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ARIPPA PERIODIC MEDIA NEWS – 2-1-17

[U.S. Electric Markets in Transition](#) - The U.S. market for electricity is trifurcated. More than half the country is served by competitive generators bidding against each other in wholesale markets.

[Underground fires, toxins in unfunded cleanup of old mines](#) - An underground coal mine fire burns beneath a sprawling hillside in West Virginia, the pale, acrid smoke rising from gashes in the scarred, muddy earth only a stone's throw from some houses.

[EPCAMR project provides insight into wild trout in Laurel Run watershed](#) - For the past two years, members of the Eastern PA Coalition of Abandoned Mine Reclamation walked every waterway in the 3.18-square mile Laurel Run watershed, searching for trout, bugs and problems.

[Updated: Trump names LaFleur as acting chair of FERC](#) - President Donald Trump named Commissioner Cheryl LaFleur as acting chairman of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission today, replacing Commissioner Norman Bay as the agency's head.

[Snyder named Democratic chairman of bipartisan House Coal Caucus](#) - State Rep. Pam Snyder, D-Greene/Fayette/Washington, today said she has been named Democratic chairman of the Pennsylvania House Coal Caucus to support and advance the coal industry and its contributions to the state.

[In a sign of the changing times, Pennsylvania Legislature adds a Climate Change caucus](#) - A core group of Democratic lawmakers announced the formation Wednesday of the state Legislature's first "Climate Change" caucus.

[Wyoming proposal would require utilities to use fossil fuels](#) - A group of Wyoming lawmakers is bucking the U.S. trend of stricter renewable energy requirements with a plan to do the opposite: Fine utilities if they provide energy produced by wind or the sun.

[Watershed organizations receive grants](#) - Six Schuylkill County organizations involved in protecting and improving natural waterway areas were presented with grant awards prior to Tuesday's monthly meeting of the Schuylkill Conservation District.

[Deal ends 17-year legal fight over reclamation of abandoned Pa. coal mines](#) - A 17-year legal battle to protect Pennsylvania's environment ended quietly in federal court this week.

[Pa. coal plants pressured to curb air pollution](#) - Downwind states that blame pollution drifting in from Pennsylvania for harming their air quality are putting pressure on the commonwealth's coal-fired power plants to curb smog-forming emissions, even as new state and federal rules to alleviate that pollution take effect.

[Congress may trash Obama rules to protect streams](#) - On the eve of Donald Trump's inauguration, coal mining regulations painstakingly constructed over most of Barack Obama's presidency are set to become law.

[Scott Wagner visits Schuylkill County to announce bid for governor](#) - "It's time to get rid of the Wolf" was the message of state Sen. Scott Wagner during his announcement of running for state governor during his visit to Schuylkill County on Wednesday afternoon.

[A judge's lesson: EPA rebuke long deserved](#) - In a fitting rebuke of the Obama administration's EPA, a federal judge has ruled that the agency is compelled to obey the law, not choose which laws it obeys.

[Casey proposes new programs for struggling towns](#) - U.S. Sen. Bob Casey plans to introduce bills aimed at helping communities stricken by large job losses and high poverty rates.

[Commonwealth Court ruling limits pollution fines after spills into streams, groundwater](#) - Fines for spills into state streams and groundwater must be based on how long the initial release lasts and not on how many days the pollution lingers, Pennsylvania's Commonwealth Court ruled Wednesday in a decision that upends state environmental regulators' longstanding practice for calculating penalties.

[Homer City power plant files for bankruptcy, will reorganize](#) - A massive coal-fired power plant in Homer City, Indiana County, is now in bankruptcy, its second reorganization effort in five years.

[Coal country eyes renaissance](#) - With the Trump administration just days away from taking the reins of power in Washington, coal country rightfully waits with great anticipation.

[Ryan Costello named to Energy and Commerce Committee](#) - Congressman Ryan Costello was appointed to the powerful House Energy and Commerce Committee this week.

[Vitali ousted from environmental resources committee](#) - Even before state Rep. Greg Vitali, D-166 of Haverford, went to Harrisburg, his passion was the environment. And that's not going to change now, Vitali said, even after he was passed over for a chairmanship on the state House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee in a move he said was linked to his outspokenness. But Democratic leaders say it's about using his skills in another area of need — state government.

[OSMRE grants to fund reclamation of abandoned coal mines](#) - The Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE) has announced the availability of the Fiscal Year 2017 Abandoned Mine Land (AML) Reclamation fund grants, which will provide nearly US\$181 million to states and tribes to reclaim abandoned coal mines.

[DEP Engineer Craig Burda Honored with National Award for Coal Refuse Reclamation](#) - Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) mining engineer Craig Burda was honored with a national award for his outstanding work in coal refuse reclamation by the U.S. Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE) at an event hosted by DEP on Wednesday, January 4, 2017.

[After busy political year, Pennsylvania looks ahead to 2017](#) - Pennsylvania found itself in the eye of the political storm this year, from contested primaries, through the Democratic convention in Philadelphia and into the fall, when it was anointed with battleground status. In 2017, not so much.

[Can Carbon Capture Technology Prosper Under Trump?](#) - Can one of the most promising — and troubled — technologies for fighting global warming survive during the administration of Donald J. Trump?