



2015 Chestnut Street, Camp Hill, PA 17011 Phone: (717) 763-7635, Fax: (717) 763-7455, Email: office@arippa.org

ARIPPA PERIODIC MEDIA NEWS – 12-1-18

(News clips from the previous month)

CFB, COAL REFUSE, ENERGY INDUSTRY

[Roundtable focuses on coal, cogens' future](#) - Ensuring that cogeneration plants remain viable was one message industry leaders urged Oct. 4 at the Joint Legislative Air and Water Pollution Control and Conservation Committee public roundtable.

[Swoyersville residents learn more about waste coal removal project](#) - The future laid out at a meeting Wednesday night regarding a project to remove hundreds of thousands of tons of waste coal from a former mining site in Swoyersville looked promising: No more millions of tons of coal refuse piled high behind homes in the borough, a 7-acre parcel donated to the town and the possibility of future development.

[Eight Power Sector Takeaways from the Climate Report](#) - Despite increased resilience actions, extreme weather events due to climate change are projected to increasingly threaten the nation's energy infrastructure, and create fuel availability and demand imbalances, the Trump administration's sprawling climate report released on November 23 suggests.

[Higher than normal W.Va. natural gas, coal prices create excitement, but will it last?](#) - Natural gas prices recently hit their highest level in years, but the winter going forward will determine if those prices stay up and have possibly other effects on West Virginia's energy industries.

[Could High-Efficiency, Low-Emissions \(HELE\) Technology Revive U.S. Coal Power?](#) - A newly introduced Senate bill aims to make federal loan guarantees available for new high-efficiency, low-emissions (HELE) coal power plants in the U.S.

[NETL Repeats Doubts over PJM Bomb Cyclone Performance](#) - In the latest salvo in an ongoing statistical squabble, the National Energy Technology Laboratory last week accused PJM of providing misleading analysis of its resource availability during last winter's "bomb cyclone."

[Electric Power Show Ep. 2: PJM CEO Andy Ott says 'the game has changed'](#) - For PJM CEO Andy Ott, life used to be simpler. The wholesale market operated by PJM was formed in the late 1990s with a dual mandate: reliable delivery of power at the lowest reasonable price.

[Utility, Coal Interests at Odds as EPA Weighs Trading in Power Rule](#) - The Trump administration wants to save the coal industry, but it may have to disappoint the electric power and oil and gas industries to try to do it.

[PJM, states clash over market jurisdiction at NARUC conference](#) - The PJM Interconnection and its state members clashed at a regulatory conference Tuesday over who holds the ultimate jurisdictional authority to site power plants in the mid-Atlantic electricity market.

[PJM aims for middle in defense of capacity market plan at FERC](#) - PJM market participants presented wide-ranging criticism of a proposal from the grid operator to reform its capacity market rules in comments filed at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) this week.

[PJM Begins Campaign for 'Fuel Security' Payments](#) - PJM on Thursday began its campaign to compensate generators based on their "fuel security," releasing an eight-page summary of a study that showed the RTO could face outages under extreme winter weather, gas pipeline disruptions and "escalated" resource retirements.

[PJM Presents Fuel Security Study to Stakeholders](#) - As part of PJM Interconnection's ongoing initiative to assess the resilience of the electrical grid, PJM today released a summary of its study examining one critical element of grid resilience – fuel supply.

[PJM: Fuel Supply Resilience Is Sound—For Now](#) - Fuel delivery systems in PJM Interconnection's vast footprint can generally withstand an extended period of stress and remain reliable, though extreme scenarios could impact the grid, the nation's largest system operator concluded in a high-profile study.

[PJM CEO: Powering a resilient grid through competitive markets](#) - Federal action to protect specific power plants is not only unnecessary, PJM CEO Andy Ott writes, it would raise consumer costs and discourage investment in newer, more efficient technologies.

[Advanced Coal Technologies Improve Emissions and Efficiency](#) - New coal-fired generating plants are not showing up in the U.S. Elderly plants are retiring in large numbers. But other parts of the world continue to develop coal generation. Advances in combustion and emissions cleanup are part of the reason.

[Lazard: Renewables can challenge existing coal plants on price](#) - Average costs for wind and solar energy can undercut existing coal generation even without subsidies, according to analysis from the research firm Lazard.

[More protection: U.N. says Earth's ozone layer is healing](#) - Earth's protective ozone layer is finally healing from damage caused by aerosol sprays and coolants, a new United Nations report said.

[Young activists can sue government over climate change, Supreme Court says](#) - A group of young people can sue the federal government over its climate change policies, the Supreme Court said Friday. Since it was first filed in 2015, the government has requested several times that *Juliana v. United States* be dismissed.

LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY ISSUES: FEDERAL

[House lawmakers introduce first bipartisan carbon tax bill in a decade](#) - A small group of Democratic and Republican House lawmakers introduced Tuesday night the first bipartisan carbon tax legislation in nearly a decade as a way to combat climate change.

[The Energy 202: Trump's EPA chief said there was 'no political review' of climate report.](#) - By all accounts, the Trump administration took a hands-off approach in crafting a recent major climate report that outlined the dire economic effects to come from climate change in the United States.

[Perry again calls for US energy infrastructure plan, cites national security](#) - US Secretary of Energy Rick Perry on Thursday reiterated his arguments that energy infrastructure is critical to national security, echoing a theme that has percolated in the national debate about whether new measures are needed to prop up coal and nuclear power plants and promote natural gas pipeline projects.

[Senate committee advances FERC nominee McNamee despite 'unfortunate' comments](#) - The Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee voted 13-10 on Tuesday to advance the nomination of controversial Department of Energy official Bernard McNamee to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, setting up a vote from the full Senate.

[Trump plans to nominate Andrew Wheeler, former coal lobbyist, as EPA chief](#) - President Trump said Friday that he intends to nominate former industry lobbyist Andrew Wheeler as the Environmental Protection Agency's next administrator, a move that would ensure a continued deregulatory push at the agency.

[Trump: 'I don't believe' government climate report finding](#) - President Donald Trump on Monday rejected a central conclusion of a dire report on the economic costs of climate change released by his own administration.

[Government climate report warns of worsening U.S. disasters](#) - As California's catastrophic wildfires recede and people rebuild after two hurricanes, a massive new federal report warns that these types of extreme weather disasters are worsening in the United States. The White House report quietly issued Friday also frequently contradicts President Trump.

[Congress spent millions to revive coal country. Did it work?](#) - The black mountain disappears, day by day. People drive by on state Route 53, then call Ehrenfeld Mayor Ray Plummer about the newly green skyline above his tiny town lost in the hills of southwestern Pennsylvania and found on the banks of the Little Conemaugh River.

[Trump's FERC nominee to seek counsel if coal bailout plan returns](#) - U.S. President Donald Trump's nominee to join a key panel of independent energy regulators, who helped roll out a Department of Energy (DOE) directive to bail out aging coal and nuclear plants, told senators on Thursday he did not know if he would recuse himself if the issue reappears before the commission.

[Advancing the coal power plants of the future](#) - The US Department of Energy's (DOE) Office of Fossil Energy (FE) intends to fund competitive research and development efforts in FY 2019 that will advance first-of-a-kind coal generation technologies.

[New wave of Democratic attorneys general vow to fight Trump's energy agenda](#) - Democrats claimed a majority of state attorneys general offices in the midterm elections, a victory that will bolster an already aggressive effort by progressive lawyers to combat President Trump's deregulatory agenda, particularly his plans for energy policy.

[Trump says he's not firing Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, for now](#) - Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke and his boss, President Trump, moved Friday to tamp down talk that Zinke might be the next Trump administration official to go.

[Divided results: Democrats gain control of U.S. House](#) — but GOP expands Senate majority - Democrats gained control of the U.S. House on Tuesday night, winning a foothold on power in an election that served as a national referendum on President Trump and a test of the support that powered him to the White House.

[The Energy 202: Climate change initiatives were on the ballot. They didn't fare well.](#) - In their bid to help Democrats recapture the House on Tuesday, environmentalists emphasized what they called the Trump administration's failure to address the biggest environmental problem facing the world: climate change.

[EPA loosens air pollution permit requirements for some projects](#) - The Trump administration is implementing a policy meant to make it easier for facilities that produce air pollution to make changes without going through a complex permitting process.

[Affordable Clean Energy Rule: Industry Urges EPA To Provide More Guidance To States](#) - Comments filed by the October 31 deadline show that industry overwhelmingly supports EPA's proposed Affordable Clean Energy (ACE) rule.

[Chatterjee blasts Clean Power Plan, praises EPA replacement in filed comments](#) - Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Chairman Neil Chatterjee filed comments last week criticizing the Obama administration's proposed carbon regulations for the power sector and praising the White House's plan to replace them with a less stringent rule.

[Will EPA 'ACE' Its Attempt to Replace the Clean Power Plan? A Deeper Dive into EPA's Proposed Affordable Clean Energy Rule](#) - As we have previously reported, on August 21, 2018, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA") proposed to replace the Obama Administration's Clean Power Plan ("CPP") with the Affordable Clean Energy Rule (the "ACE Rule"). Comments on the proposed ACE Rule are due by October 30, 2018.

[Perry loves his job. That could change](#) - President Trump's fixation on reviving the coal industry could spell trouble for his energy chief if control of the House changes hands.

[Trump is keeping his promises to forgotten coal communities](#) - On inauguration day, President Donald J. Trump promised America that "the forgotten men and women of our country will be forgotten no longer." In few areas was that promise better fulfilled than for American coal miners.

[Fact Checking Seven Falsehoods in CNN's Report](#) - Yesterday, CNN published an erroneous report that blatantly mischaracterizes an August 31 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) memo, which continues technical engagement with state environmental agencies in implementing the more stringent 2015 national standard for ground-level ozone.

LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY ISSUES: STATE

[Pennsylvania's Bipartisan Nuclear Energy Caucus Releases Report Detailing Impacts of Losing the State's Nuclear Industry and Provides Options for Taking Action in 2019](#) - Senators Ryan Aument (R-36) and John Yudichak (D-14) along with Representatives Becky Corbin (R-155) and Rob Matzie (D-16), who co-chair the Pennsylvania General Assembly's bipartisan Nuclear Energy Caucus (NEC), today released the "Bicameral Nuclear Energy Caucus Report" detailing the nuclear energy industry's contributions to Pennsylvania's communities, economy, and environment.

[Immediate action needed to curb climate change, panel is told in Pittsburgh](#) - Much of the testimony Wednesday before the state Senate Democratic Policy Committee focused on the need at the state and local level to take immediate action to mitigate climate change by reducing carbon emissions.

[Climate petition calls on Pennsylvania to cut emissions through cap-and-trade system](#) - Pennsylvania environmental regulators have the legal authority and constitutional duty to place limits on greenhouse gas emissions, according to a petition filed Tuesday by dozens of groups including environmental organizations, legal scholars, religious groups, local governments, and citizens.

[Pa. Republican leaders slam Gov. Wolf's redistricting panel](#) - Top Republican leaders are bashing Gov. Tom Wolf over his new order to create a redistricting commission.

[DEP Awards \\$1.6 Million In Acid Mine Drainage Treatment Grants In Western PA](#) - On November 28, the Department of Environmental Protection awarded \$1.6 million to support 7 projects in Western Pennsylvania to treat acid mine drainage.

[DEP Unveils Recommended Strategies to Increase Solar Energy Development in Pennsylvania](#) - Pennsylvania could create over 100,000 jobs, decrease greenhouse gas emissions, and improve public health through increased reliance on solar energy, according to a plan developed by a statewide group of partners led by the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP).

[Wolf joins governors calling for unified, national power grid](#) - A bipartisan group of governors, including Pennsylvania's Tom Wolf, is calling on federal regulators to look at unifying the nation's power grids.

[Senate Republicans, Democrats Elect Same Teams For 2019-20 Leadership, Except One](#) - The Senate held leadership elections Wednesday with no changes in the Republican and Democratic line-ups, except one.

[State House leadership elections bring change to Harrisburg](#) - Republicans in the state House elevated Rep. Bryan Cutler to be floor leader Tuesday and made Rep. Kerry Benninghoff whip, while Democrats re-elected Minority Leader Frank Dermody and voted for Rep. Jordan Harris as whip.

[Wolf glides to victory over Wagner in governor's race](#) - Tom Wolf was re-elected governor on Tuesday, cruising to a second term over a Republican opponent who never managed to build a coherent case against the incumbent Democrat.

[Pa. House and Senate remain in Republican control despite Democratic gains](#) - The "blue wave" that saw Pennsylvania Democrats picking up seats in the U.S. House on Tuesday and winning statewide elections for governor and the U.S. Senate made a noticeably smaller splash in the General Assembly.

[Conservation Voters Of PA: 24 New Pro-Environment Candidates Elected In PA](#) - The Conservation Voters of PA Wednesday announced 24 new pro-environment leaders were elected in the state House and Senate during midterm elections Tuesday.

[Highlights of the state Legislature 2017-18 session: Many new laws passed, some work left undone](#) - Pennsylvania state lawmakers wrapped up their session this week with the election of caucus leaders and farewell speeches by departing colleagues, closing the book on two years that produced nearly 250 new laws.

[Independent Fiscal Office: State Faces Over \\$1.7 Billion Budget Deficit In FY 2019-20](#) - On November 15, the Independent Fiscal Office reported in its Economic & Budget Outlook Report state government faces over \$8 billion in deficits over the next 5 fiscal years due to rising costs, and in spite of better than expected increases in state revenue.

[Auditor General DePasquale Releases Audits Of Delaware, Susquehanna River Basin Commissions: No Duplication Of Effort With DEP](#) - Auditor General Eugene DePasquale Thursday released separate performance audits of the Susquehanna River and Delaware River basin commissions that emphasize the need for better accountability and transparency.

[Pennsylvania utilities push back on 'prescriptive' ratemaking regulation](#) - The passage of Act 58 gives Pennsylvania regulators authority to approve alternative rate mechanisms, but utilities say a proposed policy statement is too heavy-handed.

[DEP: EPA Clean Power Plan Replacement Not A Meaningful Proposal, Must Be Withdrawn; PA Already Met 2030 CPP Reductions](#) - The Department of Environmental Protection Wednesday submitted formal comments to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency on its plan to replace the current Clean Power Plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from fossil fuel power plants.

[AG Shapiro, Philadelphia, Other States Say EPA's Proposed Replacement For Clean Power Plan Unlawful](#) - Attorney General Josh Shapiro, the City of Philadelphia and a coalition of 26 other states, counties, and cities Thursday called on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to abandon its proposed replacement to the Clean Power Plan.

[DEP leader talks moving forward, air quality, gas drilling](#) - The head of the state Department of Environmental Protection said the agency is moving ahead with its job of ensuring compliance as well as embracing new polices for ensuring quality air, water and other standards.

[PA Environment Digest Sponsors 2019 PA Abandoned Mine Reclamation/National Abandoned Mine Lands Programs Conference](#) - PA Environment Digest has become a sponsor of the combined 2019 PA Abandoned Mine Reclamation and National Abandoned Mine Lands Program Conference to be held in Pittsburgh on September 8-11.