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## ARIPPA PERIODIC MEDIA NEWS – 7-1-18

### CFB, COAL REFUSE, ENERGY INDUSTRY

[Grid Reliability and Resilience Pricing: FERC's Rulemaking and How Our Energy Markets Are Responding](#) - As anyone who has not been on Mars knows, last year, U.S. Secretary of Energy Rick Perry petitioned the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to craft policies to provide for “resilience” in our generation resource mix.

[Amid national debate over grid security, NERC says reliability is improving](#) - The North American Electric Reliability Corp. (NERC) released its State of Reliability 2018 report on Thursday, concluding grid resilience is improving in spite of natural disasters and growing cybersecurity threats.

[PJM: Capacity Performance rules improved generator results, though less for coal and oil](#) - PJM Interconnection has completed the first assessment of its new Capacity Performance (CP) generator standards, concluding that the enhanced payments and penalties did spur widespread improvements in generator performance — though not for coal and oil units.

[Six Glaring Interventions in Competitive Markets — Beyond the Trump Plan](#) - The Trump administration's attempt to prop up uneconomic “fuel secure” generators in competitive markets is just the latest in a string of recent “extra-market” interventions that experts said imperil independent organized markets for electricity.

[In-depth: BP's global data for 2017 shows record highs for coal and renewables](#) - Renewable energy grew by the largest amount ever last year, while coal-fired electricity also reached a record high, according to new global data from oil giant BP.

[Analysts: Coal Generation Will Plummet More Than 70%](#) - About half the world's power will be generated by wind and solar resources by 2050. Generation from coal will drop more than 70% from today's levels. That's according to research from energy analysts published June 19 in the “New Energy Outlook 2018” (NEO) from Bloomberg New Energy Finance (BNEF).

[Nuclear power shutdowns could cut energy prices, increase air pollution: Penn State, TMI weigh in](#) - As the shutdown of Three Mile Island seems imminent, researchers at Penn State released a study indicating that, despite the economic woes this could mean for some in the community, power prices will remain steady.

[Federal Office Of Surface Mining Provides Nearly \\$500,000 In Grants To Restore Watersheds In PA](#) - The Department of the Interior's Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement Wednesday announced it has awarded approximately \$1 million in cooperative agreements to nonprofit watershed restoration groups in Ohio, Pennsylvania and West Virginia.

[A Look at the True Cost of Renewable Energy](#) - If you spend any time on social media, you will be bombarded by messages that say “Renewables are the cheapest for of energy!” Is that the reality or only the common narrative?

[The Economic Contribution of Coal to the American Economy](#) - The U.S. coal industry is distressed, and the fate of U.S. coal mining regions and jobs – especially in Appalachia – figured prominently in the 2016 presidential election.

[More Groups Weigh-in on Trump Move to Save Coal, Nuclear—Including Supporters](#) - Few entities have expressed approval of the Trump administration's plan that includes a directive for system operators to buy or arrange purchase of energy or capacity from designated “fuel secure” power plants for two years until the Department of Energy (DOE) can address “grid security” challenges.

[Federal money could restart cleanup of abandoned Rostraver mine](#) - An influx of federal money could breathe life into a long-delayed project to reclaim and remediate the Banning No. 4 Mine in Rostraver Township.

[Methane leaks offset much of the climate change benefits of natural gas, study says](#) - The U.S. oil and gas industry emits 13 million metric tons of methane from its operations each year — nearly 60 percent more than current estimates and enough to offset much of the climate benefits of burning natural gas instead of coal, according to a study published Thursday in the journal Science.

[The Paris agreement's emissions goals may be in trouble, with or without U.S. participation](#) - Last June, President Trump announced that the United States would withdraw from the 2015 Paris agreement on climate change. How are the Paris goals looking, a year later?

[The Chesapeake Bay hasn't been this healthy in 33 years, scientists say](#) - For the first time in the 33 years that scientists have assessed the health of the Chesapeake Bay, the nation's largest estuary showed improvement in every region, a likely sign that a massive federal cleanup plan is working.

[Pennsylvania Coal Plant Saves on Required Maintenance Upgrades and Operating Costs by Implementing SUEZ's Mobile Water Solutions with Insight\\*](#) - Seeking to reduce its operating costs and environmental footprint, the Conemaugh Generating Station in New Florence, Pennsylvania, utilizes SUEZ's mobile water solutions to produce boiler feedwater.

[Homer City company expands to assist oil, gas industries](#) - What was once a small part of Chemstream's headquarters on Railroad Street has been expanded into a much larger state-of-the-art laboratory in the past year.

[Tapping a 'coaled' one: Ebensburg brewery celebrates mining heritage](#) - What started as a weekend hobby has turned into a new business venture for Ebensburg native Mike Kutchman.

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

[Republican FERC commissioner Robert Powelson to resign amid fight over coal bailout](#) - Robert Powelson, a Republican member of the Federal Regulatory Commission, announced Thursday he is resigning effective in mid-August.

[Perry stays vague on DOE's coal and nuclear bailout progress](#) - Energy Secretary Rick Perry on Monday said he wasn't ready to share a timetable or details for how he would follow President Donald Trump's directive to head off nuclear and coal plant closures.

[Why Trump is going national with bid to save coal, nuclear](#) - President Trump is going national with his latest bid to save money-losing coal and nuclear plants.

[Pruitt seeks to limit EPA's authority to block water pollution permits](#) - Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) head Scott Pruitt is planning to limit the agency's authority to block permits for activities that could pollute or harm waterways.

[Contradicting Trump, regulators see no power-grid emergency to justify a coal bailout](#) - Federal regulators on Tuesday disputed the Trump administration's claim that struggles facing the coal and nuclear industries threaten the reliability of the nation's power grid.

[Cartwright calls for urgent action to replenish Black Lung Trust Fund](#) - U.S. Rep. Matt Cartwright said "a dire report" released last week shows the Black Lung Trust Fund could face possible deficits of \$15 billion by 2050.

[EPA to deny Maryland, Delaware petitions against emissions](#) - The Environmental Protection Agency said Friday that it plans to deny Maryland and Delaware petitions seeking emissions reductions from power plants in five upwind states.

[The Energy 202: Kennedy's retirement could bring a seismic shift to environmental law](#) - Justice Anthony M. Kennedy's announcement that he will soon step down from the Supreme Court sent shock waves through Washington on Wednesday. Should President Trump and Senate Republicans succeed in replacing the swing-vote jurist with a stalwart conservative, the ideological shift could bring seismic changes to federal environmental policy.

[New Group, With Conservative Credentials, Plans Push for a Carbon Tax](#) - Proponents of a market-oriented plan to fight climate change by taxing greenhouse gas emissions and giving the revenue to American taxpayers are starting a campaign to run advertisements as early as this fall and introduce legislation in Congress as early as next year.

[Interior official: No 'specific' reason mountaintop removal study halted](#) - There's no apparent reason why a study on the health effects of mountaintop removal was halted last year, according to the Department of the Interior's deputy inspector general.

#### **LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY ISSUES: STATE**

[What will Pa.'s \\$32.7 billion budget buy?](#) - It's official. Pennsylvania, for the first time in four years, has its state budget done on time.

[Pa. House exits, leaving for fall decisions on several key bills](#) - The state House of Representatives acted more like it was the last day of school on Monday seemingly more focused on getting on with their summer than tackling some weighty government reform and criminal justice issues that were ripe for a vote.

[How SCOTUS ruling on labor unions in Janus vs. AFSCME could upend politics in Pennsylvania](#) - Pennsylvania's public-sector labor unions, which represent 6 percent of the state's workers and spend tens of millions of dollars on political campaigns annually, could be substantially handicapped by a blockbuster decision by the U.S. Supreme Court.

[Mine subsidence insurance, info available through new DEP website](#) - The state Department of Environmental Protection has launched a newly-revamped website to help homeowners identify the risks and insure their property from underground mine subsidence.

[Top Pa. Republicans appeal gerrymandering case to U.S. Supreme Court](#) - Pennsylvania's top two Republican lawmakers filed an appeal Thursday with the U.S. Supreme Court challenging a ruling that the state's congressional boundaries constituted a partisan gerrymander and ordered them redrawn.

[F&M poll shows it's Wolf's race to lose, but Wagner's spokesman calls that 'a joke'](#) - GOP gubernatorial candidate Scott Wagner appears to have his work cut out for him if he wants to defeat Gov. Tom Wolf's re-election bid on Nov. 6, according to the latest Franklin & Marshall College Poll.

[Will state take action to prevent closure of Three Mile Island? Some groups oppose nuclear 'bailout'](#) - As local officials hoping to save Three Mile Island warned policy-makers May 30 that "the clock is ticking," momentum could be building toward the state coming up with a solution to avert the planned shutdown of the nuclear power plant in Londonderry Township.

[U.S. Supreme Court punts on gerrymandering -- what does that mean for Pa.?](#) - The U.S. Supreme Court ducked the chance to rule on the issue of partisan gerrymandering Monday, returning two meaty cases to lower courts on narrow procedural grounds.

[DEP plans regional outreach events to address local concerns](#) - The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection seeks public input as it plans a series of customized community outreach sessions.

[Proposed permit fee increase in Pennsylvania not expected to slow drilling in state](#) - Industry and state leaders agreed that a plan by Pennsylvania regulators to more than double permit fees for unconventional wells would likely not put a damper on producers' plans to continue to drill and produce gas from the prolific Marcellus shale play.

[3 new state representatives sworn in to Pennsylvania House](#) - Three new members took seats Tuesday in the Pennsylvania House after winning special elections that kept the chamber's partisan balance at 121 Republicans and 82 Democrats.

[Pennsylvania Dems, GOP trade ethics complaints over Barletta, Casey ads](#) - Pennsylvania's state Democratic and Republican parties swapped official ethics complaints Monday, with each alleging the other party's U.S. Senate nominee improperly used footage from speeches in Congress to promote their campaigns.