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ARIPPA PERIODIC MEDIA NEWS – 1-1-18

CFB, COAL REFUSE, ENERGY INDUSTRY

[Area coal fields could prove to be a gold mine](#) - A search of coal fields across the nation, including at Jeddo Coal outside Hazleton, is uncovering rare earth elements at levels that might be profitable to extract, the U.S. Department of Energy said in a news release.

[President Donald J. Trump Signs Executive Order To Break Nation's Dependence On Foreign Minerals and Strengthen Our National Security](#) - Today, President Donald J. Trump signed an Executive Order to reverse the decades-long trend of increasing dependence on foreign imports of critical minerals that are essential to American prosperity and national security.

[America's Deep Freeze Is Aiding Coal and Sending Power Surging](#) - The arctic blast that's turning the northern half of the U.S. into a giant icebox this week has been good news for oil and coal.

[Coal company downplays role in Trump pro-coal rule](#) - Coal mining giant Murray Energy Corp. slammed a trio of green groups Tuesday for saying that it played a central role in the writing of a Trump administration proposal to require higher payments for coal-fired power plants.

[NARUC Calls on FERC to Prioritize PURPA Reform](#) - The National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC) believes that the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) needs to fast-track reform of the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978 (PURPA), NARUC President John Betkoski III said in a December 18 letter to the commission.

[Groundbreaking Report: U.S. Reliant on China, Russia, Other Foreign Nations for Many Critical Minerals](#) - Today, the U.S. Department of the Interior and the U.S. Geological Survey released a report that detailed the extent to which the United States is fully, majorly, or partially dependent upon foreign competitors and even adversaries for our supply of "critical minerals."

['Clean coal' test facility planned for Wyoming](#) - Clean Coal Technologies Inc. expects to begin operating a test plant in northeast Wyoming by summer 2018, Associated Press reports.

[NERC Report: Natural Gas, Renewable Generation Will Offset Coal, Nuclear Closures](#) - A report released December 14 by the North American Electric Reliability Corp. (NERC) says power generation from natural gas-fired units and renewable sources such as solar and wind will provide enough electricity to offset the closures of U.S. coal-fired and nuclear power plants in the next decade.

[FE Assistant Secretary "Optimistic" About Coal, Technology Advances at Washington Coal Club Event](#) - Assistant Secretary for Fossil Energy Steven Winberg said today that because of the Trump Administration's energy policies, "We have reason to be optimistic about coal."

[Coal production slowing in Pennsylvania](#) - Coal production in Pennsylvania has slowed since the summer but remains above last year's figures, according to the Energy Information Administration's weekly coal production report.

[U.S. still needs electricity from coal and nuclear plants | Commentary](#) - The boom in natural gas production from shale has led to a widespread belief that the United States no longer needs nuclear and coal plants to meet the demand for electricity. That belief is wrong.

[Rick Perry agrees to work with Saudis on carbon-cutting coal technology](#) - Energy Secretary Rick Perry struck an agreement with Saudi Arabia on Monday to work on clean fossil fuel projects that had the support of the Obama administration.

LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY ISSUES: FEDERAL

[Lawmaker's SENSE bill heads to House](#) - U.S. Rep. Keith Rothfus' Satisfying Energy Needs and Saving the Environment Act is, once again, working its way through the House of Representatives.

[EPA takes first step toward replacing Obama's climate rules for coal plants](#) - President Trump's Environmental Protection Agency took the first step Monday toward proposing its own version of climate change regulations for coal-fired power plants.

[Revisiting the EPA Endangerment Finding](#) - Environmental Protection Agency administrator Scott Pruitt is mulling over how, or whether, to respond to demands from climate skeptics that he reexamine the science that obligates the EPA to issue costly carbon-emission regulations.

[EPA works to ease air pollution permitting process](#) - The Trump administration wants to ease the air pollution permitting process for certain power plants and manufacturers.

[McIntyre Takes FERC Chair; Wins Delay on NOPR](#) - Kevin McIntyre, sworn in as FERC chairman Thursday, will have a month to build support for his response to the Department of Energy's controversial proposal for coal and nuclear price supports.

[EPA to Hold More Hearings on Planned Clean Power Plan Repeal](#) - The Trump administration says it will hold three additional public hearings on its intention to nullify an Obama-era plan to ratchet down planet-warming carbon emissions.

[PA, States Sue EPA for Missing Ozone Deadline](#) - Pennsylvania is one of more than a dozen states suing the EPA for failing to enforce on an important air pollution regulation.

[Rescinding Clean Power Plan a Positive Step Toward Free Market for Electricity](#) - The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in early October announced it would rescind yet another signature Obama administration policy: the electricity regulation known as the Clean Power Plan (CPP).

[Cartwright bill would protect natural resources from climate change](#) - U.S. Rep. Matt Cartwright, D-Moosic, and U.S. Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse, D-Rhode Island, this week introduced a bill to protect the country's wildlife and natural resources from climate change.

[EPA chief says agency scientists are free to present their work publicly](#) - The Environmental Protection Agency will not block its scientists from freely discussing their work in public, Administrator Scott Pruitt promised lawmakers this week, in the wake of a recent incident in which researchers were barred from presenting findings on climate change at a conference.

LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY ISSUES: STATE

[Governor Wolf Approves Funding for Abandoned Mine Cleanup Projects in Western Pennsylvania](#) - Governor Tom Wolf announced today that cleanup of acid mine drainage (AMD) and contaminated land at three sites in western Pennsylvania communities will advance with funding through the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP).

[Pennsylvania, 7 other states suing EPA over upwind air pollution control](#) - The attorneys general in Pennsylvania and seven other Eastern Seaboard states are suing the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency over air pollution that blows in from upwind states.

[Pennsylvania could run rare surplus if assumptions hold](#) - For the first time in a while, Pennsylvania could end the fiscal year with a surplus — if several iffy revenue assumptions align perfectly.

[DEP Eyes New Land For Abandoned Mine Cleanup](#) - Environmental officials in Pennsylvania have long focused on cleaning up the most hazardous old mines, but they plan to start addressing other abandoned mining sites that pose fewer public health dangers.

[Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection names new head of regional office](#) - Ronald Schwartz is the new head of the Department of Environmental Protection's Southwest Region.

[Rating agency holds Pa.'s credit ranking steady with an iffy outlook](#) - After seeing Pennsylvania's credit rating got knocked down a notch in Standard & Poor's rankings in the fall, having another major credit rating hold the state's ranking steady at AA-minus on its general obligation bonds is a sigh of relief.