

## Monthly Board Report – 5/16/25



### Agribusiness and Water Council/NWRA

- Sine Kerr Appointed Farm Service Agency (& RD) State Director
- DOGE Must Sign Off on all Ag Department Farm Loans Over \$500K
- USDA Accepting Emergency Commodity Assistance Program Requests, Farmers have until August 15, 2025 to Apply (Acreage/Commodity Based)
- Exports Account 20+% of Farm Income
- In 2023, Only 23% of Farm Household Income Came from Farming Itself
- Washington State Working on Drought Insurance Program
- Trump Could Shrink ESA's Reach by Redefining One Word "Harm"
- State Officials Push Back on Forest Service Restructuring
- Oregon Bill Would Expand Water Use Exemptions for Small Farmers
- Draft EO for Wildfire Firefighting Task Force (w/ Aerial Response)
- USDA, USFS Issue Directives to Implement Timber Reforms
  - This Includes Reconstructing Existing Utility Lines
- House Passes Resolution Disapproving Listing of Longfin (Delta) Smelt
- USDA \$340M In Disaster Relief For Farmers, Ranchers, Rural Communities
- USDA Aims to Finish Review of Frozen Funds this Month
- 'Staggering' Cuts Leave Forest Service Seeking Outside Help
- Rollings Says USDA Hiring After 15,000 Employees Leave Through DOGE
- House GOP Pushes Farm Bill Priorities in Reconciliation
- USDA Defends Budget Cuts, Says Won't Close Offices That Serve Farmers
- Feds Appears Ready To Roll Back Salmon Protections, Shelve Deal w/ Tribes
- U.S.-Mexico Water Treaty Under Scrutiny As Drought Persists In South TX

### American Public Power Association

- APPA/NRECA Support Help Hoover Dam Act Again This Year
- APPA CEO Visits Light Up Navajo Project
- APPA & NRECA Send Letter In Support of LIHEAP

- President's Skinny Budget Suggests Eliminating the Program
- 4 Senate Republicans Support Review, Not Repeal of IRA Energy Credits
- APPA Weighs in on Proposed Rule to Regulate NOX Emissions from CTs
- House Financial Services Chairman Writes in Support of Municipal Bonds to Ways & Means Committee
- APPA Comments on WOTUS Definition Recommendations
- 2025 Sees Flurry of State Legislative Actions Tied to Nuclear Power
- NPCC Releases 20-Year Forecast for Pacific Northwest Electricity Demand
- APPA Signs Letter in Support of Nuclear Tax Credits With Elective Pay
- Clay Bryan Joins APPA GR Team
- NPPD President and CEO Tom Kent Begins Service as EPRI Board Chair
- APPA Releases Elective Pay Tax Credit "Blueprint" as a Guide for Projects
- APPA Reports 468.6 GW of New Capacity is Under Development in U.S.

## Arizona

- Governor Rejects Fast-Track For Small Nuclear Reactors At AZ Data Centers
- Sen. Kelly Introduce SHIPS for America Act to Boost American Shipbuilding
- 3 Person Race Shaping Up to Replace Raul Grijalva in CD-7; Adelita Grijalva, Daniel Hernandez (Former AZ Legislator) & Deja Foxx (25 Yr Old Influencer)
- (ASU) AI May Make Water Munis Service Providers (Not Commodity)
- Veto Happy Governor Continues, YTD Bills Signed 152, 88 Vetoed
- News Article Highlights Senator Gallego May Run for President in 2028
- AG Mayes (& 14 Other States) Files Suit Against Fake "Energy Emergency"
- SRP Adds New Dredge at Dam to Assist with Water Resilience

## Bureau of Reclamation/Dept. of Interior

- DOI Consolidate Functions Across the Country
- DOI Solicits Employees' Resumes in Preparation for Widespread Layoffs
- Reorganization at DOI May Include Relocating Main Office to the West
- Katharine MacGregor Approved as Deputy Interior Secretary (54-40)
- Kiel Weaver Part of Trump's DOI Transition Team
- DOI Directs Halt to Construction Activities on N.Y. Offshore Wind Project

- DOI May Advance Handful of Solar Projects on Fed Lands Currently Frozen
- DOI Cuts \$16.8B-\$11.7B (30.5% Decrease) Targeting the BOR, NPS & BIA
- Dr. Andrea Travnicek's Approved Assistant Secretary for Water & Science
- DOI Moves To Rescind BLM Rule Promoting Renewable Energy

## California

- Near-Average Snowpack Strengthens Water Supply Resiliency for LA
- IID Launches New Grants for Energy Modernization in Schools Program
- CA Community Choice Aggregator Unveils Virtual Power Plant Initiative
- House Voting Next week to Undo California EPA Waivers
- SCE Releases Preliminary Plan to Rebuild Areas Affected by Wildfires
- No. CA Farmers Plead for Help in Fight Against PG&E (Scott Dam Removal)
- Organic Flow Battery Quino Receives \$10M in Funding

## CREDA/Upper Basin

- No probability of Lake Powell dropping below 3,525' in WY 2025
- 10% probability Lake Powell drops below 3,525' in WY 2026
- 13-17% probability Lake Powell drop below 3,525' in WY 2027-2029
- 0% probability Lake Powell drops below 3,490' (Minimum Power Pool)
- House Passes Maloy Legislation to Overturn OHV Glen Canyon Restrictions

## Department of Energy

- DOE Secretary Wright Calls Clean Energy Tax Credits A 'Big Mistake'
- Senate Approves James Danly to be Deputy Energy Secretary (52-44)
- DOE Identifies 16 Federal Sites for DC and AI Infrastructure Development
- DOE Approves Third Loan Disbursement to Reopen Palisades Nuclear Plant
- DOE Unveils Sweeping (47 Actions) Deregulatory Plan
- Sen. Peters, Cassidy Introduce Bill To Reauthorize DOE Grant Program
- More Than 100 Fired From National Renewable Energy Lab

## **Environmental Protection Agency**

- EPA Submitted Draft Repeal of Power Plant Rule
- EPA Seeking to Cancel 800 Grants Awarded During Biden Administration
- EPA Issues 47 Facilities Granted CAA Section 112 Presidential Exemptions
  - This Accounts for @ 1/3 Existing Coal Capacity
- EPA Issues Final Permits for Geologic Sequestration of CO2 in Texas
- Hundreds of EPA Employees Face Layoffs or Transfers
- 1,800 EPA Employees Have Already Taken the Buy-out
- White House Plans High-Tech NEPA Reviews

## **Federal Energy Regulatory Commission/NERC/NRC**

- FERC Approves Pipeline Project to Supply Natural Gas to TVA Plant
- TVA Files NOI at NRC to Submit SMR Construction Permit Application
- FERC Commissioner Willie Phillips Resigns
- FERC Accepts Proposals Filed by N.Y., NE Grid Operators Tied to Imports
- NERC Interregional Transfer Capability Study Canadian Analysis Finds Grid Increasingly Vulnerable
- NERC Files Extreme Cold Weather Preparedness and Operations Proposed Reliability Standard
- NJ Governor Asks FERC to Investigate PJM 2024 Base Residual Auction
- FERC Will Lose 9% Of Workforce
- PJM, Utilities Urge FERC To Dismiss Call For Colocation Settlement Talks
- FERC Approves PJM Capacity Auction Price Cap, Floor
- FERC Accepts Price Cap Settlement Between PA, PJM Interconnection

## **Financial Focus**

- US Agrees to Framework for Trade Deal with UK
- 2025 Q1 GDP Down 0.3%
- 177K Jobs Added in April
- Unemployment Remained Flat at 4.2%
- Federal Government Jobs Declined 9K Positions in April
- China Considering Trade Negotiations

- US Approves Rare Earth Metals Agreement w/ Ukraine, Includes O&G
- US Considering Economic Constraints on Russia Considering Ukraine Deal
- \$20 Annual Car Registration Fee Walked Back
- Fab 52 Site in Chandler Produced its First Wafer
- TSMC Broke Ground on 3rd Semiconductor Fab in North Phoenix
- Cyclic Materials Investing \$20+M in Rare Earth Recycling Facility in Mesa
- 480 Active Manufacturing Projects in the Pipeline in AZ, Thanks to TSMC
- Lucid Plans to Acquire Nikola's Facilities in Coolidge, Hire 300+ Employees
- PHX-Top 3 Largest Data Center Pipelines, Nearly 5M-Sq. ft. in Development
- ASU wins \$1.2B Funding for Semiconductor Research
- Data Center Company Buys 173 acres for \$296M in Metro Phoenix
- Arizona Tech Giants Intel and TSMC (Taiwan) Explore Joint Venture
- Since 2020, 35 Semiconductor Companies Built in AZ (25% of National Avg)
- Currently There Are Over 121 Data Centers in the Phoenix Area
- 15 Gal of Regular Water Purified to Make 10 gal Ultrapure for Microchips
- Semiconductor Water Valued at \$0.50/Gal / Data Centers \$0.48/Gal
- Amazon Launches First Kuiper Internet Satellites, Taking On Starlink
- Waymo & Magna Plan to Double Robotaxi Production at Mesa Facility

## Industry Update

- US Power Use To Reach Record Highs In 2025 And 2026
- EIA Sees Energy Consumption Decreasing Next Several Years (AEO2025)
- Data Centers Worldwide Demand Set to More than Double by 2030: IEA
- Spain & Portugal Grids Go Dark, DOE Secretary Wright Blames Wind & Solar
- GE Vernova's Reported Q1 Nat Gas CT Orders of \$6.2B, Up 28% From 2024
- CPS Energy Expands Existing PPA, Adds 159.2 MW of Wind Energy
- Loveland, CO Utility Launches Remote Disconnect, Reconnect Capabilities
- Hitachi Energy to Increase Transformer Production at Virginia Facilities
- MGM Transformers, VanTran Announce Opening of Texas Transformer Manufacturing Facility
- UT Pumped Storage Projects in Pipeline Equal to State's Total Capacity
- Nationwide, Natural Gas Turbine Orders are Delayed Until 2029
- New Nuclear Could Meet 10% of Data Center Demand Increase by 2035

- Dozens of Employees leaving US Energy Information Administration
- Feds Put Review Of Columbia River Hydropower System On Ice
- Coal Production Continues Steady Decline As Generation Capacity Falls
- Five-Minute EV Charging Is Here, But Not For U.S.-Made Cars
- Trump Signs Order Seeking To Jump-Start Mining Of The Ocean Floor
- TX Weighs Opening \$5B Fund To Geothermal Amid Attacks On Renewables
- TX House Bill Would Create State Nuclear Office, Funding Program
- US Energy Storage Industry To Invest \$11B In Grid Batteries
- Holtec Signs SMR Agreement w/ State of Utah
- Google Plans to Train 100K Electrical Workers and 30K New Apprentices
- Chelan PUD Considers Potential Partnership With Fusion Company
- Governors of UT, ID, and WY Sign Energy Collaboration Agreement
- Ontario Clears Path to Start Construction on SMR Unit (Darlington Site)
- Power Companies Clash Over Proposed Grid 'Express Lane'
- AGs From 17 States File Complaint To End Blockade Against Wind Projects
- TX Senate Passes Bill Requiring Solar Plants To Provide Power At Night
- Virginia Utility-Scale VPP Pilot Mandate Is First Amid National Push
- US Will Fast-Track Utah Uranium Mine Permit
- Federal Energy Experts Recommended to Pursue State PUC Jobs

## Markets

- SPP Target Go Live Date Remains April 1, 2026
- SPP Proposes One-Time Framework To Speed Generation Interconnection
- Southwest Power Pool's board approves resource adequacy study
- PJM, Google to Apply AI to Enhance Regional Planning, Gen Interconnection
- PJM Warns Extreme Heat Risks Summer Power Shortages
- TVA Reapplies for \$800M Grant from DOE Small Modular Reactor Program
- SPP Markets+ Funding Agreement/Mechanism Receive FERC Approval
- Board Approves Expedited Generation Interconnection Study Process
- IMPA Partners with Company, State of Utah on Advanced Nuclear Project
- Capital Power Corporation Buys 2 Power Plants in PJM for \$2.2B
- TVA seeks Proposals for Firm Capacity Between 50 MW to 1,000 MW
- ISO-NE Grid Operator Plans for Estimated \$421M in Grid Investments

- TX PUC Approves Plan for First Extra HVTL in ERCOT Region
- NE States Issue Action Plan Tied to Interregional Transmission
- CAISO Draft Transmission Plan Now Available Publicly
- Clean Energy Groups Urge FERC To Reject MISO Interconnection Plan For Replacing Retiring Power Plants (Reconnect at Different Location)
- MISO Summer Capacity Prices Jump (\$666.50/MW-Day) As Supplies Shrink
- MISO Projects Adequate Resources to Meet Summer Power Demand
- ISO-NE Sees 11% Increase in Energy Consumption Over Next Decade
- PJM Chooses 51 Gen Resource Projects for Near-Term Demand Growth
- BPA Issues Day-Ahead Market Policy to Pursue SPP's Markets+
- TVA Invests \$2.3M to Make 98 Schools Safer, More Energy Efficient

## Meetings

- Apr 16<sup>th</sup> – Hoover Visitor Services Monthly Meeting
- Apr 16<sup>th</sup> – Project CENTRL Selection Committee
- Apr 16<sup>th</sup> – Engaged Delegation @ Randolph Sheppard Modifications
- Apr 17<sup>th</sup> – APPA GRWG Call
- Apr 17<sup>th</sup> – Allocator Call
- Apr 18<sup>th</sup> – ABWC Tempe
- Apr 22<sup>nd</sup> – EVP Economic Vitality Meeting
- Apr 22<sup>nd</sup> – ED8 Board Meeting
- Apr 23<sup>rd</sup> – Meeting w/ Scott Lund (WAPA-DSW)
- Apr 24<sup>th</sup> – Lunch w/ B3 Strategies
- Apr 24<sup>th</sup> – Shared Help Hoover Dam Act w/ Delegation
- Apr 27<sup>th</sup>- May 1<sup>st</sup> in DC, NRECA/Hill Visits/Project CENTRL
- May 2<sup>nd</sup> – PMA Task Force
- May 5<sup>th</sup> – NPCC Meeting
- May 8<sup>th</sup> – CREDA Legislative Call
- May 9<sup>th</sup> – Executive Committee Call
- May 9<sup>th</sup> – NWRA Federal Affairs Call
- May 12<sup>th</sup> – Water Committee
- May 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup> – AEPCO Annual Meeting

- May 15<sup>th</sup> – WAPA Transmission Meeting
- May 15<sup>th</sup> – APPA GRWG
- May 22<sup>nd</sup> – WAPA-DSW BCP & PDP

## **Oil & Natural Gas**

- Currently 8 LNG Export Terminals Exist in the Lower 48 States
- US Nat Gas Output & Demand to Peak in 2032 (119 BCF/Demand 92.4 BCF)
- US Natural Gas Production Remained Flat In 2024
- Natural Gas Futures Trade Sideways as Shoulder Season Saps Demand
- With Summer Coming, How Will MX Compete With CA for Permian Supply?
- FERC Chair Said Ready to Fast-Track Natural Gas Permitting
- Stout Pacific Gas Storage Could Safeguard CA From Summer Price Volatility
- Bearish Weather, Economic Unease Weigh on June Natural Gas Futures
- EU Focuses on Energy Security, LNG Imports as Russian Gas Exit Reignites
- U.S. Gas Summer Outlook Flat as LNG, Industrials Support Demand Growth
- Egyptian LNG Exports to EU Could Take Years, Leaving Global Markets Tight
- HNR Reconciliation Bill Reinstates Quarterly Oil & Gas Lease Sales (\$12B)
  - Mandated at Least 30 Lease Sales in Gulf of America in Next 15 Years
  - Geothermal Leases, Alaska NPR & ANWR Leases
- Data Center Growth Has Sparked A Natural Gas ‘Gold
- U.S. Exports Of Natural Gas Liquids Touch Record High In April
- Mexico's U.S. Nat Gas Imports Above 7 Bcf/d as Domestic Output Sputters
- Outlooks for Rising LNG, Utility Demand Ignite Natural Gas Futures Rally
- U.S., China Trade Talks Boost Global Natural Gas Prices
- Northeast Gas Pipeline Projects See Renewed Life as Political Winds Shift

## **Transmission/WAPA**

- WAPA Identified 200 Projects, Shared Services Impacting Scheduling w/ RIF
- WAPA RFP Seeks Up to 55 MW of Firm Capacity, Energy (CRSP Region)
- Regional Power System Planning Could Save Western States \$3.25B (UCSD)
- Nine Eastern States Team Up To Build A Bigger Grid

## Washington DC

- FEMA Potential Target for Shuttering
- Cameron Hamilton, FEMA Dir., Fired After Going Against Administration
- House T&I Release Bill to Revise FEMA, Not Eliminate It
- AmeriCorps Terminated \$400M in Grants, 40+% of Grant Funding (DOGE)
- Admin Considering Shrinking 6 Nat. Monuments for Energy Development
- President Trump Signs EO Focused on Reliability, Coal Generation
- Trump Admin Fights to Keep FEMA, EPA Grant Freezes in Place
- Republicans on the Doorstep of a Massive Regulatory Overhaul
- New Deregulatory EO's Include Sunset Provisions, Repeal of Unlawful Regs
- Dick Durbin's Exit Will Prompt Dem Scramble for No. 2 Senate Slot
- White House Sends Formal Request to Nix \$9.3B for PBS, NPR
- July 4 is GOP's New Target for Megabill (Due to Debt Ceiling Concerns)
- Speaker's Spending Cuts Revised Downward to \$1.5T & \$4T in Tax Cuts
- Higher Taxes on Wealthy Back on Table to Help Make Tax Cuts Permanent
- State And Local Tax Deduction Could Go from \$10K to \$30K
- Wildfire Bill Unveiled In Congress By Bipartisan Group Of Senators
- Republican Bill Would Cement Trump's National Energy Dominance Council
- HNR-WWF Hydropower Hearing Interested in CA Infrastructure Funding
- House Subcommittee Holds Hearing on Grid Reliability Bills
- White House Proposes Slashing CISA's Budget by Nearly \$500M
- Senate Agriculture Committee Holds Fix Our Forests Act Hearing
- United States House Is Likely To Kill EV Tax Credit