



A Letter to the Reader:

How COVID-19 Is Taking the Energy Industry to the Limit The Energy Industry Update

We are issuing this Energy Industry Update (EIU) at a unique time in the world, as a whole, and more specifically within the energy industry. The COVID-19 pandemic truly is changing everything, and no one is sure how the industry will look later this year, let alone in the long-term. What is certain is that customers will continue to need reliable and affordable electricity and natural gas.

The way that electric and gas utility service is delivered has been heavily impacted by COVID-19. Every day we see stories about field personnel and control room operators taking extraordinary measures to keep customers and each other safe. (Please see our thoughts on the immediate effects of the pandemic [here](#).) Notwithstanding these dramatic changes to daily utility operations, it is likely that the broader trends we observed prior to this pandemic will continue to manifest in some form.

It is in that spirit that we are publishing this EIU to continue the dialogue around those industry trends that we believe will remain relevant. They include the ongoing push to 100% clean or non-greenhouse gas-emitting resources, the future of the gas utility and resource planning, the trends in transmission resilience and in returns on equity, and lessons from Hawaii's transition to 100% renewables. The trajectory of these topics may shift due to the pandemic, but they will remain pertinent to the industry's development.

Hopefully, this EIU will provide a welcome respite from pandemic news. We welcome your thoughts on these or other topics in the industry today. Stay safe out there.

Sincerely,

Cristin Lyons
Partner and Energy Practice Leader

