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ARIPPA PERIODIC MEDIA NEWS – 10-1-18

(News clips from the previous month)

CFB, COAL REFUSE, ENERGY INDUSTRY

[Past, Present and Future of Anthracite Coal Industry to be Discussed at Public Roundtable in October](#) - The Joint Legislative Air and Water Pollution Control and Conservation Committee will be holding a public roundtable on Thursday, October 4, 2018 at 10 a.m. in Coaldale, Schuylkill County.

[PJM, stakeholders consider two dozen proposals for dealing with default FTR positions](#) - Stakeholders began working through about two dozen proposals on how to handle the liquidation of financial transmission rights from a member default at a special meeting of the Markets and Reliability Committee held Sept. 7.

[Clean energy groups outline principles for PJM capacity market reform](#) - A coalition of renewable energy, nuclear power and consumer advocacy groups on Wednesday released a set of principles they say should guide the rewrite of capacity market rules for the PJM Interconnection, the nation's largest wholesale power market.

[Three Mile Island: One group asks to save plant, another calls this a 'bailout'](#) - The potential closure of Three Mile Island is a year away, and one organization is asking lawmakers to pass legislation to save the plant, nuclear power and jobs.

[Reclamation work is key to future of mining areas](#) - The best way to reclaim abandoned mine land is to mine it again, says U.S. Rep. Lou Barletta.

[Appalachian coal mine waste could provide key ingredients for clean energy](#) - Researchers at state universities in the Southeast are closing in on whether one of the region's biggest liabilities – coal mine waste – might become a valuable asset by supplying rare earth elements needed for clean energy and other applications.

[Kimberly-Clark invests \\$150 million in Chester mill](#) - Kimberly Clark plans to invest \$150 million in its Chester site in transforming its co-generation power plant from a coal-fired one into one fueled by natural gas.

[Federal court again upholds state nuclear subsidies, this time in New York](#) - A federal appeals court on Thursday upheld nuclear energy subsidies put in place by New York, the second ruling in a month affirming states' ability to support clean energy resources.

[Nudged by FERC, federal appeals court upholds Illinois nuclear subsidies](#) - A federal appeals court on Thursday upheld nuclear energy subsidies put in place by Illinois, ruling they do not interfere with the federal government's jurisdiction over interstate power markets.

[Sunbury Generation plant will be torn down over the next two years](#) - The demolition of the coal-fired Sunbury Generation plant in Snyder County is scheduled to take two years.

[TVA not violating Clean Water Act at Gallatin coal ash pond, 6th Circuit rules](#) - A federal appeals court this week concluded that the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) is not violating the Clean Water Act (CWA) at its unlined Gallatin coal ash storage pond near the Cumberland River, but did say the pollutants leaking into groundwater are a "major environmental problem."

[Call For Papers For Joint 2019 PA Abandoned Mine Reclamation/ National Abandoned Mine Lands Program Conference](#) - The PA Abandoned Mine Reclamation Conference is partnering with the National Association of Abandoned Mine Lands Programs Conference to issue a call for papers to be presented at the combined 2019 conference. The deadline for proposals is May 10.

[Illinois: End PJM Capacity Market?](#) - Illinois regulators last week suggested PJM consider ending its capacity market if it continues supporting policies that the state believes discount its generation preferences.

[Recent weather shows grid resilience: US FERC member](#) - Members of the US Federal Energy Regulatory Commission on Thursday weighed in on the performance of the power grid during recent weather events, with Commissioner Richard Glick arguing that Hurricane Florence showed the power system's resilience during extreme weather.

[CO2 Emissions Decreased in 2017 for Energy-Related Sources](#) - According to the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA), U.S. energy-related carbon dioxide emissions declined from 2016 levels, mainly due to decreasing coal emissions.

[PJM continues trying to untangle subsidized resources from its capacity market](#) - As PJM Interconnection prepares to file tariff revisions with federal regulators regarding changes to its capacity market structure designed to address subsidized resources, stakeholders Tuesday discussed PJM's plan, along with how to handle New Jersey's recently enacted nuclear subsidy law.

[FERC, NERC open inquiry into winter load event that stressed Midwest grids](#) - The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) has opened a joint inquiry with the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) into a cold weather event that brought Midwest power systems to the brink this January.

[Coal is the most-used electricity generation source in 18 states; natural gas in 16](#) - Electricity generators that use fossil fuels continue to be the most common sources of electricity generation in most states. In all but 15 states, coal, natural gas, or petroleum liquids were the most-used electricity generation fuel in 2017.

[Report: 10% of U.S. Coal Mined in 1H2018 Went to Plants Scheduled to Retire](#) - More than 10% of the coal mined from eight U.S. regions in the first half of 2018 was sent to coal plants scheduled for retirement between this year and 2032, according to a report from S&P Global Market Intelligence.

[Coal can offer clean, affordable energy](#) - The Environmental Protection Agency's proposed regulation to replace the prior administration's Clean Power Plan with the Affordable Clean Energy rule is another step in the right direction for federal regulatory reform.

[Trump power plan unlikely to make case for coal, utilities say](#) - After years of shying away from building new coal-fired generation, U.S. electric utilities remain cautious about investing in their existing coal fleets, despite the Trump administration's proposal to roll back Obama-era restrictions on carbon dioxide emissions.

[The Energy 202: Environmental groups plan to spend more money than ever on 2018 campaigns](#) - Fervor against President Trump and his push for the use of fossil fuels is fueling a fundraising surge among environmental organizations.

[Coal closings may undermine FirstEnergy's attempt to shift plant to bankrupt subsidiary](#) - It remains unclear whether a West Virginia coal plant would add value to FirstEnergy Solutions.

[Major Pa. anthracite coal mine project to be financed by \\$1 million grant](#) - Coal could be coming out of the ground as early as next month at what is described as the largest current development in the commonwealth's anthracite region.

[Slew of environmental lawsuits aren't about climate change, they're about attacking energy companies](#) - Congress passed the 1978 Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act to prosecute mob crimes, not to silence critics of government policy. But that's exactly what academic figures with George Mason University in Virginia proposed to do just a few years ago.

[DEP wants more testing before declaring that Jeansville mine fire is out](#) - The contractor hired to excavate and extinguish the Jeansville Mine Fire in the Hazleton area says the fire is out. But the Department of Environmental Protection says not so fast.

[Judge approves \\$850M FirstEnergy payment to bankrupt generation subsidiary](#) - A U.S. bankruptcy court judge in Ohio approved a settlement between FirstEnergy and its bankrupt unregulated generation subsidiary FirstEnergy Solutions (FES), resolving disputes between FES and its parent company.

[The Most Ambitious Climate Plan In History](#) - At the 2015 Paris Climate Conference, the United States committed to reduce its net greenhouse gas emissions by 26% to 28% below 2005 levels by 2025.

[California gov. signs 100 percent renewable energy bill](#) - California Gov. Jerry Brown has signed legislation that moves the biggest state in the nation, economically speaking, toward 100 percent renewable energy on a 27-year time table.

LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY ISSUES: FEDERAL

[Trump Administration Prepares a Major Weakening of Mercury Emissions Rules](#) - The Trump administration has completed a detailed legal proposal to dramatically weaken a major environmental regulation covering mercury, a toxic chemical emitted from coal-burning power plants, according to a person who has seen the document but is not authorized to speak publicly about it.

[Chief of US grid watchdog says he's not involved with Trump's coal bailout](#) - Jim Robb, the president and CEO of the nation's grid watchdog, the North American Electric Reliability Corporation, said Thursday it has no role in the Trump administration's effort to subsidize coal and nuclear plants, and has not been approached about providing advice about it.

[Wehrum outlines playbook for Obama rule rollbacks](#) - EPA is poised to move ahead as early as next week with a formal proposal to reconsider its 2012 power plant mercury rule, according to agency air chief Bill Wehrum.

[The Energy 202: North Carolina floods thrust Trump coal deregulation back into spotlight](#) - For nearly a half century, Duke Energy's L.V. Sutton power plant in North Carolina has stored a toxic substance called coal ash in a nearby basin. The byproduct left behind when coal is burned for energy is prone to leach into waterways -- and laced with arsenic, lead and mercury.

['It's déjà vu all over again' at Trump EPA](#) - On a chilly afternoon in February, EPA air chief Bill Wehrum sat down for lunch with two other former officials in the George W. Bush administration.

[Former FERC staffer calls on Pugliese to step down over emails lauding far-right politicians](#) - A former staffer for a Republican chairman of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) is calling for the agency's chief of staff to resign over reports that he tried to meet with right-wing British politician Nigel Farage and praised populist Italian Deputy Prime Minister Matteo Salvini.

[EPA denies Delaware, Maryland petitions on cross-state coal plant pollution](#) - The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) late Friday denied petitions from Delaware and Maryland asking it to address coal plant pollution from neighboring states that they said impedes their ability to meet clean air regulations.

[EPA to plan one hearing on coal rule](#) - The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) said it will hold one hearing on its proposal meant to reduce carbon dioxide emissions from coal-fired power plants.

[EPA lost more than 1,500 workers in first 18 months of Trump administration: report](#) - The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) reportedly lost 8 percent of its staff in the first 18 months of President Trump's administration due to high numbers of departing staffers and a low number of new hires.

[The Energy 202: Hurricane Florence blows hole in Trump team's case for helping coal and nuclear power, critics say](#) - Hurricane Florence has blown a hole in the Trump administration's argument that bolstering nuclear and coal-fired power is essential to providing reliable electricity to homes and businesses, especially during times of crisis, according to energy experts long critical of the plan.

[Trump nominee for mine regulator withdraws](#) - President Trump's nominee to lead a mining industry regulator withdrew his name from consideration Thursday, citing frustration over the ethics review process.

[McIntyre Defends FERC Chief of Staff Pugliese](#) - FERC Chairman Kevin McIntyre has defended Chief of Staff Anthony Pugliese, saying his controversial remarks did not reflect commission policy or threaten its independence and impartiality.

[Ex-GOP FERC chair on coal bailout: 'This too shall pass'](#) - Former FERC Chairman Pat Wood III is tired of all the talk in Washington about bailing out coal and nuclear plants.

[OSM Approves Removing 11 Sites From Alternative Bonding System Abandoned Mine Sites Lists](#) - The Department of Environmental Protection published notice in the September 8 PA Bulletin listing sites the federal Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement has approved removing from the Alternative Bonding System Legacy Sites list.

[Several States Urge Federal Court to Rule on Clean Power Plan](#) - Seventeen states have asked the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit to reject the Trump administration's efforts to further delay the court's decision on legal challenges to the Clean Power Plan.

[Kavanaugh says he is 'not a skeptic of regulation'](#) - Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh defended his environmental record during confirmation hearings before the Senate Judiciary Committee on Wednesday, saying he had acted multiple times to uphold federal air regulations despite a skepticism for regulatory overreach.

[FERC lets PJM delay next capacity auction from May to August 2019](#) - The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission last Thursday accepted a request from grid operator PJM Interconnection to delay its next capacity market auction from May to Aug. 14-28, 2019, as it redesigns its market rules.

[Cartwright bill would eliminate coal royalty loophole](#) - U.S. Rep. Matt Cartwright says he has introduced a bill that would improve the economic vitality of coal communities hurt by the loss of coal jobs.

[THE BIG PICTURE: Trump's Regulatory Targets](#) - President Trump campaigned on a promise to reduce regulation and control regulatory costs. One of his first actions after taking office was to issue an executive order calling for the elimination of two existing regulations for every one new regulation issued. Toward that end, the Trump administration has acted or sought to reverse more than 70 environmental rules.

LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY ISSUES: STATE

[Lawmakers asked to take action on potential nuclear plant closures](#) - As Pennsylvania has become a prime oil and natural gas producing state thanks to the hydraulic fracturing process in recent years, it can be easy to forget that it's also home to several nuclear power plants generating massive amounts of electricity each year.

[National Republican group that pulled money from Pa. race says it still supports Keith Rothfus](#) - It stopped writing checks but the National Republican Campaign Committee hasn't written off Keith Rothfus.

[Shrinking size of Pa. state House takes a hit from lawmakers who demand a smaller Senate as well](#) - Lawmakers are opposed to shrinking the size of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives' may have found a way to kill that effort without actually having to vote against anything.

[The mid-term elections are on Nov. 6. Here are the key races in Pennsylvania.](#) - The last time Pennsylvanians went to the polls to vote in a general election, they helped put Donald Trump in the White House — making it the first time a Republican presidential candidate carried the state since 1988.

[Shift in Pa. water rules could put coal mines' treatment burden on drinking water suppliers](#) - Pennsylvania public water suppliers could face tens of millions of dollars in plant upgrades and treatment costs because of an obscure water quality rule change that was tucked into a state budget bill at the request of coal companies last year.

[DEP Citizens Advisory Council Names New Executive Director](#) - Today, Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Secretary Patrick McDonnell appointed Keith Salador to the position of Executive Director of DEP's Citizens Advisory Council.