

## SCCAABE Energy Policy Newsletter – December 2022

### South Carolina

#### Gunfire at South Carolina Hydropower Plant Stokes Grid Concerns



Employees work at a Duke Electric power substation following an attack in Carthage, North Carolina, on Dec. 5. *Photographer: Peter Zay/Anadolu Agency/Getty Images*

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2022-12-08/duke-energy-says-shots-fired-near-south-carolina-power-plant?leadSource=uverify%20wall>

*Overview: Shots were fired near a Duke Energy Corp. hydropower plant in Ridgeway, South Carolina— the second incident in the past week of gunfire at a US power facility after armed attacks on two substations knocked out electricity for about 45,000 homes and businesses in neighboring North Carolina.*

#### Electric vehicle chargers to be installed at S.C. state parks

<https://www.abccolumbia.com/2022/12/13/electric-vehicle-chargers-to-be-installed-at-s-c-state-parks/>

*Overview: South Carolina is installing electric vehicle chargers at state parks. Electric vehicle chargers will be installed at 30 state parks by the end of 2023.*

## **USDA awards more than \$25 million in loans, grants for 4 South Carolina solar projects**

<https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/us/usda-awards-over-24252-million-in-rural-energy-loans-and-grants-for-4-south-carolina-projects/ar-AA15k6q9>

*Overview: Four rural energy projects in South Carolina will receive just over \$25.2 million total in loans and grants from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Energy for America Program.*

## **National**

### **U.S. announces nuclear fusion energy breakthrough: "One of the most impressive scientific feats of the 21st century"**



<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/nuclear-fusion-energy-breakthrough-announcement/>

*Overview: The U.S. Department of Energy announced Tuesday a monumental milestone in nuclear fusion research: a "net energy gain" was achieved for the first time in history by scientists from the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory in California.*

### **PJM seeks mid-auction capacity market rule change to address anomaly that led to 'unjust' price**

<https://www.utilitydive.com/news/pjm-capacity-auction-rule-change-delmarva-ferc/639405/>

*Overview: The PJM Interconnection plans to ask the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to approve a rule that would allow the grid operator to change a capacity auction parameter that*

*led to anomalous results in its just-held auction, Stu Bresler, PJM senior vice president for market services, said Wednesday.*

## **US smart meter penetration continues steady growth, tops 100M in operation: FERC**

<https://www.utilitydive.com/news/us-smart-meter-penetration-continues-steady-growth-tops-100m-in-operation/639293/>

*Overview: For the fourth consecutive year the number of advanced meters installed on the United States electric grid increased by approximately 8 million.*

## **Utilities sound alarm over distribution transformer shortage as procurement times surpass 1 year and costs triple**

<https://www.utilitydive.com/news/distribution-transformer-shortage-appa-casten/639059/>

*Overview: A shortage of distribution system transformers is depleting replacement equipment stockpiles and delaying or canceling some electrification projects, the electric utility sector warned federal lawmakers in a November letter. The industry's ability to quickly restore power following storms is also at risk, they said.*

## **The U.S. wants to slash carbon emissions from power plants. Natural gas is in the way**

<https://www.npr.org/2022/12/05/1139401121/the-u-s-wants-to-slash-carbon-emissions-from-power-plants-natural-gas-is-in-the->

*Overview: Under President Joe Biden, the United States aims to cut all carbon pollution by 2035 from the power plants that run American homes and businesses. It's a first step toward the broader goal of zeroing out greenhouse gas emissions across the entire economy by midcentury to rein in climate change. But the ambitions of the Biden administration are set to collide with the country's power industry, which looks like it will continue burning fossil fuels for the foreseeable future.*

## Energy Dept. to invest up to \$72M to expand clean energy workforce efforts

<https://www.utilitydive.com/news/energy-department-72m-to-DOE-programs/639412/>

*Overview: The U.S. Department of Energy will spend \$72 million to expand a workforce training program that also helps small manufacturers reduce their energy use, according to a Dec. 6 release.*

## Energy Spotlight

### Declaration of Principles from Members of the African Diaspora Addressing Climate Change

<https://www.aabe.org/index.php?component=news&id=1137>

*Overview: The American Association of Blacks in Energy<sup>®</sup> were acknowledged at the 27th United Nations Climate Change Conference (“COP 27”) which convened in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt from November 6<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup>, 2022.*



Click the link below to listen to the latest podcast episode of *Coffee Talk with Shalaya & Laron* which aired on November 26<sup>th</sup>. Find out more information about the next episode and listen to previous episodes here:

<https://anchor.fm/aabe-coffee-talk>.

## **Would you like additional information?**

Feel free to add these links as browser favorites that you may check on a daily or weekly basis.

### **Energy News from the US Department of Energy**

<https://www.energy.gov/listings/energy-news>

### **News Headlines from the US Federal Energy Regulatory Commission**

<https://www.ferc.gov/news-events/news/news-releases-headlines>

### **News from the US Nuclear Regulatory Commission**

<https://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/news/2022/index.html>

Yours In Service,

SCCAABE

<https://aabe.org/southcarolina>