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ARIPPA PERIODIC MEDIA NEWS – 11-1-17

CFB, COAL REFUSE, ENERGY INDUSTRY

[Can rare earths turn old coal mines into gold mines supplying smartphone makers?](#) - Down in the open pit mine, U.S. Department of Energy Secretary Rick Perry trudged to the top of a loose pile of dirt to peer into a void that has given up its anthracite coal for the last hundred years.

[U.S. greenhouse gas emissions fall 2 percent in 2016, led by power industry: EPA](#) - Greenhouse gas emissions from America's largest industrial facilities fell 2 percent in 2016 to 2.99 billion tonnes, led by a large cut from the power sector, according to data published on Thursday by the Environmental Protection Agency.

[EPA chief: I'd 'do away with' wind, solar tax credits](#) - Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Scott Pruitt said on Monday that the federal tax credits for the wind and solar power industries should be eliminated.

[Scientists say cost of capturing carbon dioxide declining](#) - Technology now in limited use removes about 90 percent of carbon dioxide from the smokestacks of coal-fired power plants, but energy experts say cost remains the chief obstacle to bringing the "clean coal" touted by President Donald Trump into the mainstream.

[All-of-the-above energy strategy needed to fuel reliable electric grid | Opinion](#) - The spate of recent hurricanes that pummeled Florida, Louisiana, and Texas highlights the fragility of America's electricity infrastructure. Millions of residents lost power for days, sometimes weeks. In tandem with this lost service came troubling disruptions to gas production and key pipelines, driving up energy costs nationwide.

[Earth Conservancy, PSU WB offering workforce training program](#) - A local nonprofit is partnering with Penn State Wilkes-Barre to offer a training program with classes focused on environmental technologies without the cost of traditional college tuition.

[Luminant to Close Two Coal-Fired Power Plants in Texas](#) - Luminant announced it would close two coal plants in central Texas totaling 2,300 MW in early 2018.

[Anti-Coal Effort Aided by \\$64 Million From Michael Bloomberg](#) - The Sierra Club and other environmental groups are expanding a campaign to retire U.S. coal power plants with a \$64 million contribution from former New York Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg, as the environmental group aims to blunt efforts by the Trump administration to rescue coal.

[Analysis | New EPA document reveals sharply lower estimate of the cost of climate change](#) - The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency on Tuesday released a detailed 198-page proposed analysis of the costs and benefits of its move to repeal the Clean Power Plan, suggesting the administration plans to greatly decrease the government's estimates of the cost of climate change.

[Coal generation to grow as natural gas prices rise, new EIA report says](#) - The U.S. Energy Information Administration expects power generation from natural gas to fall and coal-fired generation to rise in the rest of 2017, with numbers nearly identical to past forecasts.

[As coal still burns under Centralia, trash piles up above](#) - The morning crew pulled into this burning ghost town just before 9 on Saturday and grabbed gear that the miners of old never took down with them.

LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY ISSUES: FEDERAL

[EPA plans to streamline air pollution permitting](#) - The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on Wednesday said it would reassess the way it issues Clean Air Act pollution permits for new facilities, as a way to reduce regulatory burdens for businesses.

[Coal industry tells FERC the last 7 years was a catastrophe it must now fix](#) - The coal industry claims the last seven years was a catastrophe federal grid regulators under the Trump administration are now bound by the law to fix by supporting Energy Secretary Rick Perry's grid plan.

[Plan to support coal, nuclear divides U.S. energy industry](#) - U.S. industries that rarely agree - gas drillers and renewable energy producers - urged a federal agency on Monday to dump a government directive to prop up ageing nuclear and coal plants, saying the electricity grid was already reliable.

[EPA Administrator Pruitt issues directive to curb settlements with outside groups](#) - Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Scott Pruitt issued a directive on Monday to limit the extent to which the EPA can reach legal agreements with groups suing to force it to take regulatory action.

[Kentucky engineer picked to head surface mining agency](#) - The Trump administration has nominated the head of a Kentucky engineering firm to run the federal agency that regulates and cleans up former surface mines.

[Scott Pruitt suggests he will restrict scientists who get EPA grants from advising the agency](#) - Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Scott Pruitt hinted Tuesday at plans to rid the agency's scientific advisory boards of researchers who get EPA grants, arguing that the current structure raises questions about their independence.

[Chatterjee: FERC may boost coal, won't 'blow up the market'](#) - The acting chairman of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission pledged not to "blow up the market" as his agency acts on a proposed rule from the Department of Energy to provide cost recovery to coal and nuclear plants.

[Rick Perry tells lawmakers proposal to boost coal, nuclear power not the 'be-all-end-all'](#) - Energy Secretary Rick Perry told House lawmakers Thursday that his controversial proposal to prop up coal and nuclear plants is not the "be-all-end-all" and is meant to be a conversation starter.

[E.P.A. Says It Will Write a New Carbon Rule, but No One Can Say When](#) - When Scott Pruitt, the administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, signed a blueprint Tuesday to eliminate a major Obama-era climate change regulation, the text said the agency would at some point consider a new rule to ratchet down greenhouse gas emissions.

[FERC's Powelson pledges "not to destroy" energy markets despite DOE directive](#) - Federal Energy Regulatory Commission member Robert Powelson has promised the agency will safeguard competitive wholesale electricity markets on the heels of a U.S. Department of Energy proposal to ensure full cost recovery for certain coal and nuclear power plants.

[DOE cost recovery rule divides power sector in House hearing](#) - The Department of Energy's proposed rulemaking to provide cost recovery for fuel secure power plants dominated a hearing on power sector reliability and resilience at the House Energy and Commerce Committee on Tuesday.

[FERC seeks fast track on DOE baseload compensation proposal](#) - The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission set tight deadlines for industry to file comments on a controversial market reform proposal from the Department of Energy, saying on Monday that initial comments are due on Oct. 23 and reply comments on Nov. 7.

[Mine safety nomination follows history as coal executive](#) - The retired coal company executive from West Virginia chosen by Republican President Trump to oversee U.S. mining safety says his first priority is preventing people from getting hurt and that he replaced the managers of a mine plagued by safety violations in 2010 and 2011 where a miner died.

[EPA head wants cozier relationship between agency, industry](#) - The head of the Environmental Protection Agency says his staff will now work in close partnership with industries the EPA regulates.

[EPA Announces Appointment of Cosmo Servidio to Region 3 Administrator](#) - Today, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Scott Pruitt announced the appointment of Cosmo Servidio of Pennsylvania to become regional administrator for Region 3.

[Trump picks coal lobbyist for EPA deputy role, drawing mixed reaction](#) - President Donald Trump on Thursday named Andrew Wheeler, a coal industry lobbyist and former congressional staffer, as his pick for deputy administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, prompting contrasting reactions from industry and environmental groups.

[Trump taps climate skeptic for top White House environmental post](#) - President Trump on Thursday tapped Kathleen Hartnett-White, a former chairman of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, to head a key White House office that coordinates environmental and energy policies across the government.

[EPA Launches Smart Sectors Program: A Program to Engage American Businesses to Achieve Better Environmental Outcomes](#) - Today, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Scott Pruitt announced the launch of Smart Sectors, a partnership program between the Agency and regulated sectors focused on achieving better environmental outcomes.

[The ELG Rule: How Long Can Relief from EPA Last?](#) - Under President Obama, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) introduced a host of rules and compliance requirements targeting power plants and the oil and gas sector. One such rule, the Effluent Limitation Guidelines (ELG), sets stringent wastewater standards for coal-fired power plants.

[NSR Reform: The Time is Nigh](#) - Forces are at work to update the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) archaic and perplexing New Source Review (NSR) Rules.

LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY ISSUES: STATE

[Gov. Wolf signs bills to borrow money, expand gambling to fund budget](#) - Gov. Tom Wolf on Monday affixed what he hopes will be a final patch on a \$2.3 billion budget deficit.

[Pa. Legislature throws its support behind Trump energy plan](#) – Both houses of the Pennsylvania Legislature on Tuesday approved resolutions encouraging the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to consider a Trump Administration proposal to provide guarantees to the coal and nuclear power industries, a position that won plaudits from Exelon Corp., which would benefit from the controversial proposal.

[Tim Murphy's departure brings many would-be replacements, as well as a ray of hope for Democrats](#) - About the only thing faster than the fall of Rep. Tim Murphy this week is the rush of politicians seeking to replace him. But while Democratic chances of flipping the district may have improved, it still presents a challenging landscape.