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## ARIPPA PERIODIC MEDIA NEWS – 8-1-19

(News clips from the previous month)

### CFB, COAL REFUSE, ENERGY INDUSTRY

[Coal waste bank being removed in Swoyersville](#) - It's been an eyesore and a health hazard for generations. But now its end is near. "It" is the massive coal waste bank in Swoyersville. Work is underway to remove the coal waste known as culm.

[Retirements of U.S. coal-fired power plants continue but slow slightly](#) - Energy companies plan to retire another 17 gigawatts of coal-fired capacity in the United States by 2025, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration.

[Few US cities on track to meet climate goals: ACEEE](#) - More U.S. cities are taking action against climate change and expanding existing goals, according to the latest scorecard from the American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy (ACEEE). Cities took on more than 265 initiatives between January 2017 and April 2019.

[Terry M. Jarrett | State power grids feel the strain of summer heat](#) - As the peak of summer arrives, Americans are turning up their air conditioners. But this added demand for electricity can greatly tax power grids.

[Cities, attorneys general call for new leader of PJM Interconnection to focus on clean energy](#) - After Andy Ott, CEO of PJM Interconnection, stepped down last month, the power grid operator has received appeals from around the country to ensure its next leader prioritizes clean energy.

[Rare Earth Elements from coal mining could boost Appalachian region](#) - A closed coal mine just south of Morgantown may actually signal the future of the coal industry through a mining by-product known as Rare Earth Elements.

[Pentagon request could boost rare earth mining industry in U.S.](#) - The rare earth mining industry in the United States — including the Appalachian coal industry — could get a shot in the arm from the U.S. government's interest in establishing a domestic production supply chain that now depends on China.

[Ohio Gov DeWine signs controversial nuke subsidy bill](#) - The Ohio House today approved legislation creating a customer-paid \$1.1 billion subsidy for two nuclear power plants in northern Ohio.

[Lawmakers consider bailout for Pleasants Power Station](#) - West Virginia lawmakers on Monday considered a bill to bail out the Pleasants Power Station, a coal-fired plant that, under an agreement in a bankruptcy case, will stay open until 2022.

[AEP commits to retire large Indiana coal unit by 2028](#) - American Electric Power (AEP) will shutter a major coal-fired unit in Indiana by the end of 2028, notching the largest victory yet for Sierra Club's Beyond Coal campaign.

[PJM Interconnection Announces New Chief Risk Officer](#) - PJM Interconnection today announced the appointment of Nigeria Poole Bloczynski as its chief risk officer.

[PJM Serves High Weekend Load Through Record Heat and Humidity](#) - PJM and its utility partners reliably served customers over a weekend that likely set records for Saturday electricity use.

[Coal could be just 11% of US generation by 2030: Moody's](#) - The decline of coal-fired power could mean the fuel generates just 11% of the United States' electricity by 2030, according to new analysis by Moody's Investors Service.

[Report: 90% of natural gas consumed in U.S. produced in U.S.](#) - Natural gas is one of the main sources of energy in the United States — that's no surprise.

[US renewable energy transition to move faster than anticipated by 2022: FERC report](#) - By June 2022, the pace of U.S. renewables growth is going to surpass fossil fuel growth by a significantly greater margin than what FERC had anticipated as recently as April, according to the commission's May 2019 Energy Infrastructure Update, released Friday.

[Petroleum, natural gas, and coal continue to dominate U.S. energy consumption](#) - Fossil fuels—petroleum, natural gas, and coal—have accounted for at least 80% of energy consumption in the United States for well over a century.

[Transitioning US to 100% renewables by 2030 will cost \\$4.5 trillion: Wood Mackenzie](#) - Wood Mackenzie published a study Thursday estimating the cost of a 100% renewable energy transition by 2030 within the U.S., based on the more aggressive climate plans that have been proposed, including early versions of the House Green New Deal package.

[NARUC: FERC went beyond 'authority of power' in issuing Order 841](#) - The National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC) on Tuesday filed a petition for review in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia regarding the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's (FERC) Order 841, which would provide fair market access for energy storage.

[Guest column: Rising electricity prices are coming](#) - California continues to lead the nation in mandating the deployment of wind and solar power. Unfortunately, that translates into rising electricity costs that are now poised to climb higher. It's a development that should concern families in every state.

[PA Abandoned Mine Land Campaign Urges Action To Extend Expiring Federal Mine Reclamation Fee](#) - The Western PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation sent out this action alert Monday as part of the PA Abandoned Mine Land Campaign to watershed groups, local governments and counties asking them to urge Congress to act now to extend the expiring federal mine reclamation fee.

#### **LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY ISSUES: FEDERAL**

[EPA moves to roll back environmental protection requirements for utility coal ash sites](#) - The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency on Tuesday announced proposed changes to the federal coal ash rule that would eliminate onsite dry storage requirements as well as environmental protections on fill projects larger than 12,400 tons.

[LaFleur cautions on administrative interference as she exits FERC](#) - Cheryl LaFleur has witnessed her share of changes during the near-decade she served on the Federal Energy Regulatory Committee (FERC).

[FERC orders PJM to postpone capacity auction](#) - The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) issued a ruling on Thursday directing the PJM Interconnection not to conduct "a major feature" of its market, its capacity auction planned for August.

[President Trump talks energy in Wheeling](#) - President Donald Trump sounded familiar themes — among them economic growth, foreign policy, immigration and health care — during his speech to a friendly crowd in Wheeling on Wednesday. But his biggest applause lines were when he talked about coal, natural gas and steel.

[The Energy 202: Key House Democrats propose eliminating climate-warming emissions by 2050](#) - Key House Democrats are proposing a 2050 deadline to eliminate the country's climate-warming emissions — a goal more ambitious than seen in past proposals from Democratic leadership in Congress but one that still falls short of calls from Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-N.Y.) and others who support the Green New Deal.

[The Energy 202: Former EPA air policy chief probed by inspector general, Senate Democrats](#) - Bill Wehrum, a lobbyist-turned-top air official, is no longer serving at President Trump's Environmental Protection Agency. But his tenure is still a matter of great concern for members of Congress and the agency's internal watchdog.

[Sen. Rand Paul re-introduces two pieces of coal legislation](#) - Republican Senator Rand Paul of Bowling Green is reintroducing two pieces of legislation he said will have a positive effect on the coal industry.

[The Energy 202: EPA's new 'no surprises' inspection policy has some critics worried](#) - The Environmental Protection Agency will no longer have inspectors drop by power plants and other potential illegal polluters without giving states notice, a move Trump administration critics say will limit the agency's ability to enforce environmental laws.

[Communities no longer able to appeal pollution permits under forthcoming EPA rule: report](#) - Changing Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulations could soon strip individuals and communities of the ability to challenge granted pollution permits while continuing to allow industry to appeal denials, The New York Times reported.

[Republicans Take an Important Step Back into the Environmental Debate](#) - Conservatives ought to conserve. The newly formed Roosevelt Conservation Caucus aims to do just that.

[EPA Delayed on Proposed ELG Revisions for Steam Power Plants](#) - The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is behind on its proposed revisions to the Obama administration's effluent limitations guidelines (ELGs) for steam electric power plants.

[Wheeler Highlights America's Environmental Progress](#) - Yesterday, Administrator Wheeler joined President Trump and members of his cabinet to address the progress America has made cleaning up and protecting our nation's environment.

[Proposed Action: Financial Responsibility Requirements Under CERCLA Section 108\(b\) For Classes of Facilities in the Electric Power Industry](#) - On July 2, 2019, EPA Administrator Andrew Wheeler signed a proposed rule to not impose financial responsibility requirements for Electric Power Generation, Transmission, and Distribution facilities (electric power industry).

[Regional Commission May Push EPA on Pa. Power Plant Emissions](#) - Acting at Maryland's behest, a regional air pollution agency is taking initial steps to recommend that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency require greater emissions controls at Pennsylvania coal plants.

[FERC rejects PJM tariff revision, requires year-round demand resources](#) - The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) on Friday rejected tariff revisions proposed by PJM Interconnection and will now require demand resources be available year-round.

#### **LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY ISSUES: STATE**

[DEP continues efforts to extinguish underground mine fire in Fayette County](#) - Three years after a \$7 million project started to extinguish an underground fire at an abandoned mine in Phillips, a state Department of Environmental Protection official said work remains ongoing.

[Population estimates show Pennsylvania losing congressional district](#) - The number of U.S. House of Representative seats reserved for Pennsylvania could continue to dwindle following a 100-year population trend in the state, according to recent predictions for districts across the country.

[Sue Pennsylvania? Maryland editorial on Pa.'s efforts to clean up Chesapeake Bay draws governor's fire](#) - Pennsylvania has been criticized by a variety of parties for not pulling its weight in the long-term effort to clean up the Chesapeake Bay, but a new Baltimore Sun editorial seems to have stepped on a nerve.

[Joint Conservation Committee To Have New Chair, Will Continue Operating Until 2021](#) - The Joint Senate/House Legislative Air and Water Pollution Control and Conservation Committee's July newsletter announced the Committee will be welcoming a new chair in the Fall.

[Pa. court issues split decision on natural gas drilling rules](#) - A state court on Monday upheld portions of Pennsylvania regulations that address Marcellus Shale natural gas drilling, although the judges also sided with some of the arguments made by an industry group.

[Council unifies call for mine reclamation](#) - The time wasn't so long ago when Homer City and coal mining were synonymous in Indiana County.

[Opportunity To Bid On DEP Mine Reclamation Project In Elk County](#) - The Department of Environmental Protection published notice in the July 6 PA Bulletin of the opportunity to bid on a mine reclamation project in Elk County.

[Opportunity To Bid On DEP Renton Mine Fire Reclamation Project In Plum Borough, Allegheny County](#) - The Department of Environmental Protection published notice in the July 13 PA Bulletin of an opportunity to bid on the Renton Mine Fire Reclamation Project in Plum Borough, Allegheny County.

[Unfinished business: Legislature leaves Capitol with key policy issues unresolved](#) - While Gov. Tom Wolf and other Democrats focused on the lack of action on increasing the minimum wage, several other closely-watched issue remained unresolved as lawmakers wrapped up their work at the Capitol on Friday.

[DEP moves forward with Quakake Tunnel acid mine water cleanup project](#) - A project to clean Quakake Tunnel's acid mine water is in the works along with a proposed hydroelectric plant that would be powered by the drainage, but a state official said the two are not related.

[Westminster environmental students present research](#) - Westminster College students in the second cohort of the Environmental Project Management Academy (EPMA) presented their interdisciplinary project work combining business and science to professionals in the Western Pennsylvania Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation (WPCAMR) during their quarterly meeting in May.

[Sparse turnout in Greene County for hearing on proposed coal waste facility](#) - For decades, Duncan Horner has enjoyed the panorama of rolling valleys and farmhouses on drives from his house in Pittsburgh to his farm in Richhill Township in Greene County.