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ARIPPA PERIODIC MEDIA NEWS – 3-1-18

CFB, COAL REFUSE, ENERGY INDUSTRY

[Barletta Bill Incentivizes Coal Refuse Cleanup](#) - Today Congressman Lou Barletta (PA-11) introduced legislation to incentivize the reclamation of environmentally harmful coal refuse piles. The legislation, H.R. 4977, the Coal Refuse Remediation Act, would provide a per-ton production tax credit (PTC) to coal refuse fired electric plants, which generate electricity from coal waste while also remediating and reclaiming coal refuse piles on abandoned mine lands.

[Pa. lawmaker wants energy tax credits for plants that burn coal waste](#) - Rep. Lou Barletta, R-Pa., introduced a bill that would incentivize coal refuse clean up by giving tax credits to power plants that burn the waste as fuel.

[House Bill Aims at Tax Relief for Coal Refuse Power Plants](#) - A Republican-backed House bill introduced Feb. 8 would provide a refundable tax credit for power plants that burn coal refuse tossed aside by mining companies decades ago.

[Bill to clean up coal refuse](#) - U.S. Rep. Lou Barletta (PA-11) on Thursday introduced legislation to incentivize the reclamation of environmentally harmful coal refuse piles.

[Barletta bill would add incentives to clean up coal waste](#) - U.S. Rep. Lou Barletta has introduced legislation to incentivize the reclamation of environmentally harmful coal-refuse piles.

[Interior Provides More Than \\$300 Million in Conservation Funding for States & Tribes to Reclaim & Repurpose Abandoned Coal Mines](#) - The Department of the Interior's Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE) today announced the availability of the Fiscal Year 2018 Abandoned Mine Land (AML) Reclamation grants, which will provide \$300.7 million to states and tribes to reclaim abandoned coal mines.

[Interior secretary brings mine reclamation funds to area](#) - Pennsylvania, according to a large graphic from the state Department of Environmental Protection, "has more abandoned mine lands resulting from past coal mining than any other state in the nation."

[SEU 2018 survey: Utilities shaken, not moved, by Trump policies](#) - Utility Dive's fifth annual State of the Electric Utility survey shows a sector committed to the clean energy transition, but wary of policies coming out of Washington.

[PJM Report on Cold Weather Performance Shows Grid Performed Well, Need for Pricing Reform](#) - PJM Interconnection's report, released today, on grid performance during the winter's cold snap shows that the grid and the generation fleet performed well during one of the coldest stretches since the 2014 Polar Vortex.

[PJM board sends competing capacity market reforms to FERC](#) - The PJM Board of Managers on Friday announced it would send two competing proposals to reform its capacity market to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission for consideration in the face of stakeholder division over the plans.

[Grants available to communities hurt by coal downturn](#) - The Appalachian Regional Commission is making up to \$20 million available to communities that have been hurt by the decline in the U.S. coal industry.

[FirstEnergy's Bruce Mansfield and Beaver Valley likely headed for bankruptcy next month](#) - It's not his decision to make, but the CEO of FirstEnergy Corp. said on Wednesday that he would be "shocked" if the company's generation subsidiary didn't file for bankruptcy protection by the end of March.

[Pennsylvania Plant Agrees to Phase Out Coal](#) - In a move designed to resolve a Sierra Club lawsuit before it was even filed, Talen Energy agreed to operate its Brunner Island Steam Electric Station, a 1,411-MW plant located in York Haven, Pennsylvania, only on natural gas during the ozone season beginning in 2023 and to cease coal operations altogether by the end of 2028.

[FERC creates path for energy storage into RTO/ISO capacity markets](#) - The nation's top regulatory board for energy transaction voted Thursday to allow energy storage resources to participate in the capacity markets offered by Regional Transmission Organizations and Independent System Operators (RTO/ISO).

[18 States, Coal Group, US Chamber Want Ash Order Overturned](#) - Eighteen states, coal interests, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and other groups want an appeals court to overturn a coal ash cleanup order at a federal utility's Tennessee plant.

[Coal production improving, still behind 2017 levels](#) - After slumping in January, coal production has picked up in Pennsylvania and the nation, according to a weekly report from the Energy Information Administration.

[The Energy 202: Trump says he has an 'all-of-the-above' energy strategy, but coal gets top billing.](#) - For the first time in 14 years, the president did not give a nod to any form of alternative energy in the State of the Union address.

[The United States As A Clean Coal Leader](#) - "Carbon capture and storage technologies hold enormous potential to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions as we power our economy with domestically produced and secure energy," President Barack Obama

[Glatfelter exploring sale of specialty paper business, including York County facility](#) - P. H. Glatfelter paper is exploring sale of its specialty papers business, including its York County plant.

LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY ISSUES: FEDERAL

[D.C. Circuit Vacates Parts of EPA Ozone Regulations](#) - The D.C. Circuit last week struck down parts of an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) rule concerning implementation of its 2008 ozone standards, creating new regulatory limbo for the entities required to comply with the rule.

[New Candidates Emerge for Trump's Top Environmental Adviser](#) - The Trump administration is considering a North Carolina regulator who questions mainstream climate science to be the next White House environmental adviser, just weeks after withdrawing a previous nominee who held similar views.

[EPA moves to reject CT complaint over Brunner Island plant emissions](#) - The Environmental Protection Agency on Wednesday proposed to deny a complaint from Connecticut that argued cross-state pollution from a Pennsylvania coal plant was making the state non-compliant with federal standards on ground-level ozone.

[DOE 'would never use' emergency order for uneconomic plants, Walker says](#) - The Department of Energy "would never" use its emergency authority under the Federal Power Act (FPA) to keep uneconomic generators online, Assistant DOE Secretary Bruce Walker said Tuesday.

[Powelson: Input from PJM, ISO-NE states critical to FERC resilience docket](#) - Input from states in the PJM and ISO-New England markets will be critical to winning approval at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission for any plan to enhance the resilience of the nation's power sector, Commissioner Robert Powelson said Monday.

[Agency-by-agency highlights of Trump's 2019 budget](#) - Highlights from President Donald Trump's budget for fiscal year 2019.

[Trump budget seeks 23 percent cut at EPA, eliminating dozens of programs](#) - The White House is seeking to cut more than \$2.5 billion from the annual budget of the Environmental Protection Agency — an overall reduction of more than 23 percent.

[Trump Administration Is Weighing Emergency Aid for Some Coal Plants](#) - After failing to win a bailout for cash-strapped coal plants, some Trump administration officials are considering emergency orders that could keep at least some coal generators online, people familiar with the discussions said.

[Attorneys general sue Trump administration over water rule](#) - Eleven Democratic state attorneys general on Tuesday sued President Donald Trump's administration over its decision to delay implementation of an Obama-era rule that would have expanded the number of wetlands and small waterways protected by the Clean Water Act.

[EPA paves way for WV DEP to enforce state water quality standards](#) - The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has given the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection the green light to regulate the way the state enforces water pollution permit limits.

[What's Next for the Clean Power Plan?](#) - "The Trump administration is listening to the people of Wyoming," remarked Sen. John Barrasso (R-Wyo.), chairman of the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works. His comment referenced a "listening session" scheduled by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to hear public concerns about job losses that many argue could potentially be caused by the Clean Power Plan (CPP).

[Trump's Environmental Rollbacks Were Fast. It Could Get Messy in Court.](#) - As the head of the federal agency controlling billions of acres of public lands and waters, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke has spent the past year making bold policy proclamations to advance President Trump's energy agenda: He would open coastal waters to drilling, shrink national monuments, lift Obama-era fossil fuel regulations and reduce wildlife protections.

LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY ISSUES: STATE

[Federal judges fast-track hearings on whether to block new Pa. congressional map, decline to immediately do so](#) - A panel of three federal judges declined Friday to immediately block Pennsylvania's new congressional map from taking effect, leaving it in place for now.

[Republican congressmen jump into fight over Pa. congressional map with federal lawsuit](#) - With campaign deadlines approaching, a group of Republican congressmen from Pennsylvania, joined by two state lawmakers, filed a complaint in U.S. District Court here Thursday asking it to block a new congressional district map from being used in the upcoming primary and general elections.

[GOP leaders request hold on Pennsylvania congressional map](#) - Republican leaders of the Pennsylvania Legislature on Wednesday asked the U.S. Supreme Court to block a new congressional district map that is widely considered likely to give Democrats a boost in their quest to capture control of the U.S. House.

[Your Congressional district will change: A look at the Pa. Supreme Court's new map](#) - Pennsylvania's Supreme Court issued a new Congressional district map Monday that eliminates many of the worst gerrymanders from the 2011 redistricting.

[Ortitay introduces bill to change budget process](#) - Rep. Jason Ortity, R-South Fayette Township, recently introduced legislation to improve oversight of the state budget process by separating the omnibus general appropriations bill into separate, more manageable pieces.

[Pa. budget loser: Bump in environmental protection budget does little to stem legacy of cuts](#) - The state Department of Environmental Protection, which enforces regulations concerning clean air and water, will receive a \$8.2 million bump in state funding in Gov. Tom Wolf's 2018-19 budget, bringing the total to \$157 million.

[Gov. Wolf wants to increase state spending by \\$1B](#) - Democratic Gov. Tom Wolf's election-year budget plan unveiled Tuesday will renew battles with the Republican-controlled Legislature over imposing a tax on Marcellus shale natural gas and increasing the minimum wage.

[Pennsylvania House Speaker Mike Turzai exits GOP governor's race](#) - Pennsylvania Speaker of the House Mike Turzai, R-Marshall, dropped his bid for the GOP nomination for governor Saturday, shortly before the Pennsylvania Republican Committee meeting was scheduled to vote on an endorsement.

[State Rep. John Maher announces he won't run for re-election](#) - State Rep. John Maher, R-Upper St. Clair, credited with authoring the state's open records law and the state's first rules for lobbyists, announced Saturday that he won't seek a 12th term this year.

[PA Senate approves Bay funding bill - without the funding](#) - Controversial legislation that would provide a new way of financing Susquehanna River and Chesapeake Bay cleanups cleared the Pennsylvania Senate last week after it was paired with another bill to increase funding for a variety of other conservation efforts.