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ARIPPA PERIODIC MEDIA NEWS – 4-1-18

LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY ISSUES: FEDERAL

[Rothfus coal bill passes House](#) - A bill, designed to provide what U.S. Rep. Keith Rothfus called “targeted relief” for power plants that burn waste coal, passed the U.S. House of Representatives on Thursday.

[Bill would cut regulations on coal refuse-to-energy plants](#) (Scroll down link to get to article) - The U.S. House of Representatives this week passed legislation to ensure Pennsylvania’s environmentally beneficial coal refuse-to-energy facilities continue to operate.

[DOE lab: 'Bomb cyclone' storms show need for power plant reliability](#) - A new analysis conducted by the U.S. Department of Energy’s National Energy Technology Laboratory (NETL) indicates that continued retirement of fossil fuel power plants could have an adverse impact on the nation’s ability to meet power generation needs during future severe weather events.

[Pruitt loosens NSR guidelines for modified plants](#) - The administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency on Tuesday signed a memo outlining major changes to how the agency implements pollution standards for modified power plants.

[EPA plan to bar studies without public data could disrupt clean air regulations](#) - U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Scott Pruitt is working on a proposal to end the agency's use of "secret science" — research studies where the underlying data is not publicly available, according to E&E News.

[Court: EPA broke law with smog rule delay](#) - The Trump administration broke the law when it missed a deadline last year in implementing the Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) ozone pollution rule, a federal court ruled Monday.

[Rick Perry seeks new path to save coal](#) - Energy Secretary Rick Perry is pushing the development of a new generation of coal power plants while seeking to slash spending on technology that many government officials and analysts view as critical to coal’s survival a low-carbon world.

[EPA Proposes First of Two Rules to Amend Coal Ash Disposal Regulations, Saving Up To \\$100M Per Year in Compliance Costs](#) - Today, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is proposing the first of two rules that will amend the regulations for the disposal of coal combustion residuals, also known as CCR or coal ash, from electric utilities and independent power producers.

CFB, COAL REFUSE, ENERGY INDUSTRY

[A complicated calculus keeps the remaining coal fleet alive](#) - It's no secret that the coal fleet in the U.S. is shrinking. The number of coal-fired power plants is roughly half it was about 10 years ago.

[Dr. Bucshon Introduces the Electricity Reliability and Fuel Security Act](#) - Congressman Larry Bucshon, M.D. (IN-08) released the following statement after introducing the Electricity Reliability and Fuel Security Act, which provides a temporary tax credit to cover a small portion of the operation and maintenance expenses of existing coal-fired power plants...

[FirstEnergy Entreats DOE to Save Coal and Nuclear Plants](#) - A day after FirstEnergy Corp.’s competitive arm notified PJM Interconnection it would close four uneconomic nuclear units—a total of 4 GW—in Ohio and Pennsylvania between 2020 and 2021, it urged Energy Secretary Rick Perry to issue an emergency order directing the regional transmission organization (RTO) to secure nuclear and coal capacity for long-term reliability.

[Energy groups request 30-day extension in FERC resilience docket](#) - Eleven major energy industry groups on Friday asked the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission for a 30-day extension on their filing deadline in the agency's proceeding on grid resilience, now set for April 9.

[The Energy 202: Energy and environment programs escape Trump's ax in spending deal](#) - The Trump administration has been sharpening its budgetary ax for two years, waiting for the chance to chop away at funding for environmental protection and clean energy programs that had been darlings of the previous administration.

[Judge: Nation's top coal-producing area must consider reducing mining to fight climate change](#) - Environmental groups scored a victory against coal mining companies when a judge ruled that U.S. officials must consider reducing mining in the nation's top coal-producing region to fight climate change.

[Unit 2 decommission cost is \\$1.26 billion; it's been 39 years since TMI accident, but process hasn't officially started](#) - It was 39 years ago Wednesday, March 28, that the historic accident at Three Mile Island occurred as Unit 2's reactor partially melted down.

[Washington County coal mine targeted for expansion](#) - A mining company wants to expand its operations at an underground coal mine in Donegal and West Finley townships, Washington County, according to the state Department of Environmental Protection.

[Gas generation drops more than 3 times coal in 2017 vs. 2016, EIA finds](#) - Changes to the United States' power generation mix last year reflected fuel price fluctuations and the growth of renewable energy, though overall demand fell.

[Coal country's future depends on restoration](#) - Last month, U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke made a stop in East Bethlehem Township to announce this year's grants from the federal Abandoned Mine Lands (AML) Reclamation Fund.

[Steel Tariffs May Trip Up Another Industry Trump Loves: Coal](#) - President Donald Trump's proposed steel tariffs may have a downside for U.S. coal miners.

[Coal Retirements Threaten U.S. Electric Grid Reliability and Resiliency](#) - We're hearing more and more concerns about the reliability and resiliency of the U.S. electric power system, as recently illustrated by the so-called "bomb cyclone" that struck the northeast early this year.

[Tap fund for coal country land, water restoration](#) - Pennsylvania congressmen have the opportunity to bring significant help to struggling coal communities by making the passage of the RECLAIM Act a top priority.

[House panel: Russia aimed to disrupt US energy markets using social media](#) - Russia used several American social media accounts in an attempt to disrupt U.S. energy markets, according to a House committee report released Thursday.

[OSHA fines FirstEnergy, Enerfab for deadly Bruce Mansfield Power Plant accident](#) - The U.S. Department of Labor has cited two companies for safety violations that contributed to the deaths of two workers overcome by poisonous gas at the coal-fired Bruce Mansfield Power Plant in August.

[Evergreen Community Power plant to close](#) - The Evergreen Community Power LLC plant in south Reading is closing. The plant, located at 720 Laurel St., was built in 2008 to supply power and heating to the adjacent United Corrstack LLC paper mill.

[NERC Names New CEO](#) - Shortly after the abrupt resignation of its previous CEO, the North American Electric Reliability Corp. has named a new head.

[Decades-long mine fire nearly extinguished](#) - After burning underground for nearly 40 years, a mine fire at a coal operation in Banks Twp. is close to being fully extinguished.

[Coal Rebound Is Vital to Local Economies](#) - In President Trump's State of the Union address, he said, "We have ended the war on American energy, and we have ended the war on beautiful, clean coal." It's safe to say that things have gotten better for the coal industry since President Trump took office.

[Coal Incentivized: New Budget Spurs Coal Power Investments](#) - Republicans have agreed to put a price on carbon, at least temporarily.

[Ohio State coal tech captures CO2, but can it compete with renewables?](#) - A promising technology under development at The Ohio State University converts fossil fuels into electricity without emitting carbon dioxide into the atmosphere.

LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY ISSUES: STATE

[How Pennsylvania Slashed Coal Emissions Without Alienating Industry](#) - Coal-fired power plants in Pennsylvania cut smog-forming emissions by more than half last year, in a rare regulatory effort that has won support from both industry officials and environmentalists.

[Pa. Supreme Court strikes down DEP method of adding up water pollution fines](#) - When pollution flows from one water body to another after a spill, it cannot be counted as a separate violation under state law, the Pennsylvania Supreme Court ruled on Wednesday in a case that could make it more difficult for state regulators to impose large fines in cases of water contamination.

[Nearly 100 people are running for Congress in Pa. Here's how the races are shaping up.](#) - Nearly 100 people filed to run for Congress in Pennsylvania by the deadline Tuesday, a surge that reflected the political volatility in the state and nation.

[Saccone concedes 18th district race in phone call to Lamb](#) - Rick Saccone on Wednesday conceded last week's special election for Pennsylvania's 18th Congressional District, putting an end to an eight-day stretch of meticulous recounts and talk of a Republican challenge.

[GOP lawmakers seek to impeach Pennsylvania judges over congressional map](#) - Twelve Republican state legislators in Pennsylvania have signed on to resolutions introduced Tuesday that seek to impeach four Democratic justices on the state Supreme Court over rulings in a congressional redistricting case.

[U.S. Supreme Court, 3-judge panel dismiss GOP challenges to Pa.'s new congressional district map](#) - Pennsylvania's new congressional map will likely stand in the May primary election and beyond after Republicans on Monday lost two critical court challenges.

[GOP House leader Reed opts against Congress run, re-election](#) - he majority leader of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives is quitting elective politics, blaming his aborted candidacy for the U.S. House on a new map that put him in the same district as an incumbent congressman from the same party.

[Pa.'s legislature will see four centuries of experience walk out the door this year](#) - Pennsylvania is looking at having one of the largest number of state legislator retirements this year that it has seen in over a quarter of a century.

[GOP gubernatorial candidates face off in Pa. debate](#) - Three Republican candidates for governor squared off Thursday night in a wide-ranging debate that covered such key topics as gun control, sexual-assault policies, and how closely they would align themselves with President Trump.

[In Pa., Zinke unveils federal government's \\$55M toward state's abandoned mine cleanup efforts](#) - Ryan Zinke, President Trump's Interior Secretary, came to Western Pennsylvania to tout the federal government's abandoned mine cleanup program. It was an appropriate setting.

[WV House advances Senate coal mining bill](#) - The House quickly advanced a coal mining bill without much debate Wednesday.