



2015 Chestnut Street, Camp Hill, PA 17011 Phone: (717) 763-7635, Fax: (717) 763-7455, Email: office@arippa.org

ARIPPA PERIODIC MEDIA NEWS – 5-1-20

(News clips from the previous month)

CFB, COAL REFUSE, ENERGY INDUSTRY

[PJM CEO sees room for power markets, state policies as it looks to grid of the future](#) - With recent regulatory actions driving some to question the future viability of certain wholesale power markets, the new head of the PJM Interconnection was insistent Tuesday that markets could coincide with state clean energy policies and even help facilitate innovations needed for the grid of the future.

[In 2019, U.S. energy production exceeded consumption for the first time in 62 years](#) - In 2019, for the first time since 1957, energy production exceeded energy consumption in the United States on an annual basis, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration's (EIA) Monthly Energy Review.

[Coal's collapse could lead to a landscape of abandoned mines](#) - As yet another coal mining firm teetered on the edge of bankruptcy, West Virginia on March 26 asked a court for control of several abandoned mines, all owned by mining firm ERP Environmental Fund.

[Electric grid challenges will grow if COVID-19 impacts extend into summer demand season: NERC](#) - While electric grid operators have so-far managed the COVID-19 pandemic effectively, there are potential reliability issues that "increase industry's risk profile" if the virus impacts extend into the summer demand season, according to a new assessment from the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC).

[Coal's outlook darkens as Appalachian companies idle mines, declare bankruptcy](#) - Companies that produce and burn coal across Appalachia have idled mines, filed for bankruptcy and struggled to remain solvent in the past few weeks as demand for steel and energy declines.

[For Energy, Affordability, Reliability, and Balance Matter More Now Than Ever](#) - Energy markets are in disarray. Look no further than oil prices slipping into negative territory for evidence of the chaos. We are only just beginning to understand the economic disruption wrought by a virus that has brought much of the global economy to a screeching halt.

[Clearer picture of coronavirus-driven grid load declines emerges in US after weeks of lockdowns](#) - North American power markets will see disruptions lasting at least 18 months due to the spread of COVID-19 and the economic impacts of a shuttered economy, according to a new report from Wood Mackenzie.

[EIA Notes Power Demand Destruction From Coronavirus](#) - The coronavirus pandemic is altering the power landscape, with utilities and other power generators forced to adjust for load disruptions.

[Energy Groups Supply Gear, Donate Millions to Fight COVID-19](#) - Energy companies and equipment suppliers to the power generation industry have been at the forefront of efforts to battle the COVID-19 pandemic.

[Susquehanna River Basin Commission Videos Highlight Efforts On Mine Drainage Treatment, Aquatic Life Restoration In Watershed](#) - The Susquehanna River Basin Commission recently released two online interviews highlighting the efforts in the watershed to restore aquatic life and treat drainage from abandoned mines.

[Say good-bye to Centralia's Graffiti Highway](#) - The Graffiti Highway, that bizarre landmark at Centralia, is soon to be no more.

LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY ISSUES: FEDERAL

[FERC's Chatterjee highlights COVID-19 demand disruptions, resource threats](#) - Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Chair Neil Chatterjee is focused on how the current pandemic might impact current generation sources, and how the power sector will emerge from this crisis, he told Atlantic Council's Energy Advisory Group Chair David Goldwyn during a Zoom-based interview on Tuesday.

[House passes \\$484B coronavirus relief package](#) - The House on Thursday voted overwhelmingly to pass legislation providing roughly \$484 billion in coronavirus relief for small businesses, hospitals and expanded medical testing, capping weeks of contentious negotiations that had stalled Washington's latest round of emergency aid.

[Supreme Court rejects Trump administration's view on key aspect of Clean Water Act](#) - The Supreme Court on Thursday rejected the Trump administration's reading of a key part of the Clean Water Act as creating an "obvious loophole" in its enforcement, and gave a partial win to environmentalists in a case from Hawaii.

[Battle heats up for phase-four coronavirus relief bill](#) - The Senate's passage of a \$484 billion coronavirus relief bill on Tuesday is setting the stage for negotiations on an even bigger package that could rival the \$2.2 trillion CARES Act passed by Congress last month.

[White House readies push to slash regulations as major part of its coronavirus economic recovery plan](#) - Senior White House and Trump administration officials are planning to launch a sweeping effort in the coming days to repeal or suspend federal regulations affecting businesses, with the expected executive action seen by advisers as a way to boost an economy facing its worst shock in generations, two people familiar with the internal planning said.

[EPA Takes Corrective Action on Standards for Coal-Refuse Power Plants](#) - Today, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is taking corrective action to provide stability in the Pennsylvania and West Virginia economies. Specifically, the agency has established an emissions standard for a new sub-category of six small coal-refuse power plants under the Mercury and Air Toxics Standards (MATS).

[EPA offers hand to industry that burns coal waste](#) - Gary Swartz turned off the paved road and onto a gravel one. Out from behind the trees sprang the mound: 200 acres of ashen earth, the dregs from decades of coal mining, piled up so high, the hills stopped rolling in northwestern Pennsylvania.

[Small Coal-Refuse Power Plants' Emissions Rule Eased by EPA](#) - Small plants that burn coal refuse that mining companies discarded decades ago got a lifeline Thursday as the EPA finalized a rule that allowed them to emit a greater amount of acid gases.

[EPA rule change to save 4 coal plants across Pennsylvania, West Virginia](#) - The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency last week updated its Mercury and Air Toxics Standards (MATS) to accommodate four struggling coal plants across Pennsylvania and West Virginia.

[Rule rollback lets power plants go full steam](#) - Six power plants, including two in Cambria County – Colver Power Project and Ebensburg Power Co. – will now be able to operate under modified Mercury and Air Toxics Standards, resulting from a new U.S. Environmental Protection Agency policy.

[EPA Sets Specific Mercury, Air Toxics Standards For 6 Coal Refuse Power Plants, 3 In PA](#) - On April 9, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency announced specific mercury and air toxics standards for six small coal-refuse power plants in Pennsylvania and West Virginia.

[EPA Takes Step in Support of Coal-Refuse-to-Energy](#) - It is one of those issues that makes you question whether environmentalists really care about the environment. Green groups oppose efforts to deal with the coal refuse problem that plagues many coal mining communities in Pennsylvania and West Virginia.

[EPA rolls back air regulations for waste coal plants in western Pa., W.Va.](#) - The EPA is relaxing air pollution regulations for a small number of plants that burn waste coal for electricity.

[EPA rejects legal basis for MATS, drawing widespread objections, concerns over future air rule impacts](#) - The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency on Thursday finalized its conclusion that regulating mercury and other pollutants from power plants is not "appropriate and necessary."

[Broad array of groups sue FERC over PJM MOPR decision as Chatterjee rejects cost, renewable concerns](#) - A flurry of lawsuits hit the courts on Monday as industry and environmental groups reacted to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's Thursday decision to uphold a controversial December ruling.

[Green groups, coal companies push to have EPA power plant rollback scrapped](#) - The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) faced legal threats on multiple fronts Friday as environmental groups and utilities filed their first briefs in a high-stakes battle over a Trump administration rollback of power plant regulations that coal companies have also blasted.

[14 states press EPA to rescind coronavirus-driven enforcement policy as NGOs file lawsuit](#) - 14 state attorneys general, led by New York's Letitia James, wrote Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Andrew Wheeler on Wednesday demanding the agency rescind its recent policy providing more compliance flexibility to power plants and other regulated entities during the coronavirus pandemic.

[EPA Proposes to Retain NAAQS for Particulate Matter](#) - Today, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is announcing its proposal to retain, without changes, the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for particulate matter (PM) including both fine particles (PM2.5) and coarse particles (PM10).

[U.S. Department of Energy Announces Up to \\$14M for Advanced Coal Processing Technologies](#) - The U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Office of Fossil Energy (FE) announced up to \$14 million in federal funding for cost-shared research and development projects under the funding opportunity announcement (FOA) DE-FOA-0002185, Advanced Coal Processing Technologies.

[EPA rebukes COVID-19 compliance flexibility backlash; FERC gives regulated entities leeway](#) - The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency pushed back on Thursday against federal lawmaker complaints that the compliance flexibility it granted power plants and other regulated entities last week gave those facilities license to pollute.

LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY ISSUES: STATE

[First Pa. counties to reopen will be announced May 1, health secretary says](#) - Pennsylvania Health Secretary Dr. Rachel Levine said the Wolf administration plans to announce on Friday, May 1 which counties will be the first to reopen.

[Gov. Tom Wolf's administration offers more details on reopening Pa.](#) - Gov. Tom Wolf's administration is offering more details on the standards he will use to gradually reopen Pennsylvania.

[Pa. sets May 8 as the target date for regional reopening amid the coronavirus pandemic; here's what it means](#) - Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Wolf provided a light at the end of the proverbial tunnel on Monday for those looking for a date when regional reopening could start in the state amid the coronavirus pandemic.

[Gov. Tom Wolf says he won't abandon ambitious spending plan as massive budget deficit looms](#) - Facing plummeting revenues, increased demand for public assistance, and a July 1 budget deadline, Gov. Tom Wolf and state lawmakers are trying to piece together how they can spend federal stimulus dollars and simultaneously manage a massive budget hole.

[Republicans subpoena Wolf administration for documents related to business waiver process](#) - Republicans in the state legislature have subpoenaed the Wolf administration for documents related to its controversial coronavirus waiver process for businesses, a rarely used maneuver that could spark a legal battle with the Democratic governor.

[Gov. Tom Wolf vetoes bill that could allow more Pa. businesses to reopen](#) - Pennsylvania's Gov. Tom Wolf, as expected, vetoed legislation that would allow more businesses to reopen provided they comply with certain COVID-19 safety standards.

[DEP projects Pa. could cut carbon emissions dramatically as part of cap-and-trade effort](#) - Pennsylvania could reduce its carbon emissions by almost 10 times as much over the next decade if it joins a regional effort aimed at cutting greenhouse gases, according to new projections from the state's Department of Environmental Protection.

[PA Senators Ask Governor to Rescind RGGI Order](#) - At the request of Sen. Joe Pittman (R-41), Sen. Gene Yaw (R-23) and Sen. Dave Argall (R-29), eighteen members of the Pennsylvania Senate Republican Caucus, including party leaders, signed on to a letter this week urging Governor Tom Wolf to rescind an Executive Order instructing the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to participate in the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI), a compact between several Northeast and Mid-Atlantic states that imposes a carbon tax on electricity production and require fossil fuel generators to purchase allowances.

[Masks required for employees and customers, new Pa. health department order states](#) - Most customers and employees at businesses in Pennsylvania that are still operating are now required to wear masks, according to a new state order.

[6 states, including Pa., hope to develop a reopening plan amid the coronavirus pandemic within 'weeks'](#) - The leaders of six Mid-Atlantic states announced Monday the formation of a committee to help tackle how they will reopen businesses, schools, and other things that have been shuttered by the coronavirus pandemic.

[House Republicans Find A New Way To Stop Environmental Regulations](#) - On April 17, Rep. Garth Everett (R-Lycoming) introduced House Bill 2416 which would stop any proposed or final environmental or other state agency regulation from being finalized until at least 90 days after the March 6 COVID-19 emergency declaration by the Governor is terminated.

[DEP Will Continue To Enforce Environmental Laws; 10 COVID-19 Related Waivers Granted](#) - On April 15, DEP Secretary Patrick McDonnell wrote to a coalition of environmental groups from across the state saying in spite of the COVID-19 pandemic, DEP will continue its work to enforce all environmental laws saying-- "we cannot allow one public health crisis [to] lead to another."

[DEP Issues New Guidance On Inspections, Permit Enforcement, Waivers Of Permit, Regulatory Provisions During COVID-19 Pandemic](#) - The Department of Environmental Protection posted new guidance on its website outlining a series of actions it is taking during the COVID-19 pandemic related to inspections, permits enforcement and considering enforcement waivers.

[Pennsylvania facing up to \\$4 billion shortfall as coronavirus shutdown upends state budget](#) - The coronavirus outbreak could cost Pennsylvania \$2.7 billion in lost tax revenue over the next 15 months, blowing a serious hole in the state budget, according to a report released Wednesday by the state's Independent Fiscal Office.

[Here's the first look at how the coronavirus is gutting Pa. state finances, and it's not pretty](#) - Pennsylvania tax revenues fell 6% short of official estimates in March, according to figures released Wednesday by the Department of Revenue, the first glimpse at the fiscal challenge the state will face in the coming months.