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ARIPPA PERIODIC MEDIA NEWS – 3-1-19

(News clips from the previous month)

CFB, COAL REFUSE, ENERGY INDUSTRY

[PJM retirements expected near 4,200 MW for 2019; generation additions to total 15,000 MW](#) - PJM Interconnection power generation retirements are expected to reach nearly 4,200 MW this year, mostly from coal-fired generation, while more than 15,000 MW is planned to be added to the footprint, mostly from natural gas-fired generation, according to grid operator data.

[CEO of Largest U.S. Grid Says It's Fine If 30,000 Megawatts Shut](#) - About 18,000 megawatts of coal and nuclear plants -- enough to power 13.5 million homes -- are slated to permanently shut across the eastern U.S. grid. And the region still has enough electricity to keep the lights on, according to the chief executive officer of the grid operator.

[PJM Advances Own Energy Price Formation Plan](#) - The PJM Board of Managers agreed to submit staff's revised energy price formation proposal for FERC approval, CEO Andy Ott said Wednesday.

[Emissions from the U.S. electric power sector projected to remain mostly flat through 2050](#) - EIA's recently released Annual Energy Outlook 2019 projects that the U.S. electric power sector emissions of sulfur dioxide (SO₂), nitrogen oxides (NO_x), and carbon dioxide (CO₂) will remain mostly flat through 2050, assuming no changes to current laws and regulations.

[Rachel Gleason | A timely reminder of the essential value of coal power](#) - Pennsylvanians are keenly aware that the state's weather can be unforgiving.

[Coal jobs stable, despite mine closures](#) - Over the past decade, the coal industry and its workers have suffered. One after another, mines closed, leaving thousands of people jobless.

[Coal enters a new era in 2019](#) - For those who follow energy policy in the United States, these are intriguing times. A number of significant changes are underway, with natural gas occupying a newfound prominence in electricity generation.

[FirstEnergy Solutions shuts two coal units at Bruce Mansfield plant](#) - FirstEnergy Solutions Corp. has shut down nearly half of its coal capacity as the bankrupt power provider recently deactivated units 1 and 2 at its Bruce Mansfield coal plant in Beaver County, Pa.

[Alabama Power to shutter coal plant, cites environmental laws](#) - Alabama Power Company announced Wednesday that it was permanently retiring the William Crawford Gorgas Electric Generating Plant in Walker County due to "federally driven environmental mandates."

[Trump-dominated board to close coal plant, despite his plea](#) - A federal utility board voted Thursday to close a coal-fired power plant in Kentucky, rejecting pleas from President Donald Trump and U.S. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell and handing the coal industry a defeat in its backyard.

[Exelon threatens closure of three more Illinois nukes](#) - Exelon is threatening to shutter three nuclear plants in northern Illinois, which together power the equivalent of 5.5 million homes in the region.

[Exelon: Need Pa. Action by May to Save TMI](#) - Pennsylvania lawmakers must approve nuclear subsidies by May to prevent the retirement of Three Mile Island Unit 1, Exelon CEO Chris Crane told stock analysts Friday.

[API, NGSa file brief with US Supreme Court opposing state-level nuclear power subsidies](#) - Trade groups American Petroleum Institute and Natural Gas Supply Association want the US Supreme Court to grant review of, and overturn lower court rulings that upheld nuclear subsidy programs in New York and Illinois.

[Scientists turn CO2 'back into coal' in breakthrough carbon capture experiment](#) - Scientists have managed to turn CO2 from a gas back into solid "coal", in a breakthrough which could potentially help remove the greenhouse gas from the atmosphere.

[Could membranes at coal-fired power plants help stop climate change?](#) - Pittsburgh researchers are working on potentially cheaper ways to capture carbon dioxide from coal-fired power plants.

[New technology could help coal industry, Somerset County](#) - Researchers at Penn State University are developing a process by which carbon dioxide emissions from coal and natural gas plants would be injected underground.

[Coal-Fired Power M&O: Enhancing Wet-Limestone Scrubber Efficiency](#) - While many coal-fired power plants in the United States have ceased operation in the last decade, a large number remain in operation. In other parts of the world, coal-fired power continues to represent a major share of electricity production. Control of sulfur dioxide (SO2) emissions from these plants is essential for protection of air quality.

[Importance, strength of Pa.'s power grid shown during recent cold spell | Opinion](#) - The late-January cold spell that brought some of the coldest temperatures in decades to Pennsylvania also drove the demand for electricity to near record levels.

[7 takeaways on how grid operator PJM weathered this week's polar vortex](#) - As temperatures plunged, demand for electricity surged. On Thursday, peak morning demand for PJM ranked within the grid operator's top 10 winter peaks for the last five years as utility customers in the region tried to stay warm.

[First U.S. Coal Plant in Years Opens Where No Options Exist](#) - One way to boost coal in the U.S.: Find a spot near a mine with no access to oil or natural gas pipelines, where it's not particularly windy and it's dark much of the year.

[Ohio River commission will not eliminate pollution control standards](#) - A commission overseeing Ohio River water quality is no longer proposing to eliminate its pollution control standards for the river, which is a source of drinking water for more than 5 million people.

[Joining forces: ARM Group Inc. adds Ebensburg's CAMCO, AEC](#) - From area coal mines to large metro transit and international cruise lines, local companies are playing a key role in the electrical operation of those facilities.

LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY ISSUES: FEDERAL

[Andrew Wheeler, former energy lobbyist, confirmed as nation's top environmental official](#) - The Senate on Thursday approved former coal lobbyist Andrew Wheeler to head the Environmental Protection Agency by a vote of 52 to 47, elevating a veteran of Washington political and industry circles who has advanced President Trump's push to rollback Obama-era environmental regulations.

[EPA to Retain Primary NAAQS for Sulfur Dioxide](#) - The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will refrain from amending the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for sulfur dioxide (SO2), retaining a 2010 rule, which it said adequately protects public health.

[Supreme Court to hear case that could restrict federal water rules](#) - The Supreme Court agreed Tuesday to hear a major dispute with potentially far-reaching implications for how the federal government protects waterways from pollution.

[EPA: Carbon emissions from power plants rose in 2018 amid higher electricity demand](#) - Carbon emissions from U.S. power plants rose 0.6% in 2018 to nearly 1.93 billion tons, according to data the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) released on Wednesday.

[Lawsuit takes aim at interstate air pollution](#) - In a case with ramifications for the Chesapeake Bay, environmental groups have joined with several Northeastern states to challenge the lack of federal action to reduce interstate air pollution.

[EPA enforcement drops sharply in Trump's 2nd year in office](#) - Civil and criminal crackdowns on polluters dropped sharply in the second year of the Trump administration, according to 2018 enforcement figures released Friday by the Environmental Protection Agency.

[Sen. Inhofe: Carbon capture hearing is 'first official recognition' that US needs fossil fuel generation](#) - Sen. Jim Inhofe, R-Okla., became a co-sponsor on Wednesday of a carbon capture infrastructure bill that has wide bipartisan support, based on the potential of the technology to support coal and gas-fired generation in a carbon constrained regulatory environment.

[Federal Judge Dismisses Clean Air Council Lawsuit Challenging Federal Actions On Climate Change, Rollback Of Regulations](#) - On February 19, Eastern Federal District Court Judge Paul S. Diamond granted a U.S. Department of Justice request to dismiss a lawsuit on procedural grounds brought by the Clean Air Council and two Pennsylvania children alleging harm from recent efforts to rollback federal environmental regulations.

[Murkowski 'frustrated' by FERC impasse, pushes White House for nominees](#) - The chair of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee said Wednesday that she and energy companies are "frustrated" with the growing "backlog" of policies and projects waiting for action at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC).

[Glick calls for 'new approach' to capacity markets in wide-ranging NARUC talk](#) - Federal Energy Regulatory Commissioner Rich Glick on Tuesday called for a "new approach" to capacity markets, saying he has come to question the benefits of the forward-looking power auctions in his first year at the agency.

[Green New Deal resolution calls for 100% zero-carbon power within 10 years](#) - Progressive Democrats in Congress on Thursday released a nonbinding resolution for a Green New Deal, calling for massive public investment in renewable energy and the power grid to decarbonize the electric utility sector within a decade.

[Trump to nominate David Bernhardt, a former lobbyist, as the next Interior secretary](#) - President Trump tweeted Monday that he will nominate David Bernhardt, a veteran lobbyist who has helped orchestrate the push to expand oil and gas drilling at the Interior Department, to serve as its next secretary.

[The Energy 202: Trump didn't mention coal once during his State of the Union](#) - President Trump hammered home a message of economic prosperity during his State of the Union address. As Trump told it, the economy is soaring, fewer Americans are on food stamps and unemployment is at an all-time low.

[The Energy 202: Democrats spotlight climate change with their State of the Union guests](#) - The State of the Union is President Trump's opportunity to set the agenda in Washington as best he can for the next year. But a handful of congressional Democrats are seeking to highlight an issue he will almost surely fail to mention: climate change.

[Appalachian Regional Commission Accepting Applications For POWER Workforce, Economic Revitalization Grants](#) - The federal Appalachian Regional Commission is now accepting applications for the POWER Workforce and Economic Revitalization Grant Program. Applications are due April 10.

[EPA Now Accepting Nominations For President's Environmental Youth Award](#) - The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is now accepting nominations for the President's Environmental Youth Award. The deadline for nominations is March 8.

[Congressman opens office in Ebensburg](#) - A spokeswoman for U.S. Rep. Glenn Thompson, R-Howard Township, said the 15th District congressman has opened a constituent office at 107 S. Center St., Ebensburg, Cambria County.

LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY ISSUES: STATE

[Read a draft of Pennsylvania's nuclear bailout bill](#) - Draft legislation aimed at helping Pennsylvania's ailing nuclear industry would reclassify the plants as "zero emission energy" and create new requirements about how electric companies are to purchase power.

[Pennsylvania Is Newest Nuclear Subsidy Battleground](#) - Pennsylvania, the nation's second-largest nuclear power-producing state, is now definitively a battleground for nuclear power subsidies.

[Lawmakers question taking \\$17.5M from dedicated environmental funds](#) - In September 2017, Patrick McDonnell, Pennsylvania's Department of Environmental Protection secretary, called out state lawmakers for planning to transfer money out of dedicated department funds to help with the state's budget.

[Cap-And-Trade Climate Petitioners Add Over 100 Names To Petition In Resubmission To EQB](#) - On February 25, the individuals and organizations petitioning the Environmental Quality Board to establish a cap-and-trade program to reduce greenhouse gas emissions added over 100 groups and individuals to the original list of 64 petitioners making the request.

[House Environmental Committee Meeting On Forge The Future Energy/Development Plan Turns Into Climate Change Debate](#) - On February 20, the House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee information meeting on the Forge The Future energy and economic development plan proposed by state business groups turned into a classic debate over climate change.

[House Environmental Committee Meeting On DEP Budget Covers Climate Change, Permit Fees, Fund Transfers](#) - On February 19, the House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee held an informational meeting on the Department of Environmental Protection's budget that covered lots of ground from whether climate change was real, proposed Oil and Gas Program fee increases, whether public hearings on pipeline permits were necessary and more.

[DEP streamlining its permit, oversight functions in southwestern Pennsylvania](#) - The state Department of Environmental Protection says it is cutting red tape often associated with its review of projects that could impact air, water and soil quality in southwestern Pennsylvania.

[State Govt. Already Achieved 40% Renewables Goal; Climate Impact Assessment Report To Focus On Farm, Water Issues](#) - On February 26, the Department of General Services told DEP's Climate Change Advisory Committee state agencies have already achieved the 40 percent renewable electricity goal Gov. Wolf established in an executive order issued on January 28.

[WPCAMR Abandoned Mine Post: Growing Greener May Lose From Governor's Proposed Budget](#) - While the Wolf Administration proposes no broad-based tax increases, the Governor did propose a natural gas severance tax. This year, that severance tax is being introduced as legislation separate from the budget process.

[Gov. Wolf budget has more money for schools, minimum wage bid](#) - Gov. Tom Wolf on Tuesday unveiled a \$34.1 billion budget that would boost funding for public schools, raise the minimum wage and help counties update their voting machines, while steering clear of the broad-based tax increases that sank some of his earlier initiatives.

[DEP Awards \\$28.7 Million In 2018 Growing Greener Watershed Restoration Grants](#) - The Department of Environmental Protection awarded a total of over \$28.7 million in 2018 Growing Greener Watershed Restoration Grants funded by the Environmental Stewardship Fund, EPA's 319 Nonpoint Source Program and federal Surface Mining Reclamation Set-Aside and bond forfeiture funds.