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ARIPPA PERIODIC MEDIA NEWS – 7-1-17

CFB, COAL REFUSE, ENERGY INDUSTRY

[Owner of Three Mile Island nuclear plant notifies 2 agencies of intent to close](#) - The owners of the financially failing Three Mile Island nuclear plant are taking official steps to pursue their previously announced plans to close the Dauphin County facility 15 years before its license expires.

[New PJM white papers aim to integrate state power policies into wholesale markets](#) - PJM Interconnection has published four documents focused on market design and possible changes to price formation, including an overview introducing and linking to three working papers.

[Solar power forecast to shut down coal plants faster than expected](#) - Solar power, once so costly it made economic sense only in spaceships, is becoming cheap enough that it will push coal and even natural-gas plants out of business faster than previously forecast.

[Consol Energy aims to expand mining in western Greene County](#) - Consol Energy has applied to the state Department of Environmental Protection for Bailey Mine to continue longwall mining in three areas in the western part of Greene County.

[New Somerset County coal mine in midst of political, economic debate](#) - t's a vast canyon dug 120 feet into the ground, set among the rolling green farmland and cattle farms of Somerset County. But on Thursday, the new coal mine's significance was larger than even the immensity of the moved earth, the raw minerals underground and the nearly 100 jobs it is expected to create.

[Evergreen Conservancy receives award](#) - The Evergreen Conservancy recently received the Governor's Award for Environmental Excellence from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection for its work on the Tanoma Passive Abandoned Mine Discharge Remediation Trompe.

[Trump proposal wouldn't impact Ehrenfeld project, state officials say](#) - Donald Trump's first budget proposal would cut a \$90 million-a-year fund used to clean up abandoned mine sites and repurpose the land they occupy.

[Power Market Operators and Participants See a Glimmer of Optimism in Current Chaos](#) - The conversation at the ELECTRIC POWER Conference and Exhibition, as underscored by comments made in its keynote address and at the annual event's executive roundtable, was optimistic yet cautious, owing to regulatory uncertainty and turmoil in power markets.

[Coal Is Back](#) - Although I'm sure some readers will consider the title of this column hyperbole, coal *is* back. It's back in the public discourse, and that's largely due to the Trump administration.

LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY ISSUES: FEDERAL

[House committee approves coal country bill](#) - The House Natural Resources Committee easily approved a bill Tuesday to help revitalize coal communities affected by the industry's downturn.

[Administration to propose repealing rule giving EPA broad authority over water pollution](#) - President Donald Trump's administration will revoke a rule that gives the Environmental Protection Agency broad authority over regulating the pollution of wetlands and tributaries that run into the nation's largest rivers, EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt said Tuesday.

[ARC awards \\$1.5 million grant for job training in Greene County](#) - The Washington-Greene County Job Training Agency recently received a \$1.49 million grant from the Appalachian Regional Commission to help restore the economies in Greene County and West Virginia with job training in computer coding.

[Energy Secretary Rick Perry: Carbon dioxide is not 'primary' driver of climate change](#) - Energy Secretary Rick Perry said Monday that carbon dioxide emissions are not the "primary control knob" behind climate change, a statement at odds with nearly every major climate change researcher inside and outside the federal government.

[Details emerge about Trump's planned rollback](#) - The Trump administration will use a central argument from legal challengers of U.S. EPA's Clean Power Plan to rescind the Obama-era climate standards.

[The U.S. Won't Actually Leave the Paris Climate Deal Anytime Soon](#) - Last week, President Trump announced that the United States would withdraw from the Paris climate agreement. But it will take more than one speech to pull out: Under the rules of the deal, which the White House says it will follow, the earliest any country can leave is Nov. 4, 2020.

[NMA Urges Reform of Broken Program for Abandoned Coal Mines](#) - The chief executive of the national trade association representing the U.S. coal industry recently told a congressional panel that the federal program funded by the coal industry to help clean up old abandoned coal mines has been plagued by an inefficient structure and lax management, which has led to billions of dollars spent for other purposes.

[Deadline for States to Meet Obama-Era Emissions Rule Is Extended](#) - The Trump administration will extend by one year a deadline for states to comply with a major Obama-era regulation on emissions of a smog-causing pollutant that spews from tailpipes and smokestacks.

[Pa. officials react to Trump announcing U.S. exit from climate accord](#) - In announcing that the U.S. will withdraw from an international agreement seeking to combat climate change, President Donald Trump pointed to places like Pittsburgh in explaining his rationale.

LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY ISSUES: STATE

[Senate approves \\$32 billion state spending plan for 2017-18, sending it to the House consideration](#) - By a vote of 43-7, the state Senate on Friday approved a \$32 billion spending plan for 2017-18 that provides for increased spending on education and intellectually disabled people and restores some of the House-passed funding cuts.

[Pa. Supreme Court's landmark environmental ruling faces first test](#) - A landmark ruling by the Pennsylvania Supreme Court means that state agencies and judges will have to pay more attention to the public's right to clean air and water when making permit decisions and issuing court rulings.

[Pa. Senate passes bill to give Legislature power to kill costly regulations](#) - State regulations expected to cost businesses and governments more than \$1 million annually would need to get the General Assembly's endorsement before they could take effect, under a bill the Pennsylvania Senate passed on Tuesday.

[Matzie: Bailout for nuclear industry not coming anytime soon](#) - Rep. Rob Matzie understands that nuclear energy is a reliable and environmentally friendly method of producing electricity, but that doesn't mean he and other state legislators are close to enacting a subsidy package that could keep several struggling plants in Pennsylvania in operation.