Monthly Board Report – 9/10/26

Agribusiness and Water Council/NWRA

- WA Wildfire Scorched 900 Buildings
- Thousands Forced to Evacuate Parts of Reno, NV
- USDA Reopens AZ Cattle Port as Screwworm Cases hit Mexico, Texas
- Texas Wildfire Mushrooms Within Hours, Ripping Through Ranchlands
- Irrigated Acreage Sees Price Premium in the West, $13K+/AC in CA
- 70% of US Faced w/ Drought According to the Drought Monitor
- 2M+ Acres Burned by Wildfires in OR this Year
- Maricopa County Farm Bureau Looking for Next Intern
- North Dakota Governor Declares Drought Emergency, Activates Livestock Water Assistance Program
- UCLA Study says Nevada Leads on Wastewater Recycling as Colorado River Shortage Grows
- Drought Forces Albuquerque to Switch Drinking Water to Aquifer Supply
- Firefighting Resources are 'Critically Low' in Record Fire Year
- U.S., Mexico, and Texas Back Major Investments for Water Conservation
- Reno Breaks Ground on Nevada's First Advanced Purified Water Facility
- Growth Strains West River Water Systems, Prompting Proposal for Missouri Pipeline

American Public Power Association

- New Fact Sheets Detail 5 Key Federal Environmental Regulatory Program
- DOE Energy Innovator Fellowship -- Looking for Host Organizations
- RMUC Grant and Technical Assistance Program Legislation at DOE Introduced to Reauthorize $250M through 2031 in Appropriations
- President Signs EO 14420 – Declaring a National Emergency to Secure the United States Bulk-Power System from Foreign Electric Equipment
- APPA Details Opposition to FCC Ban on Foreign-Made Drones

Arizona

- AZ Water Use Dropped by 16% from 1985-2022 Despite Population Doubling
- ACC Unanimously Approved Joint Application that Creates a Process to Protect Existing Energy Customers from New Large-Load Businesses
- Light Up Navajo Project Connects 250+ Navajo Homes to the Electric Grid
- Phoenix, Tucson and Other Working Towards Advanced Water Purification

Bureau of Reclamation/Dept. of Interior

- Nevada Sues in Federal Court to Block Colorado River
- Arizona Seeks California Water Amid Colorado River Cuts
- California Officials Respond to Colorado River Operations Plan
- Interior Moves to Speed Historic Reviews as Bigger Rewrite Looms
- Researchers Traced West Water Crisis to Just 122 Companies
- Colorado River Shortage Reaches Farms and Tribal Lands

California

- Plan to Regulate Data Centers Heads to Newsome's Desk
- CA Passes Toughest Wildfire Rules In The U.S. For Home Landscaping
- PacifiCorp to Suspend Energy Efficiency Programs Under Settlement
- DOE Awards Utility $271M to Help Diablo Canyon Nuclear Plant Extension
- LADWP Officials Open New Groundwater Treatment Facilities
- LADWP Deploys New Solutions, Updates to Service Connection Standards and Requirements
- Riviera Utilities Receives $800,000 for Coastal Wastewater Resiliency Improvement Project
- CMUA Executive Director Calls for Actions Tied to Wildfires
- Pasadena Water and Power Completes Important Water System Infrastructure Projects
- Ninth Circuit Sides with BOR in Fight over CA Water Contract Conversions
- California Approves Landmark 'Zone Zero' Wildfire Rules
- California sues over Trump offshore wind cancellation
- Report Provides Framework for CA PUC to Utilize When Evaluating Large Load Opportunities

- Pasadena Water and Power Seeks Financial Institution Partners for Low-Interest Solar and Battery Loan Program

Colorado River Energy Distributors Association

- CREDA Requests Consultation Inclusion in Colorado River Guidelines
- Lake Powell Hits Record Low, Threatening Key Water & Electricity Supply for Millions
- Colorado River Drought Lawsuits may Dampen Wyoming Dam Plans

Department of Energy

- DOE - US Announce Steps to Help Refiners Produce More Fuel
- DOE Order Directs MISO to Fire Up 1.4 GW Michigan Coal Plant
- US Roadmap Targets Fusion Deployment by Mid-2030s
- DOE Selects 13 Projects for Nuclear Energy Launch Pad Initiative
- DOE Orders Pennsylvania Power Plant Units to Remain Available
- DOE Awards $500M to 7 Critical Mineral Projects Hoping To Bolster Domestic Battery Supply Chain
- DOE Unveils Wider Priorities for Loan Office

Environmental Protection Agency

- Court Upholds EPA Rule Forcing Polluters to Pay for 'Forever Chemical'
- EPA Moves to Curb Public Input on Air Pollution Permits for Data Centers
- EPA Emphasizes Treatment and Permitting in Water Reuse Strategy
- EPA Expands Efforts to Ease Ozone and PM2.5 NAAQS Compliance Obligations
- EPA Proposes Partial Approval of Arizona PM2.5 Infrastructure SIP
- DC Circuit Upholds PFAS Hazardous Substance Designation Under CERCLA
- EPA Releases Supplemental WOTUS Proposal

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission/NERC/NRC

- FERC Approves TransAlta, PowerTransitions Gas-Fired Power Plant Deals
- FERC Approves NERC Reliability Standard Tied to Potential Cyber Threats

- NERC, National Laboratory of the Rockies Launch Partnership to Advance North American Grid Reliability

Financial Focus

- US Battery Startups Have Found a Lifeline in Defense
- Trump Shuns E.V.s and Wind Power, But He's Pouring Billions Into Batteries
- U.S.-Canada Trade War Threatens Electricity Imports, Prices
- Waymo Will Expand its Phoenix Service Area by Additional 55 Square Miles
- Raytheon Awarded $22.9B Contract to Produce Tomahawk Cruise Missiles
- AZ One of the Country's Most Significant Defense-Industrial Hubs - $19.5B
- Treasury Will Be Increasing Buybacks of Long-Dated Bonds by Double
- Fed Chair Warsh Signals Possible Rate Increase in Future
- Canada Strikes Back w/ Tariffs on About $20B Worth of US Goods
- U.S.-Canada Trade War Threatens to Stretch Past the Midterm Elections
- 100+ Delegation of Arizonans Traveled to Taiwan for SEMICON Taiwan
- AZ Ranked #1 for Foreign Direct Investment

Industry Update

- U.S. Electricity Demand Could Increase by as Much as 32% by 2030
- Trump Signs EO Banning Some Foreign Equipment from US Energy Grid
- US TerraPower, SK Innovation Sign Preliminary Deal on Global SMR Projects
- PA Dangles Permitting Carrot For DCs That Bring Their Own Electricity
- Northwest Council Proposes 11 GW of New Gen, 5 GW Storage by 2032
- Army to Spend $2B to Build Nuclear Microreactors at 5 bases as US Seeks to Ramp up Nuclear Power
- Wave Energy Testing Site Opens off Oregon
- Task Force Releases Report Examining Possible Development of Nuclear Power in Delaware
- U.S. Gas Power Proposals Tied to Data Centers Nearly Double in Six Months
- City of Fountain Utilities in Colorado Utilizes Sheep to Control Weeds at Substation and Solar Array Site

- Blue Energy, GE Vernova Hitachi Sign Agreement to Launch Next Phase of Texas Gas-Plus-Nuclear Project
- Babcock & Wilcox, Siemens Energy to Develop 20 Steam Turbine Generator Sets for Data Center Generation
- Study Finds Construction of Offshore Wind Farms Will Generate More Than $460 Million in Economic Impact for Long Island
- America's Hydropower Challenge goes Beyond the West
- World Nuclear Association Tracks 130+ SMR Designs Developing Globally
- Gates-Backed TerraPower Announces Second Nuclear Plant this Year
- Long-Term Enhanced Geothermal Test Begins In Utah
- Pacific Fusion breaks ground on $1B research, manufacturing facility in NM
- Fervo Secures Largest-Ever Geothermal Power Deal, With Google – 396MW
- Solar Becomes Biggest Capacity Resource in China, 1,286 GW Nameplate
- TN Agency Issues License for Commercial Fusion Project at TVA Site
- Loading Nuclear Fuel into Shuttered MI Nuke Plant's Reactor Vessel Starts
- Utility, Company to Explore Fusion Energy Power Plant in Wisconsin
- U.S. Adds 20 GWh of Energy Storage Capacity in Q2

Markets

- Texas Will Audit Up to 300 projects, Mostly Data Center Proposals
- FERC Approves MISO Cost Recovery for Transmission Projects Built in PJM
- NJ Board Of Public Utilities Releases Study On PJM's Capacity Market
- ISO-NE Applies To Be Reviewer Of Asset Condition Projects from FERC
- CAISO's Load-Balancing EDAM Math Doesn't Add Up, says CPUC Staff
- Western Energy Market Must Shift as Power Flows Evolve (South to North)
- Burst of New Solar Power Makes MISO Market the Biggest in US
- FERC Approves SPP 'Topology Optimization' Plan Cutting Grid Congestion
- PA Regulators Ask FERC To Change PJM Transmission Review
- PJM Issues 5-YR Strategic Plan to Meet Growing Demands on Grid
- PJM Proposes Framework to Connect Data Centers
- TVA Board Moves to Protect Customers from Subsidizing Expenses Tied to Growth of Data Center Load

- Report Says NH Exit from ISO-NE Presents Significant Practical Uncertainty
- Large Loads (>50 MW) Face RA Requirements Under MISO Proposal
- PJM drops 750 MW Oklo Advanced Nuclear Project from Interconnection Study Due to Ride Through Concerns
- Refreshed Strategic Plan Sharpens BPA's Focus on Accelerated Grid Expansion, Ratepayer Protection
- Weekly Average Load in ERCOT Continues Near Record High

Meetings

- August 19th – WAPA 10 Year Transmission Meeting
- August 20 & 21 – ABWC Prescott
- August 25th – Clean Currents Presentation
- August 26 & 27th – AZ Chamber Summer Policy Event
- August 31st – Vacation
- September 3rd – CAP Board Meeting
- September 3rd – APPA GRWG Call
- September 8-10th CREDA Denver
- September 11th – Vacation
- September 15th - APA
- September 15th – IEDA Board Meeting
- September 18th – ABWC Annual Meeting
- September 22nd & 23rd – Clean Currents
- September 24-25th – Vacation
- September 28th – October 1st – Washington, DC

Oil & Natural Gas

- Phillips 66, Kinder Morgan Green Light the $5B Western Gateway Pipeline
- Natural Gas Futures Climb as Hottest August on Record Refuses to Quit
- August Turns Up the Heat as Natural Gas Storage Build Shrinks
- Global Gas Prices Continue Climbing as Hopes of US-Iran Peace Deal Fade
- Hormuz Closure, Storage Gap Keep Europe Bidding for US LNG

- Gas Demand Up @ 55% since 2013, w/ Pipeline Infrastructure Growing 27%
- Physical Gas Prices Pop as Far-Reaching Heat Dome Galvanizes Buyer
- FERC Opens Environmental Review for Venture Global CP2 LNG Expansion
- Lower 48 Power Generation Natural Gas-Fired Output Hits 267 GW
- Western Canadian Natural Gas Prices Floundering Ahead of Winter
- Western Gas Forward Prices Climb as Permian, Northeast Hubs Retreat
- US LNG Export Capacity Poised to Enter Next Wave of Growth
- Global Natural Gas Prices Rally to Highest Level in Years
- Mexico Imports of US Natural Gas Surge on Summer Heat
- Near-Record ERCOT Load Tests Texas Natural Gas Demand
- Canada Eyes LNG, Natural Gas Expansion as US Trade War Escalates
- Data Center Backlash Adds Risk to Natural Gas Demand Outlooks
- Global Natural Gas Shock Has Yet to Hit US Market, but Winter Is Coming
- Sempra Advances Third Port Arthur LNG Expansion in Texas
- SW Natural Gas Cash Tops $8 as Southern California Supply Runs Short
- Trump's Offshore Drilling Revival Survives Early Court Challenge
- 5 Themes Reshaping Western Gas Markets
    - Data Centers & Behind the Meter Demand
    - Infrastructure & Shifting Western Flows
    - Storage & Flexible Deliverability
    - LNG, Weather & Price Volatility
    - Natural Gas Buyers Strategies

WAPA & Transmission

- Bonneville Power Administration Celebrates 89th Anniversary
- DOE Announces Major Milestone for North Plains Connector, Bridging Eastern and Western Grids
- Groundbreaking Held for Idaho-Nevada Transmission Line Project

Washington DC

- President Signs Stop-Gap Spending Bill
- GOP-Led Permitting Reform Legislation Gains Traction In DC (S. 4944)

- Senators Introduce Bipartisan Quantum-GUARD Act To Boost U.S. Electric Grid Against Emerging Quantum Cyber Threats
- Administration Wants to Strengthen Tax Incentives for Nuclear Projects to Accelerate and Expand Nuclear Development
- $600B of Biden's Clean Energy Funding Escaped Trump's Cuts
- Senator Revives Fight Over Putting Interior in Charge of Wildfires
- Congress Weighs Competing Plans to Overhaul Army Corps Water Projects