Monthly Board Report – 10/15/26

Agribusiness and Water Council/NWRA

- Judge Halts USDA's Reorganization
- NWRA Submits WOTUS Comment Letter
- Gulf States Cover 50-90% of Municipal Supply w/ Desalinated Water
- Mid-Columbia PUDs Settles Litigation Over Columbia River Treaty Payments
- TX Looking at Changing Water Laws Due to Possible Unlimited DC Usage
- Colorado Counters Nebraska in SCOTUS Fight Over South Platte River
- USDA Announced $175M for the Affordable Rural Cooperative Program to Support Rural Nuclear Power and Improve Transmission Reliability
- PNNL, SEPA Provide Interactive Map Showing States' Wildfire Legislation
- Foreign Hackers Breach Two More U.S. Water Companies
- Drought Forces Colorado Farmer to Salvage Corn for Silage

American Public Power Association

- APPA Raises Alarm Regarding Reallocation of Lower 900 MHz Spectrum
- Senate ENR Advances S. 5048, Improving Hydropower Relicensing
- APPA Comments on DOE Transmission Needs Study
- APPA-Funded Project Results in Development of Nuclear Power Playbook
- Public Power Utilities Among Recipients for DOE Grid Project Funding
- APPA Files Comments Opposing Expansion of Federal Pole Attachment Regs
- APPA Supports Transmission ITC with Elective Pay

Arizona

- Federal Funding to Help Upgrade Coal Turbine at Apache Generating Station
- Governor Hobbs Issues EO to Allow Red-Dye Diesel in Over the Road Trucks
- APS to Extend Operations of Four Corners Coal-Fired Plant Beyond 2031
- USFS, AZ Sign Agreement to Restore Forests, Protect Watersheds (Kaibab)
- SRP Invests $3 Million in Research at Public Universities (ASU, NAU, UofA)

- Arizona Finance Authority Launches $1M Program to Transform Contaminated Sites Into Community Assets
- Governor's Office of Resiliency Recognizes Arizona Energy Efficiency Week & Launches New Resource for Arizonans
- Gallego, Kelly, Stanton, Ansari, Announce $2M Federal Investment to Advance Water Reuse Technology for Semiconductor Manufacturing at ASU
- Chiricahua Officially Becoming Arizona's Fourth National Park
- Kelly, Gallego Celebrate Senate Passage of Bipartisan Bill to Help Prevent Catastrophic Wildfires - Wildfire Emissions Prevention Act as Part of WRDA
- Members of the AZ Delegation Push for Federal Funding to Restore Grand Canyon After Floods, Wildfires

Bureau of Reclamation/Dept. of Interior

- US Signs Minute 334 with Mexico
- Lake Mead to Drop Below 1035' in November 2026
- Lake Mead to Hover Below 1035' Until Feb. 2027 (Sept 24 Month Study)
- WY2027 Energy Generation at Hoover Projected to be 2,451 GWh
- Average Capacity in H2 of WY 2027 Slightly More than 300 MW
- Administration Seeks to Reconsider Offshore Wind Farm's Approval

California

- Coastal Commission Rejected the 100 MGD Huntington Beach Desal Plant
- Front of Meter Solar Could Serve 32% of CA's 2032 Peak Load
- IID Board Unanimously Approves Large Load Tariff
- New IID Agreements Include 86 Megawatts of Geothermal Energy
- NCPA Letter Asks California Governor to Sign Wildfire Mitigation Bill
- Gov. Authorizes CA to Move Forward with Process of Linking Cap-and-Invest program to WA's Carbon Market
- New Law Provides Criminal Penalties for Attacks on Utility Workers
- CA Revises Draft Water Right Decision for Sites Reservoir (1.5 MAF)
- Newsom Signs Utility Accountability & Data Center Bills
- PG&E Files Plan to Place @ 5,000 Miles of Distribution Lines Underground
- Hot Weather and Winds Raise CA Wildfire Threat as Power Shutoffs Start

Colorado River Energy Distributors Association

- Lake Powell Projected to Hover Between 3510'-3515' Until April 2027
- Denver to Divert 77 KAF Colorado River for Reservoir Expansion
- Sediment Trigger Met for Fall HFE (Oct-Nov)
- Dam Release Temperature Over 22*C Expected in Sept-Oct Range
- CREDA Relocates Office to Colorado, Effective October 1st

Department of Energy

- Court Rejects DOE 'Emergency' Order Delaying Coal Retirement as Overstep
- NextEra Secures $1.9B DOE Loan for Duane Arnold Nuclear Restart
- DOE Directs SPP, Utilities to Take Steps to Keep Colo. Unit Available
- DOE Unveils Conditional $4.2B Loan Commitment to Finance Uprates, Modernization Across Vistra's Nuclear Fleet in PA, OH
- DOE Awards UofA $20M Investment in Arizona Mining
- Wright Says US Could Use Defense Production Act Funds to Boost Refiners
- U.S. Seeks Faster Uranium Enrichment Expansion To Avert Supply Shortage
- US Awards $99 Million for Geothermal Drilling, Technology Projects
- DOE Announces Plans to Fund TVA Transmission and Distribution Projects

Environmental Protection Agency

- EPA Administrator Announced Approval of Maricopa County Rule 204
- EPA Partially Repealing the 2024 Carbon Pollution Standards for Fossil Fuel-Fired Electric Generating Units
- EPA Releases Supplemental WOTUS Proposal
- EPA Proposed Changes to Construction General Permit
- EPA Appeals Court-Ordered Deadline-PM2.5 Nonattainment Designations
- Federal Court Vacates EPA's Termination of $7 Billion Solar Program
- Federal Court Allows RCRA Citizen Suit Against PA Power Plant to Proceed
- Trump Slashes Biden-Era Fuel Economy Standards for Cars
- Groups Sue US EPA Over Repeal of Power Plant GHG Standards
- EPA Extends GHG Reporting & CWA Hazardous Substance Rule Deadlines
- EPA Announces Sweeping Oil and Gas Regulation Rollback

- EPA Proposes Full Reallocation of Refinery Biofuel Exemptions
- EPA Further Delays 2025 Reporting Deadline for GHG Reporting Program

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission/NERC/NRC

- FERC, NERC Review Shows Bulk-Power System Improvements in Preparation and Coordination During Winter 2026 Arctic Cold Period
- FERC Approves NERC Reliability Standard for Physical Security
- NRC Proposes Broad Overhaul of Nuclear Reactor Regulations
- Start-up Company Seeks NRC for New Uranium Enrichment Plant
- FERC Approves NERC Reliability Standard on Frequency and Voltage Ride-Through Requirements for IBRs
- NERC Approves New Requirements for Large Loads, Grid Reliability

Financial Focus

- U.S. Public Power Capital Spending Continues to Accelerate
- Global Clean Energy Investment Down 17% During First Half of the Year
- Amkor Expanding Planned Arizona Investment to about $12 Billion
- Cyclic Materials Opens $30M, First U.S. Commercial-Scale Rare Earth Magnet Recycling Facility in Mesa
- Freeberg Industrial Fabrication Celebrated Opening 200 Job Plant in Eloy
- Arizona Ranked 4th in US for Workforce
- Raytheon Awarded $20.7B to Accelerate Production of AMRAAM Missiles
- 10-year Treasury Yield Spikes to Highest Point Since 2007
- Investment Tax Credit Glut Gives Corporate Buyers More Leverage
- US Official says Upcoming Spectrum Auctions Could Generate $100+B
- Texas Power Plant, Nuclear Projects Under Discussion In South Korea's U.S. Investment Package
- Trump Announces Plan for $15 Billion Steel Plant in Iowa
- GM, LG to make lower-cost EV battery cells in Tennessee
- Data Centers Spend $340M to Improve Reputations in Rural TX
- Rising Interest Rates Making Banks Relook at Financing Data Centers
- Energy Prices Send US Inflation Higher, Add Pressure to Raise Interest Rates

Industry Update

- US Power Use to Beat Record Highs in 2026 and 2027 as AI Use Surges
- Solar Generation Expected to Grow 21% this Year, 18% in 2027 – EIA
- Amazon, Constellation Sign 20-year PPA to Expand MD Nuclear Plant
- Interest-Free Loans for Home Energy Upgrades Launched in MA
- TN, TVA and UK Expand Collaboration on Commercial Fusion Energy Deployment
- Google to Support Uprates at Georgia Nuclear Plants Under Agreement
- Southwestern Power Administration RFP for Firm Power Commitments
- Pennsylvania PUC Releases Study That Warns Rapid Data Center Growth Could Pose Reliability Risk
- U.S. Energy Storage Market Posts Record 18.9 GWh in Q2 as Longer-Duration Systems Drives Growth
- Microsoft Challenged VA rule Requiring DCs Pay for Transmission Upgrades
- NY Proposes $1M Per Megawatt Community Investment For Data Centers
- 'Second-Life' Battery Project Is B2U's Second In ERCOT
- Battery Storage Pushing Narrative that they are Cheaper than Gas Peakers
- The Race for Lithium Is Becoming a Race for Water
- Geothermal Energy Projects in NM Receive $17.3M in State Funding

Markets

- MISO Proposes Fast-Track Large Load, Generation Study Process
- PJM Proposes Reliability Standards for Large Load Disconnection Events
- Rejects Most of PJM's Large Load Interconnection Plan
- TVA Sets Multiple All Time Power Demand Records During Historic September Heat Dome
- NV Energy Signs Agreement to join California ISO's EDAM
- Portland General Electric Begins Participation in CAISO EDAM
- Texas Governor Directs TCEQ To Halt Data Center Permits (ERCOT)
- TVA is First U.S. Utility to Receive Construction Permit for BWRX-300 Advanced Nuclear Reactor
- NYPA Awards $10M to Support Nuclear Energy Workforce Development

- FERC Accepts PJM Proposed Reliability Backstop Procurement
- SPP, CAISO Submit Joint Report to FERC on Western Seams Coordination
- 600+ Projects Enter Phase One of PJM's New Interconnection Process
- Regional Organization for Western Energy/West-Wide Governance Pathways Initiative Advances Inaugural Slate of Directors
- CAISO Plans to pass Governance to ROWE in 2028
- PJM Faces 2030 Reliability Crisis if Data Center Load Growth Continues
- PJM Urges Big Users To Curb Demand Amid Warm Weather
- SPP's 'Stop-Gap' RA Plan For Western Balancing Area Panned At FERC
- MISO Proposes Fast-Track Large Load, Generation Study Process

Meetings

- September 18th – ABWC Annual Meeting
- September 22nd & 23rd – Clean Currents
- September 24-25th – Vacation
- September 28th – October 1st – Washington, DC
- October 2nd – PMA Task Force Call
- October 2nd – NWRA Federal Affairs Committee
- October 6th – APPA Federal Permit Reform Webinar
- October 6th – AZ Chamber of Commerce Workforce Development
- October 8th – CREDA Legislative Group
- October 8th – WAPA Annual Customer Meeting
- October 12th – IEDA Water Committee
- October 13th – IEDA Legislative Committee
- October 14th – Project CENTRL Board
- October 14th – Arizona Water Innovation
- October 15th – APPA GRWG Call
- October 16th – ABWC
- October 16th – AZ Chamber Energy & Natural Resources Committee
- October 28th-30th – Family Farm Alliance Reno

Oil & Natural Gas

- New England Nat Gas Prices Trading Near Record Discounts to Henry Hub
- Henry Hub Prices This Summer Were 6% Lower Than the Summer of 2025
- Electric Companies Support Proposed Federal Bill To Reform Judicial Review Of Natural Gas Pipelines
- Natural Gas Prices Vary Widely as Texas Heat Counters Northern Cooldown
- Texas Drives September Mexico Natural Gas Imports Toward Record
- Mexico Gas Demand Signals Growth Across Industrial, Data Center Hubs
- Gas Spot Prices Power Up on Signs of Heating Demand/Lower Production
- Expand Energy Sees LNG Demand in Driver's Seat as DC Resistance Grows
- Latin America Energy Sector Gains Momentum With US Backing for Argentina LNG
- US Natural Gas Storage Deficit Poised to Shrink as Autumn Weather Arrives
- Renewables, Record Gas Output Kept Summer Henry Hub Prices Below $3
- Energy Executives Forecast Higher Gas Prices Amid Iran War Unease
- Kinder Morgan Accelerating Southeast Natural Gas Pipeline Buildout
- New Texas Natural Gas Storage 'Quickly Absorbed Into the Market'
- Canadian LNG Expansion Poised to Boost Competition, Prices for Western US Market
- EIA Storage Likely to Be Flattish YOY as Speculators Become More Bearish
- Global Natural Gas Prices Climb as Hormuz Attacks Heighten Winter LNG Supply Risks
- MA Governor Calls on DOE to Expedite Review of Gas Pipeline Expansion
- Admin Approves Emergency Crude Oil Exchange to Limit Isaias Disruptions
- Europe Must Top Record LNG Imports This Winter to Protect Storage
- Houthis Strike Energy Target as Trump Threatens, Delays Iran Escalation
- Super El Niño No Guarantee Against Super Volatile Natural Gas Prices

WAPA & Transmission

- WAPA Experiences Cybersecurity Incident
- MA Utilities, Canadian Hydro Company File Dueling Lawsuits Over New Transmission Line

- Construction Starts on GridLiance West 155 Mile NV Transmission Project
- New York Regulators Approve 90-mile Transmission Line
- Proposed Energy Grid Tax Credit Aims To Spur Construction, Deployment Of Transmission Infrastructure
- DOE Announces Funding for Alaska Railbelt Transmission Project
- The West Can't Energize Its Future Without More Transmission

Washington DC

- WGA Submits Federal Policy Recommendations for Prescribed Fire, Geothermal Energy, and Nuclear Lifecycle
- House Passed H.R. 9340, the Ratepayer Protection Act/Blocked in Senate
- House Approves WRDA Bill
- Gosar Introduces LANDs Act to Restore Congressional Oversight of Massive Federal Land Designations
- Biggs Introduces H.R. 10420- *Colorado River Basin Water Security and Infrastructure Act*
- Jim Jordan to Relinquish Judiciary Gavel
- Rep. Larsen (D-Wash.) & Rep. Rouzer (R-N.C.) in Line to Chair T&I Next Year
- Trump Cancels $1B in Federal Spending in Latest Challenge to Congress
- Reconciliation 3.0 Stalled in Senate, Unlikely Before the Midterm Elections
- Jim Costa (D-CA) Plans Run for House Ag Chair
- NY, CA Sue to Block Administration Deals Canceling Offshore Wind Projects
- US Will Either Reform IEA on Climate Issues or Leave the Group
- Mexico's USMCA Violations Threaten American Energy
- Legislation Introduced To Solidify American Leadership In Fusion
- Bipartisan Congressional Geothermal Caucus Launched
- 90% of LIHEAP Funding Released Early ($3.6B)