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ARIPPA PERIODIC MEDIA NEWS – 8-1-18

(News clips from the previous month)

CFB, COAL REFUSE, ENERGY INDUSTRY

[States say FERC overstepped its bounds in PJM capacity market order](#) - A broad group of state governments, market participants and environmental advocates on Monday asked the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to revisit a June order reshaping the PJM Interconnection capacity market, writing that the ruling overstepped the commission's jurisdiction and would hamper state clean energy policies.

[PJM CEO: Grid operator will respond to FERC capacity market order within 60 days](#) - The PJM Interconnection will respond within 60 days to a landmark order from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission finding its capacity market unjust and suggesting major changes, CEO Andy Ott told Utility Dive.

[Our Work's Not Done: Mining States Push For Reauthorization Of Federal Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fee](#) - Pennsylvania and Wyoming recently unveiled a new Our Work's Not Done website to help educate lawmakers and the public about the abandoned reclamation challenge across the United States and the urgent need to reauthorize the federal Abandoned Mine Reclamation fee.

[Why some Pa. streams and rivers are orange: the legacy of abandoned mines](#) - Two miles from where it empties into the Susquehanna River, Solomon Creek is met by an unnamed tributary.

[Matthew Kandrach | Coal retirements could be devastating for grid resiliency and consumer costs](#) - There is growing alarm over the loss of America's baseload sources of electricity. Coal and nuclear power plants are being pushed off the grid by a three-headed monster of heavily-subsidized renewable energy, the legacy effects of overzealous regulation and a glut of natural gas.

[Using coal waste to create sustainable concrete](#) - Washington State University researchers have created a sustainable alternative to traditional concrete using coal fly ash, a waste product of coal-based electricity generation.

[PE Exclusive: Coal gets Positive Vibes Worldwide in July](#) - The great Mark Twain passed away when the power grid was in its relative infancy, but one of his most popular quips could be justly paraphrased here. The death of coal is greatly exaggerated.

[Study: Trump's coal bailout could cost \\$17.2 billion per year](#) - President Trump's plan to save coal and nuclear power plants could cost a whopping \$17.2 billion per year, a new study funded by opponents of the bailout said Thursday.

[\\$4B a year is cheap if it saves coal plants, says coal group](#) - A coal group is arguing that spending \$4 billion each year to subsidize coal and nuclear plants is not that much for consumers to bear because it would create energy security and boost national security.

[Energy company fights to build America's first coal-to-diesel plant](#) - An American energy company plans to build a new kind of coal facility in Indiana that would use a little-known technology to convert coal to diesel fuel.

[Exelon bids \\$140 million on FirstEnergy's retail business](#) - FirstEnergy Solutions Corp., one of the bankrupt subsidiaries of Akron-based FirstEnergy Corp., has picked Exelon Generation Co. as a buyer for its retail business.

[Surging heat fuels power demand records in 3 US markets](#) - Multiple U.S. electricity markets reported record demand this week as higher temperatures pushed up power usage around the July 4 holiday.

[Despite renewables gains, gas leads new US generation](#) - Despite the rise of renewable energy and the struggles of older plants such as coal, the United States' energy infrastructure remains dominated by fossil fuels, according to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's (FERC) May infrastructure update.

[Report: 2017 fossil fuel energy consumption lowest since 1902](#) - Don't count out fossil fuels just yet — petroleum, natural gas and coal still dominate the nation's energy consumption, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration.

[U.S. nuclear industry faces collapse, experts warn](#) - The United States is on the verge of losing more than half of its low-carbon energy as the fight against climate change reaches a critical point — a reality the country hasn't fully grappled with.

[\\$2 billion spent to influence Congress on climate change, Drexel study finds](#) - Lobbyists spent more than \$2 billion trying to influence the U.S. Congress on climate change from 2000 to 2016, with fossil fuel industry groups outspending environmental groups 10 to one, according to a new study by a Drexel University professor.

LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY ISSUES: FEDERAL

[EPA under Pruitt slashed \\$350 million in regulations, 300,000 hours of red tape](#) - The Environmental Protection Agency under former Administrator Scott Pruitt led the administration's successful war on regulations, slashing enough to produce \$350 million in savings and eliminate 300,000 hours of paperwork.

[EPA: Chesapeake Bay cleanup effort is mostly on track](#) - Efforts to clean up the Chesapeake Bay are mostly on track, but challenges remain as farm manure and city stormwater continue to flow into the nation's largest estuary, the Environmental Protection Agency said Friday.

[Trump administration weakens coal ash rule](#) - The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on Tuesday issued a final rule weakening consumer protections related to coal ash management.

[Republicans Move to Kill Carbon Tax Before It Gains Steam](#) - A new, Republican-led effort to tax carbon dioxide emissions isn't likely to make it to a vote in the House of Representatives anytime soon -- but opponents aren't taking any chances.

[Exclusive: Powelson says no 'idle threat' to step down early from FERC](#) - Robert Powelson has no regrets about his time serving on the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission — or his decision to step down a year and a half before his term is up.

[Pruitt departure could boost Trump deregulatory agenda at EPA](#) - Scott Pruitt, the embattled administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, has resigned his post as the nation's top environmental regulator, President Trump announced Thursday on Twitter.

[Acting U.S. EPA administrator wants to 'depoliticize' environmental issues](#) - Andrew Wheeler, the acting U.S. Environmental Protection Agency administrator, seems intent on setting a new tone for the embattled agency but not a new direction for the industry-friendly Trump administration.

[Days after Scott Pruitt resigned, several top aides are also calling it quits at EPA](#) - Several top aides to former Environmental Protection Agency administrator Scott Pruitt are leaving the agency, less than a week after Pruitt resigned his post amid a slew of inquiries into his spending and management practices.

[Trump replacement for Obama climate plan moves forward](#) - The Trump administration is advancing a proposal that would replace President Barack Obama's principal attempt to cut U.S. greenhouse gas emissions with a new rule expected to go easier on the ailing coal industry.

[Trump's chances of coal bailout get better with Powelson resignation](#) - The unexpected resignation of a U.S. energy regulator could slow approvals of new natural gas pipelines and tip the scales in favor of the Trump administration's bid to bail out uneconomic coal and nuclear plants.

[U.S. House Narrowly Votes To Restrict EPA Authority To Hold States Accountable For Chesapeake Bay Cleanup Obligations](#) - The U.S. House voted 213 to 202 to approve an amendment offered by Virginia Congressman Bob Goodlatte (R) to restrict the ability of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to hold states accountable for meeting their Chesapeake Bay cleanup obligations.

[Supreme Court Nominee Kavanaugh Could Reinterpret Environmental Law](#) - Judge Brett Kavanaugh is President Donald Trump's nominee for the U.S. Supreme Court to replace retiring Justice Anthony Kennedy.

[Lawmakers clash over future of coal](#) - Lawmakers clashed Tuesday at a hearing over "innovative and alternative" uses for coal energy.

LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY ISSUES: STATE

[What you need to know as Pa. politics heat up over energy sector subsidies](#) - In the Pennsylvania Capitol, the gas, nuclear and solar energy industries are seeking legislative and administrative support for taxpayer or ratepayer financial aid.

[Pennsylvania draft plan calls for 11 GW in-state solar](#) - The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) on Tuesday published a draft plan to expand in-state solar resources, with a goal of supplying 10% of the state's electric retail sales by 2030.

[Poll shows Conor Lamb with double-digit lead over Keith Rothfus](#) - Democrat Conor Lamb holds a double-digit lead over Republican Keith Rothfus in the race for the newly drawn 17th Congressional District northwest of Pittsburgh, according to a new Monmouth University poll.

[DEP appoints 'environmental justice' director](#) - Allison Acevedo of Philadelphia, a former strategic planning consultant and U.S. Labor Department attorney, has been appointed as the DEP's director of environmental justice, working to ensure communication with lower-income communities that do not always have a voice in environmental issues.

[Environmental groups sue Allegheny County over use of clean air funds for building renovations](#) - Two environmental organizations have sued Allegheny County over its health department's plans to use more than \$10 million from the Clean Air Fund and Title V Fund on a project to renovate its office space in Lawrenceville.

[Matzie bill could require coal plants to remediate land before closure](#) - State Rep. Rob Matzie intends on introducing new legislation that would require coal plant operators to remediate their facilities and surrounding areas before being granted permission to close.

[Pennsylvania's reserves up, finances stable, governor says](#) - Gov. Tom Wolf and Treasurer Joe Torsella say Pennsylvania state government's improving fiscal stability means it shouldn't need a short-term liquidity loan in the just-started fiscal year.

[Tax plans change as Wolf seeks re-election](#) - Gone is the governor who had ambitious plans to overhaul Pennsylvania's tax structure and pump billions more into the state treasury to fix deficits and public school funding disparities.

[Pa. avoids 'nuclear option' that would have cut 200,000 stocked trout](#) - For the time being, Pennsylvania anglers won't have to worry about a decrease in trout stocking.