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ARIPPA PERIODIC MEDIA NEWS – 9-1-18

(News clips from the previous month)

CFB, COAL REFUSE, ENERGY INDUSTRY

[Vistra Energy to close small waste coal plant in PJM](#) - Vistra Energy on Friday announced it would close a 51 MW waste coal power plant in McAdoo, Pa., because the plant is uneconomic and its financial outlook is negative.

[FirstEnergy Throws in the Towel on Coal Plants](#) - FirstEnergy Solutions Corp. (FES) notified PJM Interconnection, the regional transmission organization (RTO), of its plans to deactivate four fossil-fuel generating plants in 2021 and 2022.

[U.S. EIA: Pennsylvania To Add 5.2 Gigawatts Of Natural Gas-Fired Electric Generating Capacity In 2018](#) - The U.S. Energy Information Administration Monday reported it expects 32 gigawatts of new electric generating capacity to come online in the U.S. in 2018-- 21 gigawatts of natural gas-fired generation (5.2 GW in Pennsylvania alone), 5 gigawatts of wind and 4 gigawatts of solar.

[Group threatens lawsuit against Brunner Island, accusing plant of toxic pollutant leakage](#) - Four environmental groups have notified the owners of an area coal-fired power plant of their intent to sue over what they say are toxic pollutants leaking into the Susquehanna River.

[PJM issues hot weather alerts as peakload, prices jump](#) - The PJM Interconnection has issued a hot weather alert for early next week as temperatures are expected to reach into the mid-90s Fahrenheit, driving up power demand as much as 33.5% across the eastern and central US, according to notices posted Friday.

[Governors' coalition: FERC PJM capacity market order went too far](#) - The Governors' Wind & Solar Energy Coalition on Wednesday urged the US Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to abandon its plan to revamp the capacity market in PJM Interconnection to address the effects of state-subsidized energy resources, saying FERC is overstepping its authority.

[PJM Unveils Capacity Proposal](#) - If FERC hoped to receive a consensus proposal from PJM stakeholders on how to revise the RTO's capacity market, it may be disappointed.

[PJM, stakeholders discuss FTR liquidation options](#) - At a special meeting of the Markets & Reliability Committee on Aug. 10, PJM and stakeholders formally began discussions on options for potential liquidation of the FTR positions on which GreenHat Energy, LLC defaulted.

[PJM asks FERC to delay 2019 capacity market auction](#) - The PJM Interconnection asked the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission on Tuesday to allow it to delay its May 2019 capacity market auction if the commission cannot make a final decision on rules for the market by early January.

[California Assembly passes landmark 100% clean energy goal](#) - The California Assembly on Tuesday passed legislation that would set the state on a path to eliminate carbon emissions from its electricity generation.

[Are Existing Coal-Fired Power Plants Less Expensive Than New Gas, Wind or Solar?](#) - Almost 40 percent of the nation's coal fleet has retired or announced plans to retire. Does it make sense to continue retiring even more coal-fired power plants? There are different ways to answer this question.

[FirstEnergy Takes Next Step In Deactivation Of Its 3 Nuclear Power Plants](#) - FirstEnergy Solutions Inc. Wednesday announced it has taken its latest step in the regulatory process leading to the deactivation of its three nuclear power plants beginning in 2020.

[PJM's Phillips Appointed to U.S. DOE Advisory Committee](#) - PJM Interconnection's Darlene J. Phillips, director – strategic policy and external affairs, has been appointed to the U.S. Department of Energy's Electricity Advisory Committee by Secretary of Energy Rick Perry.

[Study: Cheaper to keep power plants open](#) - The cost of prematurely closing struggling coal-fired power plants “vastly outweighs” what it would cost to keep those plants open, according to a recently published study.

[Trump's Making U.S. Coal Exports the Greatest They've Ever Been](#) - U.S. exports of coal used by power stations are set to hit a record this year on increased global demand for the nation’s high-energy-content fuel.

[Help Cleanup Centralia! 5th Annual Cleanup Day: October 20, 2018](#) - Help cleanup Centralia, Pennsylvania—either by volunteering time, making a donation, or becoming a financial sponsor!

[South Korean Plant Finds Flexibility with Advanced CFB Technology](#) - Coal-fired power plant operators have battled many challenges in recent years. The financial struggles of coal plants have been well-documented; expenditures for technology to lower emissions in the face of more-stringent environmental regulations are just one of the issues plant owners have been forced to consider when deciding what equipment to upgrade.

[Dry Fork: A Model of Modern U.S. Coal Power](#) - The next time someone describes U.S. coal power as a pollution-belching, resource-sucking energy source, politely direct their attention to Dry Fork Station, a 420-MW single-unit plant located seven miles north of Gillette, Wyoming, owned by consumer-owned Basin Electric Power Cooperative (92.9%) and wholesale electricity provider Wyoming Municipal Power Agency (7.1%).

[PJM Still Sees Hurdles for Including Summer DR](#) - PJM would have to implement programs adhering to specific rules and strict oversight in order to include summer demand reductions in its load forecasts, stakeholders learned last week.

[Coal miners' union picks fiery president to serve 6th term](#) - The United Mine Workers of America has elected Cecil Roberts to a sixth term as head of the coal miner's union.

[What is 'Resilience', and Do We Need It?](#) - U.S. Secretary of Energy Rick Perry last year petitioned the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to craft policies to provide for “resilience” in the nation’s generation resource mix. He wrote that ensuring a reliable and resilient electric supply and corresponding supply chain are vital to national security.

[Solar growth continues in US, though EIA trims its 2019 forecast 45%](#) - Although solar generates less electricity than wind power, it is growing faster, according to the latest Short Term Energy Outlook (STEO), released Tuesday by the Department of Energy's Energy Information Administration (EIA).

LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY ISSUES: FEDERAL

[EPA will open MATS rule for review despite utility objections](#) - The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will reconsider the justification behind the Mercury and Air Toxics Standards (MATS), a major Obama-era air regulation responsible for the closure of scores of coal power plants.

[EPA Proposes "Affordable Clean Energy Rule" To Replace Clean Power Plan](#) - The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Tuesday proposed a new rule to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from existing coal-fired electric utility generating units and power plants across the country.

[EPA claims replacement for Obama coal rule would save \\$400 million annually, reduce carbon pollution](#) - The Trump administration officially rolled out its replacement for the Clean Power Plan, former President Barack Obama’s signature initiative to combat climate change, with claims that the revision would save money while also slightly reducing carbon dioxide pollution.

[Court ruling a setback for EPA efforts to undermine coal ash rule](#) - The U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit on Tuesday sided with conservationists who said Obama-era rules governing coal ash storage did not go far enough to protect the public, while rejecting industry claims that the rule went too far.

[Dems question FERC over chief of staff role in coal, nuke bailout](#) - Two prominent Congressional Democrats asked the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission on Wednesday for an explanation for statements made recently by its chief of staff, Anthony Pugliese, saying they "call into question the impartiality and independence of the Commission."

[Conservatives warn endangerment finding fight is 'still alive'](#) - Conservatives yesterday hailed the Trump administration's Clean Power Plan replacement as a return to federalism, but some warned the fight to eviscerate the endangerment finding is still a hot topic.

[Federal judge reverses Trump decision on clean water protections](#) - A federal court has reversed a Trump Administration decision regarding protections of small waterways. The move marks a victory for environmentalists fighting deregulation.

[The Trump administration keeps losing environmental court cases](#) - It turns out that unraveling Barack Obama's environmental agenda is harder than it looks. Federal judges have ruled against the Trump administration three times in the last three days, arguing that the administration short-circuited the regulatory process in its push to reverse policies on water protections, chemical plant safety operations and the controversial Keystone XL pipeline.

[Report: FERC working with White House, NSC on coal and nuclear bailout](#) - The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission is working with the White House, Department of Energy and the National Security Council to identify power plants that are critical to the grid, FERC Chief of Staff Anthony Pugliese told a nuclear conference this week, according to E&E News.

[Report: Trump to nominate DOE policy head McNamee to FERC](#) - President Trump will nominate Bernard McNamee, head of the Department of Energy's Office of Policy, to fill a vacancy on the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission set to open this Friday, Politico reports.

[White House counts on Kavanaugh in battle against 'administrative state'](#) - The White House did not mince words when it introduced Judge Brett M. Kavanaugh to business and industry leaders on the occasion of his nomination to the Supreme Court this summer.

[Technology is the answer for coal problems, says DOE's Steve Winberg](#) - Steven Winberg, assistant secretary for fossil energy at the U.S. Department of Energy, says the country is at a crossroads.

[Congress On Track To Pass RECLAIM Initiative To Clean Up Abandoned Mines, Create Jobs](#) - John Dawes, executive director of the Foundation for Pennsylvania Watersheds Monday said he is heartened by Congress' support for funding for a federal program that supports cleanup project in coal communities.

[EPA Will Not Revisit Obama-Era NAAQS for Ozone](#) - The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) does not intend to revisit national ambient air quality standards (NAAQS) for ozone that the Obama administration issued in 2015, a court filing shows.

[The Energy 202: Three takeaways from Andrew Wheeler's first hearing since leading the EPA](#) - If there's one thing that's clear, it's that lawmakers on both sides of the aisle are ready to put Scott Pruitt in the past.

LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY ISSUES: STATE

[Two roads diverging: Pennsylvania lawmakers rethink their renewables mandate](#) - Pennsylvania leaders have big choices to make about the state's energy and solar future that will impact its power sector for the next decade.

[Gov. Wolf Announces \\$1 Million Grant To Reopen Anthracite Coal Mine In Columbia County](#) - Gov. Tom Wolf Tuesday announced \$1 million in funding for a mine development project that will reengineer, reopen, and redevelop a large reserve of Mammoth anthracite coal in the Mount Carmel region of Columbia County.

[DEP Will Come Back To EQB With Proposal To Raise Water Quality Permit Fees By \\$8 Million Annually](#) - The Department of Environmental Protection Tuesday told the Environmental Quality Board it needs \$8 million a year in new revenue to provide sustainable funding to support Pennsylvania's water quality protection and permit programs and will be coming back to the Board with a specific fee increase proposal in the near future.

[Pennsylvania officials admit their state is behind in curbing Chesapeake pollution](#) - Pennsylvania officials on Tuesday conceded to Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan and other state leaders in the Chesapeake Bay watershed that the commonwealth has not done its part to reduce pollution washing into waterways.

[Gov. Wolf says 'no' to all but 1 debate, which will be hosted by Alex Trebek](#) - Democratic Gov. Tom Wolf is agreeing to participate in just one debate before the Nov. 6 election with his Republican rival Scott Wagner, an event to be moderated by "Jeopardy!" host Alex Trebek.

[Wolf Administration Announces Funding for Coal Cleaning Plant and Rail Line in Somerset County](#) - Today, Governor Tom Wolf announced new funding to construct a coal cleaning plant accessible by a new rail line in Shade Township, Somerset County.

[Pa. braces for impact as Three Mile Island nears closure](#) - With the clock ticking for nuclear plants around the country, the noise is especially loud here at Three Mile Island.

[In rarity for GOP, Fitzpatrick pushes for carbon tax to cut greenhouse gas emissions](#) - In a rare move for Republican lawmakers, U.S. Reps. Brian Fitzpatrick of Bucks County and Carlos Curbelo of Florida have teamed up to introduce a climate change bill — a big one.

[Embattled director of Fish and Boat Commission to retire](#) - In March the Pennsylvania Legislature tried to force John Arway, executive director of the state Fish and Boat Commission, out of the job he's held for eight years. On Tuesday, Mr. Arway solved the lawmakers' problem by announcing he will retire Nov. 2.

[Meeting The Challenge Of Keeping Pennsylvania Clean, Green And Growing](#) - Pennsylvania's original Growing Greener Program was signed into law as Act 68 in December, 1999 and next year it will celebrate its 20th anniversary.

[Dave Mankamyer Receives PA Abandoned Mine Reclamation Conference Mayfly Award](#) - At the recent Pennsylvania Abandoned Mine Reclamation Conference in State College, Dave Mankamyer, of Friedens, Somerset County, was recognized with the Conference's Mayfly Award, which is the highest honor bestowed by the event organizers.

[More GOP trouble in Pa.? Scott Perry's Congressional seat just went from 'likely' to 'lean' Republican](#) - If there's one thing that Pennsylvania Republicans have always been able to count on, it's that central Pennsylvania's 4th Congressional District has always been a GOP firewall against any surge of Democratic blue.

[Second political handicapper changes rating on Rothfus/Lamb race to 'leans Democratic'](#) - For the second time in less than three weeks, a political handicapper has shifted its rating on the 17th Congressional District race to "leans Democratic," giving more momentum to Democratic U.S. Rep. Conor Lamb's campaign to oust Republican U.S. Rep. Keith Rothfus.