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ARIPPA PERIODIC MEDIA NEWS – 2-1-18

CFB, COAL REFUSE, ENERGY INDUSTRY

[Trump official tells coal group he's 'an advocate for the coal industry'](#) - A senior Trump administration official in the Energy Department told a coal industry gathering Wednesday that he aims to be a strong advocate for coal.

[Coal takes the lead in organized markets after cold snap, but dominance won't last long](#) - The cold weather that blanketed much of the Northeast and Midwest this past week has been a boon for coal, but it may not alter the underlying fundamentals for coal-fired generation.

[Coal to the rescue as record cold grips the East](#) - Coal-fired power plants are king again as sub-zero temperatures sent demand for heating and electricity soaring on the East Coast Friday in the largest energy market in the nation.

[Proposal would eliminate huge waste coal pile in Swoyersville](#) - A massive waste coal pile towers above homes in Swoyersville. For now.

[EPCAMR Receives National Recognition As American Rivers Cleanup Champion](#) - The Eastern PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation in Northeast PA was recently honored by American Rivers as a National Rivers Cleanup Champion for its efforts to educate communities and the public on the importance of environmental stewardship.

[New report assesses impact of coal mining's decline on Appalachia](#) - What does the future hold for the coal regions of Appalachia now that coal is no longer king?

[PJM to push capacity repricing at FERC, eschewing expanded MOPR](#) - PJM Interconnection next month will ask federal regulators to approve new capacity price formation rules aimed at allowing renewable resources subsidized by state policies to remain in the market without artificially lowering prices.

[FERC: 20 GW of coal capacity headed for retirement by 2020](#) - The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission has released its Energy Infrastructure Update for November 2017, outlining a generation mix that is growing in size while becoming less carbon-intensive.

[Deep Freeze in U.S. Creates Heating Squeeze for Homeowners and Utilities](#) - Homeowners, businesses and utilities across much of the United States were keeping a close watch on fuel supplies Wednesday as a record-setting cold snap caused demand for heating oil and natural gas to soar.

[Pennsylvania coal production in 2017 stayed above 2016 levels](#) - During the Christmas week, coal production in Pennsylvania slowed, but the year-to-date totals remain above last year's totals, according to the Energy Information Administration's weekly coal production report.

[Pennsylvania coal mine to close, costing nearly 400 jobs](#) - A mining company is closing its Pennsylvania coal mine over the next few months and shedding nearly 400 jobs.

[US coal mining deaths surge in 2017 after hitting record low](#) - Coal mining deaths surged in the U.S. in 2017, one year after they hit a record low.

[Coal mining exhibit on display](#) - The History of Coal Mining in Indiana County is among the permanent exhibits at the Historical and Genealogical Society of Indiana County Museum on Wayne Avenue in Indiana.

[Loyalsock Creek Named PA 2018 River of the Year in Public Voting](#) - Loyalsock Creek has been voted the 2018 Pennsylvania River of the Year. Results were announced by the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) and the Pennsylvania Organization for Waterways and Rivers (POWR).

[A surge, then a fade for Pennsylvania's wind industry](#) - While the wind power industry booms across the United States thanks to favorable federal and state policies, the development of new wind farms has stalled in Pennsylvania.

[After century-long absence, freshwater mussel found in Pennsylvania river](#) - A Kiski Township woman's award-winning photograph is evidence that one of the most sensitive indicators of water quality — the freshwater mussel — is back in the Kiski River after more than a century.

[Beaver County plants could be headed for premature closure, as future fades](#) - The Beaver Valley nuclear power plant and the Bruce Mansfield coal-fired power plant in Beaver County are likely approaching the same fate as that awaiting the Davis-Besse nuclear station in Ohio: premature closure, according to a FirstEnergy Corp. executive.

[Brookfield Business Partners to Acquire Westinghouse from Toshiba Corp.](#) - Westinghouse Electric Co., a company that is emerging from a bankruptcy stemming from the half-built AP1000 reactor projects in Georgia and South Carolina, is to be acquired from Toshiba Corp. by business services and industrials company Brookfield Business Partners.

[Vehicles are now America's biggest CO2 source but EPA is tearing up regulations](#) - Some of the most common avatars of climate change – hulking power stations and billowing smokestacks – may need a slight update. For the first time in more than 40 years, the largest source of greenhouse gas pollution in the US isn't electricity production but transport – cars, trucks, planes, trains and shipping.

LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY ISSUES: FEDERAL

[E.P.A. Blocks Obama-Era Clean Water Rule](#) - The Trump administration has formally suspended a major Obama-era clean water regulation ahead of plans to issue its own version of the rule later this year.

[Reducing Regulatory Burdens: EPA withdraws "once in always in" policy for major sources under Clean Air Act](#) - Today, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued a guidance memorandum withdrawing the "once in always in" policy for the classification of major sources of hazardous air pollutants under section 112 of the Clean Air Act.

[Pruitt: No decision yet on carbon endangerment finding challenge](#) - The Environmental Protection Agency has not yet determined whether it will challenge its 2009 carbon endangerment finding, nor if it will conduct a "red team, blue team" review of climate science, Administrator Scott Pruitt told a Senate committee on Tuesday.

[Energy Department: Deep freeze shows risks to grid from coal retirements](#) - The reliability of the power grid is at risk from the retirement of coal and nuclear plants, a top Energy Department official warned Tuesday morning.

[SCOTUS Sends Controversial WOTUS Rule into More Legal Limbo](#) - The U.S. Supreme Court unanimously reversed and remanded a rule the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers rolled out in 2015 that asserts federal authority over small bodies of water with a broader definition of the statutory term, "waters of the U.S." (WOTUS).

[Don't Let EPA Stall on Clean Power Plan, 17 States Tell Federal Court](#) - The Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) recent request that the D.C. Circuit hold a case challenging the Clean Power Plan in additional abeyance until it concludes rulemaking has been strongly opposed by 17 states and several cities.

[EPA provides details on new listening sessions for Clean Power Plan repeal](#) - Citing significant interest and the "success of the West Virginia hearing," the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency provided details for three new public listening sessions — previously announced in December — on the proposed repeal of the Clean Power Plan, including February dates in Kansas City, Mo., and San Francisco, Calif., and a March date in Gillette, Wyo.

[FERC Initiates New Proceeding on Grid Resilience, Terminates DOE NOPR Proceeding](#) - The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) today terminated the proceeding it initiated (Docket No. RM18-1-000) to consider the Department of Energy's September 29 proposal on grid reliability and resilience pricing.

[Coal mining executive blasts U.S. regulators for rejecting subsidies](#) - Robert Murray, the chief executive one of America's largest coal mining companies, criticized U.S. regulators on Tuesday for rejecting the Trump administration's proposed subsidies for aging coal and nuclear power plants - saying the decision could lead to higher electricity costs for consumers.

[Interior to undertake largest reorganization in 168-year history; thousands of jobs moving](#) - Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke launched an unprecedented effort Wednesday to undertake the largest reorganization in the department's 168-year history, moving to shift tens of thousands of workers to new locations and change the way the federal government manages more than 500 million acres of land and water across the country.

[Expect Environmental Battles to Be 'Even More Significant' in 2018](#) - If 2017 was the Trump administration's year of grand pronouncements declaring an end to environmental regulations, 2018 will be the year of trying to finish what it started.

[The Trump Effect: Business, Anticipating Less Regulation, Loosens Purse Strings](#) - A wave of optimism has swept over American business leaders, and it is beginning to translate into the sort of investment in new plants, equipment and factory upgrades that bolsters economic growth, spurs job creation — and may finally raise wages significantly.

[How Scott Pruitt turned the EPA into one of Trump's most powerful tools](#) - Since 2010, the Environmental Protection Agency has been embroiled in an enforcement battle with a Michigan-based company accused of modifying the state's largest coal-fired power plant without getting federal permits for a projected rise in pollution.

LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY ISSUES: STATE

[The Supreme Court may have signaled that it might block Pennsylvania's ruling against partisan gerrymandering](#) - The Supreme Court was seen as signaling Monday it may be open to blocking a state ruling on partisan gerrymandering at the behest of Pennsylvania's Republican leaders.

[If it stands, redistricting order means it's back to square one for Pa.'s Congressional map](#) - Three words loom largest now about Monday's split decision by the Pennsylvania Supreme Court that calls for a 19-day rewrite of the state's current Congressional map, effective for the May 15 primary election.

[Republican lawmakers introduce regulatory reform report, bill package](#) - A group of more than two dozen legislators, business organizations, academics, and advocacy organizations stood together Tuesday in the state Capitol's Media Center to unveil a report on Pennsylvania's regulatory reform issues and a package of bills they hope will restructure the state's regulatory environment in an effort to spur economic development and job creation.

[Pa. House Majority Leader Dave Reed announces congressional run](#) - House Majority Leader Dave Reed announced Tuesday that he is running for Congress, adding a new wrinkle in the already complicated process of redrawing the state's congressional maps.

[Republicans seeing lion's share of turnover in Legislature](#) - Retirements and other departures are poised to hit Republicans in the Pennsylvania Legislature particularly hard this year, as most of those who have already announced they are leaving belong to the GOP.

[Lawmakers question agencies' use of special funds](#) - As state lawmakers keep looking for ways to plug an estimated billion-dollar hole in Pennsylvania's budget, they are scrutinizing state agencies' use of special funds, which include money to promote environmental programs.

[Settlement requires coal plants to get permits with tighter pollution controls](#) - In a settlement with environmental groups, the Pennsylvania Department of Environment agreed to require coal-fired power plants to obtain water pollution permits with tighter controls on toxic releases into rivers and streams that provide drinking water to millions of people.

[Pennsylvania among states suing EPA over air pollution drift](#) - Pennsylvania and other Northeast states are suing the federal government after the Environmental Protection Agency refused to expand a control measure to western states that are creating pollution that floats over eastern cities.

[Key state, federal offices up for election in November '18](#) - Voters will have a big say this year in determining the composition of the U.S. Congress and the state Legislature.

[Nominations sought for region's environmental awards](#) - Outstanding achievements of organizations, businesses, and individuals in a wide range of environmental initiatives throughout central and western Pennsylvania will be recognized by the 2018 Western Pennsylvania Environmental Awards.