



2015 Chestnut Street, Camp Hill, PA 17011 Phone: (717) 763-7635, Fax: (717) 763-7455, Email: [office@arippa.org](mailto:office@arippa.org)

## ARIPPA PERIODIC MEDIA NEWS – 6-1-17

### CFB, COAL REFUSE, ENERGY INDUSTRY

[Mine reclamation support, coal controversial](#) - There are a number of controversial issues stemming from coal energy that continue to face Somerset and Cambria counties with piles of waste coal remaining on the landscape and a number of groups framing the debate as that of water pollution versus air pollution. The local problem will take center stage across the nation later this year with a major film set to air on television.

[Planned Three Mile Island closure raises stakes for saving nukes in Pa.](#) - Exelon Corp. said Tuesday was a “difficult day” as it announced plans to close its Three Mile Island nuclear power plant 15 years before its operating license expires unless Pennsylvania enacts subsidies to keep it afloat.

[Exelon announces TMI to close in 2019, unless policy reforms come](#) - Three Mile Island Generating Station will be retired early by Sept. 30, 2019, Exelon Corp. announced today, unless policy reforms occur in the meantime.

[Coal Country’s Power Plants Are Turning Away From Coal](#) - Coal is on the defensive in the nation’s power industry. Even in coal country.

[PJM Auction Signals Trouble for Nuclear, Coal, and Even Renewables](#) - Two nuclear plants owned by Exelon Corp. in Illinois and Pennsylvania failed to clear PJM Interconnection’s latest annual capacity auction, putting one of those financially crippled units at risk of early retirement. Meanwhile, procurements for solar, wind, and demand response fell dramatically compared to last year, and drastic price declines could roil the market for coal generators.

[Panelists discuss future of energy](#) - A panel discussion at Penn State Energy Days focused on the challenges and innovations of the future of energy.

[West Virginia groups see disease threat from surface mines](#) - West Virginia environmentalists on Tuesday urged a national committee examining the health risks from surface mining to look at rates of cancer, asthma and birth defects among people living near large-scale coal mines.

[More Solar Jobs Is A Curse, Not A Blessing](#) - Citing U.S. Department of Energy data, the New York Times recently reported that the solar industry employs far more Americans than wind or coal: 374,000 in solar versus 100,000 in wind and 160,000 in coal mining and coal-fired power generation.

[Overview of Coal Ash Disposal, Regulation and Beneficial Use](#) - According to the U.S. Energy Information Administration, the commonwealth of Pennsylvania is the largest generator of coal ash in the United States.

[As summer approaches, electric grid powers up to meet demand](#) - When people flip a switch in their homes this summer, they expect the lights to turn on. Keeping the lights on -- and monitoring and adjusting the power load of the larger electric grid for 65 million Americans in the mid-Atlantic region -- occurs in a nondescript building in the Philadelphia suburbs.

[Mine conference to show how Germany is saving mine-related marvels](#) - Germany is saving its coal mine-related engineering marvels unlike the United States where historic breakers and railroads are being destroyed. Those attending an upcoming mine land reclamation conference in Wilkes-Barre will get an up-close look at what Germany is doing, an effort that deepens the sadness in many people over the losses in the U.S.

[EPCAMR Provides Public Comments and Perspective to PA Department of Environmental Justice on Coalfield Issues](#) - One behalf of the Eastern PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation (EPCAMR), the EPCAMR Executive Director submitted public comments and our perspective within the coalfields of Northeastern and Northcentral PA, where many of our communities have been historically disenfranchised and to this day still are and don't have access to many opportunities to participate in direct decisions to make improvements to their local environment, rivers, streams, and abandoned mine lands that were previously impacted by abandoned mines.

[Want to know where all Pa.'s mines, streams and hazardous waste sites are? Now you can find out](#) - The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection has released a new public website loaded with maps of abandoned mine lands, air quality, hazardous waste sites, streams, and other data.

[Today's most productive energy workers are in coal and gas, not solar](#) - In an April 25 New York Times article ("Today's Energy Jobs Are in Solar, Not Coal") reporter Nadja Popovich wrote that "Last year, the solar industry employed many more Americans [373,807] than coal [160,119], while wind power topped 100,000 jobs."

[Does 'Fuel On Hand' Make Coal and Nuclear Power Plants More Valuable?](#) - On April 14, Energy Secretary Rick Perry sent a memo ordering a 60-day departmental study of whether federal policies favoring an unnamed competitor—evidently renewable electricity like solar and windpower—are constraining supposedly vital “base-load” plants (impliedly coal and nuclear), to the assumed detriment of grid reliability and resilience.

#### **LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY ISSUES: FEDERAL**

[Trump expected to withdraw from Paris climate deal](#) - President Donald Trump is planning to pull the United States out of the Paris climate change agreement, according to a White House official, in a move that is certain to infuriate America's allies across the globe and could destabilize the 2015 accord.

[Even as Wind Power Rises, It Falls Under a Political Cloud](#) - Wind farms, with their rapid geographic spread and technological advances, are reshaping the electric system, defying skepticism that they are steady or reliable enough to displace conventional power plants.

[Report: EPA has early draft of Clean Power Plan rollback](#) - An initial rulemaking draft to rescind the Clean Power Plan is now circulating at the Environmental Protection Agency and officials are developing an economic analysis of the Obama-era regulation, according to a report from E&E News.

[EPA remains top target with Trump administration proposing 31 percent budget cut](#) - Candidate Donald Trump vowed to get rid of the Environmental Protection Agency “in almost every form,” leaving only “little tidbits” intact. President Trump is making good on his promise to take a sledgehammer to the agency.

[Trump's budget expected to massively slash research on renewable energy — and 'clean coal'](#) - The Trump administration is expected to propose massive cuts to federal government research on wind and solar energy next week, according to current and former Energy Department officials familiar with budget discussions.

[Connecticut sues EPA over ozone pollution from York County power plant](#) - Brunner Island is at the center of a legal battle between the Environmental Protection Agency and two downwind states over emissions from the coal- and gas-fired plant in York County.

[Coal mining cleanups: hundreds of millions went to other uses, federal watchdog claims](#) - Obama-era federal bureaucrats who were supposed to oversee hundreds of millions of dollars of coal mining cleanups across the U.S. failed to do their jobs properly, while a large percentage of the money was used for other types of mining cleanups or “administrative expenses,” according to a Department of the Interior watchdog report.

[Trump Names Nominees for U.S. Energy Agency Crippled by a Missing Quorum](#) - President Donald Trump has chosen a longtime aide to Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell and a state utility regulator to serve on the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, bringing the agency one step closer to regaining its power to rule on natural gas pipelines and utility mergers.

[EPA chief: US needs coal to protect electric grid](#) - The head of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) argued Wednesday that using coal for electricity is necessary for the reliability of the electric grid.

**LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY ISSUES: STATE**

[DEP and 100 supporters urge high court to reverse limits on pollution fines](#) - Nearly 100 Pennsylvania elected officials, environmental groups and businesses signed on to legal briefs this week to support the Department of Environmental Protection in a state Supreme Court case that could severely restrict the maximum fines the state can issue for pollution to state waterways.

[McDonnell confirmed as DEP Secretary](#) - The state Senate unanimously approved the promotion of Acting Secretary of Environmental Protection Patrick McDonnell to Secretary of Environmental Protection.

[Pa. Gov. Wolf, 11 other governors, urge Trump in letter to stay in Paris pact](#) - Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Wolf was one of 12 Democratic governors signing a letter Wednesday afternoon urging President Trump not to pull out of the Paris Climate Agreement.