

Monthly Board Report – 2/13/24



Agribusiness and Water Council/NWRA

- NWRA Prepares Water & Tax Parity Bill
- Trump Resurrects 'God Squad' to Bend the ESA
- Trump Eyes Clean Water Act to Fast-track Gas Pipelines
- Governor Hobbs Unveils Rural Groundwater Bill
- USDA ordered to scrub climate change from websites
- USDA Administrator Considering Payments to Farmers to Cover Trade Losses
- WIFA Accepting Applications for New Round of Water Conservation Grant
- Appropriators Talk Oversight, Mexico Water Treaty Violations
- Governor Hobbs Unveils Rural Groundwater Bill
- US Cattle Inventory Down 1% (USDA Report)
- Brian Nesvik Nominated as the next Director of the USFWS
- NWRA Supports Dr Andrea Travnicek Asst Secretary for Water and Science
- FFA Leads Colo. River Coalition Letter on Bay-Delta Water Plan
- Republicans Eye Bigger Farm Bailout Amid Trump Trade Wars

American Public Power Association

- DEED Spring Grant Applications Due by Feb 15th
- APPA and NRECA Send Letter in Support of Glen Canyon Dam Legislation

Arizona

- Developers Sue Hobbs Over Groundwater Conservation Efforts
- Governor Allocates \$14.6M to WIFA for Conservation (in Budget)
- Scientists Worried After Google Earth Captured 2-Mile Crack in Desert
- SRP, Other Arizona Utilities to Explore Adding Nuclear Generation
- ACC Vice Chair Myers Opens Natural Gas Infrastructure and Storage Docket

Bureau of Reclamation/Dept. of Interior

- Post-2026 Process Currently in the NEPA Alternatives Development Phase
- Senate Confirms Burgum
- DOI Secretary Oversees 60K Employees & 500M Acres of Public Land
- Interior Secretary Doug Burgum Issues First Set of Secretarial Orders
- Colorado River Basin Senators Push for Deal
- DOI Finalizes 7 NEPA Categorical Exclusions
- Kelly/Gallego Urge Reversal of Funding Freeze Threatening Colorado River
- Kathleen Sgamma (Oil & Gas Advocate) Nominated to Lead BLM

California

- Trump Renews Fight over California Water, Endangered Fish
- IID Approves Rate to Strengthen Reliability and Infrastructure Investments
- California Forecasts Boost In Water Allocations, Despite Dry January
- CA Cities Launch Nation's First Public Hydrogen Utility
- CA's Largest Wildfires Contained After Weeks Of Devastation
- PG&E Moves to End Power Purchases from Large Ivanpah Solar Project

CREDA/Upper Basin

- WY2025 YTD Precipitation is 87% of Average Above Lake Powell
- Holds Markup of Colorado River and Glen Canyon Dam MOU Legislation
- -12 Mile Slough FONSI Signed, Work to Begin February 24th
- Eastern CO has Bought & Dried 17K of 25K Acres for Compact w/ NE & KS
- Max Prob. Unregulated Inflow to Powell Reduced 2.5 MAF from Jan to Feb
- Spring Potential HFE is now 48 Hour Release
- New Administration Could Impact HFE & Bypass Decisions
- Thermal Curtain Design Grant Request Submitted

Department of Energy

- NREL Eyes Reducing Data Center Peak Cooling Demand, Energy Costs With Underground Thermal Energy Storage

- DOE Offers \$30M For Superhot Rock Geothermal Project
- NREL Project Targets Data Center Cooling Technologies To Support Grid
- Third DOGE Official Crops Up At DOE

Environmental Protection Agency

- Senate Confirm Lee Zeldin as EPA Administrator
- EPA Cuts Off IRA Solar Money Already Under Contract
- President Trump's 10-for-1 Deregulation Initiative
- EPA Spending Freeze Continues Despite Court Orders
- EPA Lifts One Spending Freeze but Announces Another

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission/NERC/NRC

- Consumers, Reliability And States Are FERC's Top Priorities, Chairman Christie Says
- FERC Officially Ends Effort to Revamp Greenhouse Gas Policy
- Talen Energy Sues over FERC's Rejection of Nuclear-Powered Data Center
- Lack Of Northeast Gas Pipeline Capacity Poses 'Severe Threats To Reliability' In Cold Weather
- FERC, NERC and Regional Entities to Review Bulk Power System Performance During Recent Cold Snap

Financial Focus

- NestleUSA Building \$675M Beverage Plant in Glendale (630K Sq. Ft.)
- Meta Data Center Now Operational in Mesa, a \$1B Investment
- AZ in Top 10 States to Open a Business, According to WalletHub
- DOT Chief Calls for Lowering Corporate Average Fuel Economy Standards
- Trump Initiates Tariffs on Canada, China & Mexico
- Canada's Tariff List Targets Republican States, Trump allies
- Bill to Modernize Chase Field, HB 2704, Introduced
- PHX Open Contributes \$407M and Supports Nearly 8,950 Jobs Every Year
- Tariffs Imposed on China, Delayed for Canada & Mexico, Threatened for EU

- Administration Proposes 25% Tariffs on Steel & Aluminum

Industry Update

- TVA & GE Hitachi Plan Initial Construction for Potential Clinch River SMR
- TerraPower (Nuclear) Enters MOU with U.S. Data Center Developer
- Blackstone Buys 774-MW Gas Plant in Va., Cites Proximity to Data Centers
- NextEra Takes First Step to Potentially Restart Iowa Nuclear Plant
- DeepSeek's Open-Source Platform Spurs Questions About Power Demand
- Trump Plans to Use Emergency Powers to Fast-Track Generation (AI)
- Wholesale Power Prices to Rise @ 7% in Most Regions in 2025: EIA
- Chevron Oil Plots Massive Gas Plant Build-Out (4 GW) for Data Centers
- Electricity Deliveries from Canada Totaled \$3.2 billion in 2023
- West Coast Floating Offshore Wind Could Deliver 33 GW By 2050
- PA Gov Rolls Out Fast-Track And Subsidize Power Plants, H2 Projects Plan.
- Texas A&M Offers Land for Development of Small Modular Reactors
- Tesla Storage Deployments More Than Double To 31.4 GWh In 2024
- AI to Drive 165% Increase in Data Center Power Demand by 2030

Markets

- State Utility Regulators, 4 Gops Urge FERC To Lower PJM Capacity Price Cap
- PJM Agrees To Lower Price Cap For Upcoming Capacity Auctions
- PJM Reaches Winter Demand Record Amid Critically Cold Weather
- FERC Approves PJM's Plan to Accelerate Power Plant Connections
- FERC Approves MISO Interconnection Queue Cap Proposal
- TVA Enters Agreement Tied to Fusion Power Plant Project
- ISO-NE's Expanded Day-Ahead Market Goes Live This Month

Meetings

- January 24th – ABWC Legislative Call
- January 27th – Lunch w/ Freeport
- January 28th – Hoover Replacement Call

- January 28th – House NREW Committee
- January 29th – CRSP Monthly Meeting
- January 30th – Call w/ Congressman Biggs Office
- January 30th – Hoover Drought Ad-Hoc Committee
- February 4th – Westmarc Policy Committee
- February 4th – Hoover Visitor Services Meeting
- February 6th – CREDA Legislative Call
- February 7th – ABWC Legislative Call
- February 7th – IEDA E.C. Meeting
- February 7th – NWRA Federal Affairs Call
- February 7th – AMPUA Legislative Meeting
- February 10th – Water & Power Committee Meetings
- February 11th – IEDA Legislative Meeting
- February 11th – RID Board Meeting
- February 12th – Meeting w/ Aha Macav
- February 12-13th – CREDA Meeting (St. George, UT)

Oil & Natural Gas

- Henry Hub Spot Prices to Rise in 2025 and Reach \$4.20 in 2026
- Trinity Starts Up First New Texas Natural Gas Storage Facility in Years
- Trump E.O. to Jumpstart Delfin LNG Permitting, Offshore Export Project
- Germany Expanding LNG Import Capacity
- Modular LNG Project/Gulf of Mexico Could Develop Region's Gas Networks
- Shell Still Eyes Mid-Year Start for LNG Canada, but Forecasts Second 'Slow' Year for Natural Gas
- In Contrast to Soaring U.S. Natural Gas Amid Winter's Worst, Canadian Prices Flounder
- US Natural Gas Forward Curve Signals Stronger 2025 Than Markets Expected Year Ago
- MX Imports of U.S. Natural Gas Jumping as New Leaders Chart Their Course
- Western Caucus Works to Block Natural Gas Tax
- Trump's Tariffs Send European Natural Gas Prices Higher
- Mexico Natural Gas Production Continues Slide as Trade Tensions Linger

- NFE Plans Construction of Second Mexico LNG Export Facility This Year
- East Coast Manufacturers Left in Cold Amid Scarce Gas Pipeline Capacity
- Mexico Reliance on U.S. Natural Gas Seen Intractable Amid Tariff Threats
- MX Energy Chiefs Call for 50% Increase in Natural Gas Production by 2030

Transmission/WAPA

- Transmission Is The Key To American Energy Dominance

Washington DC

- Whipsaw Executive Orders on Funding has Nation in a Quandary
- House Approves Fix Our Forests Act w/ Powerline ROW Cat Exclusion
- Newhouse Introduces Bill to Protect Lower Snake River Dams
- SCOTUS Overturning Chevron Could Hinder Administrations Plans
- Gallego's Energy Committee Plans are Heavy on Nuclear
- Trump's Energy Policy Seems to Be "All of the Above, Except Wind"
- Bill to Incentivize Manufacturing of Distribution Transformers Introduced
- Guaranteeing Reliability through the Interconnection of Dispatchable (GRID) Power Act Introduced
- Senators Demand Answers on Wildfire Mitigation Projects, Firefighting Hiring Freeze
- Bill Prioritizing Acceptance of Spent Nuclear Fuel from Civilian Nuclear Power Reactors Introduced (H.R. 1012)
- House Passes *Protecting American Energy Production Act*, Protects Fracking
- Dems Look to Force Vote on Trump 'Energy Emergency'
- Republicans Nearing List of **Rules to Kill** (10 to 15 CRAs)
- Shutdown Anxiety Rises on Capitol Hill Amid Trump Chaos
- Trump Calls Hydropower "One of His All-Time Favorites"
- "Northwest Energy Security Act" to Protect 4 Lower Snake River Dams
- Trump Could Remake USAID To Promote Fossil Fuels
- Trump Directed To Release All Funds After Defying Court Order