step Down Sooner)
- AZ Trending Towards Increased Groundwater Regulation In Rural Arizona
- ADWR Director seeks \$1M for potential Colorado River Lawsuit
- ADWR Director Named as a Leader of the Year, 3rd Year in a Row
- ADWR Director Joins World Water Week Discussion on Tribal Water Rights
- ADWR Welcomes New Tribal Liaison, Donovan Carr
- SRP Taps Underwater Drone to Monitor Power and Water Assets
- SRP Customers Surpass EV Adoption Milestone of 50,000
- SRP Announces Completion of 161-MW Wind Project Near Flagstaff
- SRP 300MW/1200-MWh Solar/BESS in Pinal County Operational
- Kelly Introduces Tribal Leaders at Senate Hearing on Key Water Rights Bills
- Patrice Horstman appointed to Water Infrastructure Finance Authority
- NTUA Receives \$7.4M in Funding to Help Electrify Homes on Reservation
- Willcox Basin Will Seek Designation to Control Aquifer Pumping
- Gila River Indian Community Solar Over Canals Project Comes Online

Bureau of Reclamation/Dept. of Interior

- BOR Finalizes 5 Long Term Water Conservation Deals (IID, MWD, GRIC)
- Maryland Offshore Wind Project Receives Federal Approval
- MA, RI Announce Largest Offshore Wind Selection in NE History
- BLM Approves Western Transmission (Greenlink West), Solar Projects in NV
- BLM Proposes Opening 31M Acres Of Public Land To Solar Development
- BOR Appoints Beth Hughes-Brown Director - Office of Program and Budget
- BOR Michael Pulskamp Senior Advisor for Hydropower and Electric Reliability Compliance Officer
- Mark Cook Named Power Manager at Boulder City Office
- Lake Mead Elevation 1063 (August 31)
- \$43.5M Available for Water Storage Projects in the West
- BOEM Postpones Oregon Offshore Wind Energy Auction
- Wildfire Burn Scars Impacting Western Water By Shifting Way Snow Melts
- DOI & CA Break Ground on Salton Sea Rehabilitation Effort

California

- \$20B Delta Conveyance Project Working its Way Through Permitting
- California Grid Operator Issues Heat Bulletin with Continued Hot Weather
- California's Backlogged Grid Is Holding Up Its Electric Truck Dreams
- David Garcia Named General Manager of Riverside Public Utilities
- Desert Towns Protest Cutting Down Ancient Trees For Solar Energy Project
- IID Hits New Energy Record, Serves Highest Power Demand in History
- Governor Signs EV Bidirectional Charging Bill into Law
- CMUA Names Danielle Blacet-Hyden as New Executive Director
- CA Demand Side Grid Support Program Grows to 515 MW of Capacity

Colorado River Energy Distributors Association

- Total Upper Basin System Storage 49% (September 8)
- WY2025 Most Probable Forecast 9.09 MAF (September 3)
- August Most Probable Release Out of Powell for WY2025 = 7.48 MAF
- August Most Probable Release Out of Powell for WY2026 = 9.0 MAF
- Roughly 3 Months of By-Pass Costing \$13M in Replacement Power
- Possibility that By-Pass Flows Could Extend to November
- Upper Basin IRA Bucke B2E Application Deadline Extended to Nov. 22nd
- LTEMP Team Exploring Technical Analysis for Potential Spring HFE

Department of Energy

- DOE Releases Study With Prospect of Breaching Lower Snake River Dams
- DOE Closes \$1.5B Loan Guarantee Tied to Restart of MI Nuclear Plant
- DOE Issues Updated Report to Catalyze Nuclear Energy Development
 - US Could Double Nuclear Power w/ Existing Plants
- DOE Announces \$2.2 Billion Investment in Grid Projects
- DOE Funding \$100M for Pilot-Scale Energy Storage Demonstration Projects
- National Council Publishes Report Addressing Power Transformer Shortage
- DOE Issues NOI - Up to \$1.8B to Fund Direct Air Capture Technologies
- DOE Announces \$3+B to Support U.S. Battery Manufacturing Sector

- \$1.25M Investment in Offshore Wind Transmission for the Atlantic Coast
- Biden Awards \$62M To Help Speed Hydrogen Adoption
- DOE To Award Up To \$112.5M For Wave Energy
- DOE Offers Up to \$400M for Rural and Remote Communities
- DOE Launches Community Microgrid Assistance Partnership
- Three Mile Island Owner Seeks Taxpayer Backing for Microsoft AI Deal
- Oak Ridge Lab Working on Automated Drone Inspection System
- DOE Announce \$12M to Support Hydropower in 16 States
- \$612M Announced to Support Grid After Milton & Helene Hurricanes
- DOE Awards \$43M For Projects That Reduce Energy, GHG Emissions
- US Opens Applications For \$900 Million For Small Nuclear Reactors
- US Offers Battery Company \$671 Million For Georgia Plant

Environmental Protection Agency

- EPA Funding To Expand Residential Solar In Texas
- EPA Confirms Delay of the Third Phase of the Regional Haze Program
- Coalition of AGs Files Amicus Brief to Dismiss NPDES Permit Challenge
- First Loan from “Green Bank” Awarded to 18 Projects in AR (\$31.8M)
- Supreme Court Denies MATS Rule Stay Requests
- EPA Issues Final Rule Requiring Identifying and Replacing Lead Pipes in DWS

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission/NERC/NRC

- NERC Concerned About Maintaining Sufficient Winter Natural Gas Supplies
- Green Groups Urge FERC to Reject Southeast Energy Exchange Market
- FERC Has Determined Energy Storage as a Transmission Asset Classification
- NERC Launches Task Force to Examine Reliability Impact of Data Centers
- NRC Releases New Alternative Licensing Advanced Reactor Proposed Rule

Financial Focus

- Feds Cut Rates by 50 Basis Points
- Dockworker Strike Could Cause Shortages and Higher Prices

- Governor & ACA announced a \$7.9M Grant to Support Small Businesses
- Blue Polymers Broke Ground On New Recycled Plastics Facility in Buckeye
- Terraline, Electric Truck Company Establishing Engineering HQ in Phoenix
- FEMA Chief Says Disaster Fund Faces Financial Crisis, \$3B Deficit by Feb.
- Huge Wyoming Rare Earth Project Gets \$450 Million Loan From Feds
- Treasury Vows To Finalize Tax Cuts For Hydrogen
- US Imposes Duties On Solar Panels From Southeast Asia
- Treasury Department Proposed Tax Guidance to Makes Tribal Businesses Eligible for Direct Cash Payments for Low-Carbon Energy Projects
- IRS Issues IRA Direct Pay Filing Extension

Industry Update

- U.S. Power Demand Could Increase by an Average of 9% by 2028
- Three Mile Island Nuclear Unit 1 in Pennsylvania to Restart w/ 20 Year PPA
- Blackrock & Others Launch AI Partnership to Invest in U.S. Data Centers
- Company Selects Oak Ridge for Centrifuge Uranium Enrichment Facility
- Coalition Calls for Increased Coordination Between Electricity, Natural Gas
- Recent Fire Shows Effectiveness of BPA Fire-Resistant Wrap on Wood Poles
- Lithium Battery Oversupply, Low Prices thru 2028 Despite Storage Boom
- Global Heating Could Raise Potential For Offshore Wind Power
- US Energy Storage Installations Rise 62% In Q2 To 2.9 GW
- US Solar Manufacturing Capacity Has Quadrupled Thanks To Climate Law
- Cyberattacks On US Utilities Surged 70% This Year
- Power Sector Explores Hydrogen Cofiring At Natural Gas-Fired Plants
- Rising Demand Could Drive US Wholesale Prices 19% Higher By 2028
- Black & Veatch Report Finds 45% Uncertainty of Future Data Center Load
- Report Details Continued Growth of Hybrid Power Plants in the US
- New Hitachi Distribution Transformer Factory to Serve North America
- Grid-Scale Energy Storage Installations Surge, Setting New Q2 Record
- Google Signs 12-Yr Power Purchase Agreement for 435-MWdc Solar Project
- US Looks To Resurrect More Nuclear Reactors, White House Adviser Says
- Utah's First Floating Solar Project is Completed
- Google Signs Agreement to Deploy Advanced Nuclear (5 GW) by 2035

- Energy Northwest, Amazon Plan to Develop Advanced Nuclear Technology
- GM Offers New Energy Storage Options for EV Owners Across US
- US Energy Storage Deployments Jump 86% YOY To 10.5 GWh In Q2

Markets

- LCRA Collaborates with Coop on VPP Qualifying for ERCOT Market
- ERCOT Real-Time Co-Optimization Target Go-Live Date - December 2025
- PJM Seeks OK From FERC To End Energy Efficiency Capacity Payments
- Western Resource Adequacy Program Advances w/ Tariff Changes
- BPA Integrates Tool to Improve Real-Time Transmission System Monitoring
- BPA Identifies 13 New Transmission, Substation Projects
- MISO Details \$21.8B Transmission Project Portfolio for 24 Projects
- TX PUC Approves Transmission Reliability Plan for Permian Basin Region
- ERCOT, SPP And 3 US Regions Need 'Significant Investment' In New Generating Capacity
- FERC Approves California ISO Interconnection Reforms
- FERC Issues Deficiency Letter to SPP on Proposed Western Expansion
- PJM Introduces Interim Interconnection Process for Reliability
- PJM Says it Plans to Support Delay of Base Residual Auction for Six Months
- Utilities Reach JPA to Propose Transmission Projects Across PJM Footprint
- CAISO Approves Major Transmission Intertie Project (ID Wind to SW)
- Largest Portfolio of Transmission Investments in SPP History Supported
- New Link Between Texas Grid And Neighboring States Gets Boost from Feds

Meetings

- September 16th-20th – DC Lobbying Trip
- September 24th – Embedded Entity Meeting
- September 26th – Westside Managers Meeting
- October 2nd – Technical Review Committee Meeting (Hoover)
- October 3rd – AMPUA Meeting
- October 7th-8th - APPA Board Meeting
- October 9th – Meeting w/ RWCD

- October 9th – Tour of Ocotillo
- October 9th – WAPA DSW Monthly Call
- October 10th – AZ Chamber Regulatory Affairs Meeting
- October 10th – Post-2026 Webinar
- October 14th-16th - Vacation

Oil & Natural Gas

- Ukraine Pipeline Contract w/ Russia Ends in 2024
- Drought & Conflict Affecting Transportation in Suez & Panama Canals
- US LNG Exports Expected to Increase 4% YOY in 2023-2027
- @15 BCM of LNG Contracts Expiring Globally by 2027
- NERC Concerned About Sufficient Natural Gas Supplies this Winter
- Administration Approves Natural Gas Exports After Pause Is Halted
- North American LNG Export Capacity Expected To Double By 2028
- Barrasso Blasts Administration Over Q3 Oil and Natural Gas Lease Sale
- Oil & Gas DOI Leased Acres 211K, Averaged Nearly 5M Acres from 2009-19
- TVA Plans 9th Gas Plant Since 2020
- October Gas Futures Surge as Another Storm Threatens Offshore Rigs
- North Dakota Court Pauses Administration's Natural Gas Flaring Rule
- Asian, European Buyers Secure Additional LNG Supplies in Series of Deals
- Electricity, LNG Sectors Driving Mexico Natural Gas Pipeline Buildout
- Natural Gas Forward Prices Climb Amid a Tightening Supply
- U.S. Natural Gas Rigs Climb Amid Rising Prices to 102
- Natural Gas Producers Prepare For A Colder Winter, Warn Of Higher Prices
- Natural Gas-Fired Generation Set New Daily Records in Summer 2024
- Data Centers Tap Pipelines For Onsite Natural Gas Generation
- Permits Paused For Planned Pipeline To Fuel A New TVA Natural Gas Plant
- Lower O&G Prices, Higher Electricity Demand Expected Over Next Five Year
- Japan, South Korea Expand Demand for Natural Gas Supply Decarbonization
- Mexico, Argentina Lead Latin American LNG Ambitions as World Demands More Natural Gas
- Natural Gas Drilling Unprofitable at Current Prices, KC Fed Survey Finds
- Mexico Energy Expert Hopeful New Administration Develops Gas Reserves

Transmission/WAPA

- WAPA Updates Pseudo-Tie Allocator Regarding SPP/WALC Slit at Glen
- WAPA Regional Managers Now to Report to COO Tina Ko
- WAPA Hires Amanda Velasquez as Tribal Affairs Liaison
- WAPA Upgrading Infrastructure Position to SES Role, Reporting to COO
- Western Transmission Expansion Coalition Study Plan Gets Unanimous Vote
- WAPA-DSW 2025 Budget \$13.6M, 2026 Budget \$18.6M
- WAPA Releases New Customer Data Site
- Olmsted, Provo, & SLCA-IP New Contracts Effective Date 10/1/2024
- Replacing Power Lines Could Ease Clean Energy Backlog
- BPA Transmission to Rebuild 75-Year-Old Transmission Line
- DOE Unveils \$1.5B Investment in Four Transmission Projects (Which Includes the Southline Project), Releases Final Grid Planning Study
 - 3-GW Pattern Energy Project linking ERCOT, Southeast for Capacity
- FirstEnergy, AEP & Dominion Working to Build Transmission in Three States

Washington DC

- Congress Reaches Deal to Avoid Government Shutdown Until December 20
- House NR Chair Westerman Releases Draft NEPA Permitting Reform Bill
- Trump Vow's to Pull Back Climate Law's Unspent Dollars
- House Approves H.R. 8790 That Addresses Utility Line ROW, Veg Mgmt.
- Transmission-Related Bills Introduced - GRID Power Act & H.R. 9527
- Harris Calls for Critical Minerals Stockpile, Processing Boost
- Multiple Must Pass Legislation Still Pending (NDAA, WRDA, etc.)
- Supreme Court Confronts NEPA, Water Permits
- Supreme Court Denies Case Seeking to Rein in FERC
- Supreme Court Rejects Natural Gas, Oil Industry Challenges to Biden Administration's Methane Rulemaking
- Hageman Introduces Bill Mandating MOU on Glen Canyon Dam ROD