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ARIPPA PERIODIC MEDIA NEWS – 12-1-17

CFB, COAL REFUSE, ENERGY INDUSTRY

[High Concentrations of Rare Earth Elements Found in American Coal Basins](#) - The U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) National Energy Technology Laboratory (NETL) has found high rare earth element (REE) concentrations in coal samples taken from the Illinois, Northern Appalachian, Central Appalachian, Rocky Mountain Coal Basins, and the Pennsylvania Anthracite region.

[PJM proposes enhancements to electric energy price formation](#) - PJM today released a proposal to ensure that its wholesale electricity market prices do the best possible job of reflecting the resources required to serve customers and of maintaining an optimal mix of resources in the long term.

[Corsa Coal subsidiary proposes another mine for Somerset County](#) - Six months after the opening of the Acosta Deep Mine in Somerset County, the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection is accepting public comments on another proposed coal mine nearby.

[Technology could help Trump keep his 'clean coal' promise](#) - President Trump's pledge to keep coal alive in a cleaner form hinges on his administration helping deploy a big rollout of long-elusive and expensive technology that captures carbon emissions from power plants and stores it underground, according to energy experts.

[Virginia Moves to Join RGGI Carbon-trading Market](#) - Virginia regulators are ready to consider a proposal to join the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) in the Northeast, becoming the 10th state in the nation's largest carbon-trading market.

[CO2 emissions from coal fell by record amount in 2015, led by Texas and Midwest](#) - Carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions associated with coal consumption in the United States fell by a record 231 million metric tons in 2015. More than 60% of the annual decrease occurred in 10 states, led by Texas, Indiana, Ohio, Illinois, and Pennsylvania, according to EIA's state-level carbon dioxide emissions data.

[PJM: Can the Big Dog Deal with State Interference?](#) - The PJM Interconnection, the largest regional transmission operator in the U.S., faces many problems: adapting to state policies designed to skew power markets in the face of natural gas and renewable generation, the structure of its challenged capacity markets, and how to build a reliable and resilient transmission grid.

[Streams affected by acid mine water are tested](#) - A test that's underway will help a state agency determine how to revive nine miles of streams deadened by acid mine water and emptying out of the Quakake Tunnel between Beaver Meadows and Weatherly.

[Pennsylvania coal production running 15 percent higher than 2016 production](#) - Pennsylvania coal production held steady last week with the year-to-date figure running about 15.1 percent higher than the 2016 figure, according to the Energy Information Administration's weekly coal production report.

[Outside Compensation Affects Competitive Electricity Prices: What Can Be Done?](#) - In Order No. 2000, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) encouraged formation of Regional Transmission Organizations (RTOs) to operate competitive region-wide wholesale electricity markets.

[Consol officially separates coal and natural gas entities](#) - For the past year, Consol Energy has discussed its intention to separate its oil and gas and coal businesses into two separate entities.

LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY ISSUES: FEDERAL

[EPA greenhouse gas rule hearing in WV draws supporters, opponents](#) - Supporters and opponents of the Trump administration's Clean Power Plan repeal turned out Tuesday at the state Capitol, with both sides asking for something they almost certainly can't have.

[EPA to push coal ash rule revisions at DC Circuit hearing](#) - The D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals will hear oral arguments on Monday in Utility Solid Waste Activities Group v. EPA, a case which has opened a path for the federal agency to reconsider portions of coal ash regulations passed by the Obama administration in 2014.

[Convicted West Virginia coal executive seeks GOP U.S. Senate nomination](#) - Donald L. Blankenship, the coal executive convicted of conspiring to violate federal safety standards tied to a deadly mine disaster, plans to run for the U.S. Senate in West Virginia next year, an aide reported Wednesday.

[Amid criticism, Chatterjee claims 'no politicizing' in interim NOPR fix](#) - The acting FERC chairman said his decision to float a plant subsidy plan with the press before presenting it to colleagues was "in no way trying to preempt" normal rulemaking procedures.

[Exclusive: Chatterjee details interim plan to save coal, nuclear plants](#) - The acting chairman of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission is considering regulatory language that would direct regional grid operators to update their market tariffs to keep at-risk coal and nuclear generators online while FERC further considers a cost recovery proposal for baseload generation from the Department of Energy.

[DOE Funds Twelve Projects to Enhance Coal Power Efficiency](#) - The U.S. Department of Energy's Office of Fossil Energy announced it will provide a total of \$8.6 million to fund 12 research projects that will enhance the efficiency of fossil energy power systems.

[Senate confirms Trump's mine safety pick](#) - The Senate voted Wednesday to confirm David Zatezalo, a former coal mining executive who faced harsh criticism over his company's safety record, to lead the federal government's mine safety agency.

[Senate confirms Trump EPA nominee with oil industry ties](#) - The Senate narrowly confirmed a lawyer for the petrochemical industry on Thursday to a key post at the Environmental Protection Agency to oversee air pollution regulations affecting his former clients. William Wehrum was approved on a vote of 49 to 47 to serve as assistant administrator for air and radiation. He previously served as a regulator at EPA under President George W. Bush.

[The Energy 202: House GOP wants to water down tax breaks for wind energy. The Senate is unlikely to let it.](#) - When the House took its first pass at overhauling the tax code, it sent a chill through the swelling wind energy sector.

[Pennsylvania Coal Waste Plant's Air Permit Sufficient, EPA Says](#) - A Pennsylvania plant that processes coal mining waste doesn't need to have a proposed renewal of its air pollution permit reviewed again, the EPA said in rejecting objections from environmental groups.

[Repeal and Replace for the Power Industry](#) - In April, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) promised to repeal and replace the Steam Electric Power Effluent Limitation Guidelines (ELG).

[Addressing FGD Wastewater Limitations](#) - A considerable amount of research and testing is underway to identify viable thermal evaporative solutions for treating challenging FGD wastewaters as part of compliance with the EPA's new ELGs.

[Senate approves two Trump FERC nominees](#) - The Senate on Thursday afternoon approved the nominations of Kevin McIntyre and Richard Glick to serve on the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

[Pruitt Bars Some Scientists From Advising E.P.A.](#) - Scott Pruitt, the head of the Environmental Protection Agency, stripped a half-dozen scientists and academics of advisory positions Tuesday and issued new rules barring anyone who receives E.P.A. grant money from serving on panels that counsel the agency on scientific decisions.

[Proposed Tax Bill to Extend \\$6 Billion Nuclear Credit, Trim Wind Credit](#) - Among the proposals within the tax overhaul bill put forth by House Republicans are a \$6 billion nuclear credit and a reduction in the wind energy production tax credit, Bloomberg reported.

LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY ISSUES: STATE

[U.S. judge blocks Pa. from immediately seizing \\$200M from insurer to balance state budget](#) - A federal judge has, at least temporarily, blocked Gov. Tom Wolf and the Legislature from forcibly siphoning \$200 million from a quasi-state agency to help balance Pennsylvania's cash-starved budget.

[Pa. Senate restores PUC to full strength, to face a full pipeline of issues](#) - The Pennsylvania Senate has unanimously confirmed Gov. Wolf's appointment of Norman Kennard, 65, a veteran Dauphin County utility lawyer, to fill a vacancy on the five-member Public Utility Commission.

[Pennsylvania Blocks Credits for Out-of-State Solar Power](#) - Pennsylvania Governor Tom Wolf praised a new law that prevents out-of-state solar power generation from qualifying for renewable energy credits.

[Pa. House bill aims to modernize utility rates for a greener grid](#) - Innovations in the way energy is generated, transmitted and used in Pennsylvania haven't always led to innovations in the way energy is paid for.

[State authority approves borrowing against Pennsylvania tobacco settlement funds](#) - Pennsylvania's Commonwealth Financing Authority put its stamp of approval Tuesday on a big and controversial patch to the state's deficit-ridden \$32.0 billion budget.

[Pa. House Speaker Mike Turzai confirms run against Gov. Tom Wolf](#) - House Speaker Mike Turzai, known for his conservative views and zest for battle with the Democratic administration, has joined the race for governor.

[AG Shapiro, DEP Request A Public Hearing On Proposed Repeal Of EPA Clean Power Climate Plan](#) - Attorney General Josh Shapiro and DEP Secretary Patrick McDonnell Tuesday formally wrote to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to request a public hearing on the proposed repeal of EPA's Clean Power Climate Plan.

[2018 Pa. governor's race: It's early but this much we know about the candidates](#) - With the 2017 elections now behind us, attention quickly turns to next year's gubernatorial race that will feature a field of at least three GOP candidates in the hunt to send Democratic incumbent Gov. Tom Wolf packing after a single four-year term.

[With off-year elections behind us, it's game-on for Pennsylvania politics](#) - As the 2017 municipal elections draw to a close, we can officially flip the Pennsylvania political calendar to 2018. Not sure how much attention you paid to this fall's campaigns. But it's going to be hard to miss the next set.

[One-third of the way through the fiscal year, Pennsylvania is almost on track with revenue estimates](#) - Now that Pennsylvania's \$32.0 billion general fund budget has been built, it's time to pay attention to whether we're keeping to it.

[State Rep. Marc Gergely submits resignation in advance of sentencing](#) - State Rep. Marc Gergely will resign from his House seat next week while he awaits sentencing in connection with an illegal gambling ring.

[Pennsylvania task force pushes for better watershed education in schools](#) - Which of the seven watersheds that cover parts of Westmoreland or Allegheny counties do you live in, and what can you do to protect it? The Department of Environmental Protection hopes students will learn the answers to those questions as part of a new initiative paid for by a \$300,000 federal grant.

[Wolf Administration Invites Pennsylvania's Environmental Stewards to Apply for 2018 Governor's Awards for Environmental Excellence](#) - The Wolf Administration invites all Pennsylvanians who've recently worked on successful environmental projects to apply for the state's top environmental recognition: the 2018 Governor's Awards for Environmental Excellence, honoring individuals and organizations whose dedicated efforts have improved air, land, and water quality in Pennsylvania.