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ARIPPA PERIODIC MEDIA NEWS – 11-1-18

(News clips from the previous month)

CFB, COAL REFUSE, ENERGY INDUSTRY

[Pennsylvania Coal Bosses See Demand Up for Anthracite](#) - Lawmakers and coal executives huddled in a Pennsylvania high school gymnasium Oct. 4 to chart a future for a local specialty: anthracite coal.

[Electricity markets: States reassert authority over power generation](#) - States want the benefits of electricity markets but also want to dictate their outcomes. How federal regulators strike a balance will influence the power mix for decades to come.

[PJM Statement on Independent Review of GreenHat Energy Default](#) - The PJM Interconnection Board of Managers has commenced an independent review of the June 2018 default of GreenHat Energy LLC, a financial transmission rights (FTR) trader in the PJM markets.

[As DOE's Coal Rescue Reportedly Dead-Ends, Stakeholders Recommend New Pathways](#) - The White House may have shelved an effort to force grid operators to buy power from uneconomic coal and nuclear plants amid opposition inside the administration, Politico reported on October 15.

[Electricity generation reaches highest level since the 2008 recession](#) - America's electricity generation reached the highest level since before the economic recession, just-released government data shows.

[Carbon dioxide emissions from the U.S. power sector have declined 28% since 2005](#) - U.S. electric power sector carbon dioxide emissions (CO2) have declined 28% since 2005 because of slower electricity demand growth and changes in the mix of fuels used to generate electricity.

[US on pace for record coal retirements in 2018, IEEFA finds](#) - U.S. power providers will close more coal-fired generation capacity in 2018 than any year before, according to research released last week by the Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis (IEEFA), a clean energy think tank.

[New campaign will ask coal users to face the 'cold hard economic case' against them](#) - Bruce Nilles, who led the charge against coal that shuttered 275 of the 530 U.S. coal plants as director of the Sierra Club Beyond Coal Campaign from 2002 to 2018, will now lead a new effort against the resource.

[Greens challenge Trump's rollback of coal ash standards](#) - Environmental groups are suing the Trump administration for rolling back parts of a major regulation governing how companies store coal ash.

[Competitive Generators Look to the Supreme Court After Seventh Circuit Declines Rehearing on Nuclear Subsidies](#) - The Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals has declined to rehear a case that challenges nuclear subsidies in Illinois, effectively dealing a blow to a group of competitive generators, which have fought the measure for several years.

[Study: Natural gas, wind, solar cheapest power generation](#) - Natural gas, solar and wind are the cheapest ways to generate electric power, according to a new study released by the University of Texas at Austin's Energy Institute on Thursday.

[More than 16 GW of coal-fired capacity to retire by 2021, FERC staff](#) - More than 37 GW of generation capacity has been proposed to retire by September 2021, including 16.3 GW of coal-fired capacity, 12 GW of gas-fired power and 8 GW of nuclear generation, according to the US Federal Energy Regulatory Commission staff's monthly infrastructure report.

[Agency: Regional electric power grid relying more on natural gas-fired plants](#) - The nation's largest regional power grid is relying increasingly on natural gas-fired power plants for its electrical power supply, the U.S. Energy Information Administration said Wednesday.

[Exelon makes last push to save Pa. nuclear plant as federal action stalls](#) - With the clock ticking on Exelon Corp.'s Three Mile Island power plant, nuclear energy proponents hope Pennsylvania lawmakers will propose legislation in early 2019 to bolster the state's nuclear fleet as that industry sector grapples with competitive natural gas-fired generation and slack demand growth.

[Can Coal and Nuclear Power Plants Be Saved?](#) - It's no secret that U.S. nuclear and coal-fired power plants are struggling to remain viable in competitive markets.

[PJM recasts capacity repricing in market reform filing at FERC](#) - The PJM Interconnection on Tuesday filed a pair of options to reform its capacity market with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), recasting a capacity repricing plan that the agency threw out when it invalidated the grid operator's market rules in June.

[PJM: FirstEnergy can shut 4 GW of fossil plants without harming reliability](#) - PJM Interconnection has completed a 30-day reliability study of FirstEnergy Solutions' (FES) proposed coal and diesel plant retirements, concluding the shutdowns can proceed without impacting the grid's reliability.

[When PJM's capacity market stops working for consumers is it time to leave?](#) - Illinois Commerce Commission Chairman Brien Sheahan urges states with renewable energy mandates or nuclear subsidies to reevaluate their participation in the nation's largest electricity market.

[Appalachian commission awards \\$26M to struggling coal towns](#) - The Appalachian Regional Commission is spreading \$26.5 million in awards to nine states to assist struggling coal communities.

[Study That Failed to Back Trump's Coal Rescue Plan Is Kept Under Wraps](#) - A report commissioned by the Energy Department failed to reach conclusions favoring the Trump administration's efforts to prop up coal and nuclear power -- and remains under wraps six months after submission.

[U.N. report on global warming carries life-or-death warning](#) - Preventing an extra single degree of heat could make a life-or-death difference in the next few decades for multitudes of people and ecosystems on this fast-warming planet, an international panel of scientists reported Sunday.

[Coal, Mining Companies Face Uncertainty With Safety Panel's Halt](#) - Some enforcement cases in the federal mine safety regulatory world are in flux after the five-member legal review panel that hears disputes between regulators and mining companies lost its quorum in late August.

[Wind Farms May Actually Warm the US, Controversial Study Finds](#) - Climate change? Bad. Wind farms to fight climate change? Maybe...also bad?

LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY ISSUES: FEDERAL

[Trump names Chatterjee FERC chair](#) - President Trump on Wednesday designated Commissioner Neil Chatterjee to be the chairman of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

[Trump indicates he might formally tap Wheeler to lead EPA](#) - President Trump indicated Tuesday that he might nominate current acting Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) chief Andrew Wheeler to be the agency's official head.

[National briefs: EPA aims to triple pace of deregulation in coming year](#) - The Environmental Protection Agency released a plan for eliminating regulations next year that would likely dwarf its current rule-cutting pace.

[EPA Advances Proposed Changes to Mercury Rule](#) - The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) confirmed it has submitted proposed changes to the Mercury and Air Toxics Standards (MATS) to the White House for review, despite urging by the industry to let the rule stand.

[Democratic attorneys general ready for round two of climate rule fight](#) - Democratic attorneys general are teaming up to try to block the Trump administration's climate rule rollback agenda, with the latest bout to be fought Wednesday over the repeal of the Obama-era Clean Power Plan.

[The Energy 202: Trump administration pushes EPA's science overhaul to 2020](#) - It was one of former Environmental Protection Agency chief Scott Pruitt's biggest and most ballyhooed projects. Now the Trump administration just said it won't get done until 2020. On Wednesday, the Trump administration indicated it won't finalize for another year a proposed rule limiting what science that agency can use when it writes new anti-pollution rules.

[EPA scraps pair of air pollution science panels](#) - The Environmental Protection Agency moved this week to disband two outside panels of experts charged with advising the agency on limiting harmful emissions of soot and smog-forming pollutants.

[EPA's new carbon plan won't slow coal unit shutdowns: utilities](#) - The Trump administration's replacement of Obama-era carbon regulations will not save U.S. coal-fired power plants from shutdown, according to a Reuters survey of utilities, spelling bad news for Trump's efforts to revive the ailing coal industry.

[Trump nominates coal, nuclear bailout supporter to U.S. power agency](#) - U.S. President Donald Trump on Wednesday nominated a proponent of his administration's plan to subsidize aging coal and nuclear plants to a federal agency that regulates power transmission, a move criticized by environmental groups who questioned his independence on the issue.

[Report: As EPA rewrites mercury rules, new cost-benefit approach could curtail future regulations](#) - The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reportedly completed a plan to rewrite mercury emission rules for coal plants that will also alter how the agency weighs the costs and benefits of air regulations.

[How Did MATS Affect U.S. Coal Generation?](#) - Industry aggressively fought the Mercury and Air Toxics Standards (MATS) when the Obama administration proposed it in 2011 and finalized it in February 2012, warning it would precipitate the closure of a swathe of coal capacity nationwide. Six years later, the rule appears to have had a sizable impact on the power sector, but not nearly to the extent its opponents projected.

[DOE moves to slash cost of carbon capture for coal-fired power plants](#) - The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) on Thursday announced up to \$30 million in federal funding for research into carbon dioxide (CO₂) capture technologies, specifically solvent, sorbent and membrane technologies that could help keep coal-fired generation competitive.

[Court Upholds Water Intake Rule, Offering Some Certainty for Power Plants](#) - The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit in July issued a long-awaited decision in the case Cooling Water Intake Structure Coalition v. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), upholding the EPA's 2014 Rule establishing requirements pursuant to Clean Water Act (CWA) section 316(b) for cooling water intake structures (CWIS) at existing facilities.

[Carbon tax gets renewed attention but still faces resistance](#) - Advocates of taxing fossil fuels believe their position is stronger now because of an alarming new report on climate change and a Nobel Prize awarded to by two American economists, but neither development is likely to break down political resistance to a carbon tax.

[Brett Kavanaugh sworn in as new Supreme Court justice after long, rancorous fight](#) - Brett Kavanaugh was sworn in Saturday night as the 114th justice of the U.S. Supreme Court, after a wrenching debate over sexual misconduct and judicial temperament that shattered the Senate, captivated the nation and ushered in an acrimonious new level of polarization — now encroaching on the court that the 53-year-old judge may well swing rightward for decades to come.

LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY ISSUES: STATE

[Pennsylvania so far not joining rush to support struggling nuclear plants](#) - As other states move to rescue their uneconomic nuclear power plants, Pennsylvania is still weighing whether to take action.

[Pennsylvania GOP dealt 3rd redistricting loss in US courts](#) - The U.S. Supreme Court is dismissing another challenge by top Republican lawmakers from Pennsylvania to the legality of new congressional district boundaries imposed by the state's highest court in a gerrymandering case.

[DEP Now Accepting Nominations For 2019 Governor's Awards For Environmental Excellence](#) - The Department of Environmental Protection Wednesday announced it is now accepting nominations for the 2019 Governor's Award for Environmental Excellence to showcase the best of the best among Pennsylvania's environmental stewards.

[Fish & Boat Commission Names Tim Schaeffer Executive Director](#) - During a special meeting Thursday, the Fish and Boat Commission Board of Commissioners voted unanimously to appoint Tim Schaeffer to the role of Executive Director.

[House vote sinks effort to trim Pennsylvania Legislature](#) - A proposal to shrink the number of lawmakers in the Pennsylvania Legislature was killed Monday by a procedural vote in the state House, a quick death for a proposal that has lingered for years.

[Wagner vows to eliminate unneeded state regulations](#) - Republican governor candidate Scott Wagner promises to chop away unneeded state regulations and find billions of dollars in savings or new revenues if Pennsylvania elect him next month.

[Pennsylvania Coal Companies Awarded For Exemplary Surface Coal Mine Reclamation](#) - The Pennsylvania Coal Alliance (PCA) recently recognized the efforts of several member companies who performed above and beyond federal and state regulations for reclaiming coal mine sites to environmentally sound conditions with productive uses during the 2017 calendar year.

[Gov. Tom Wolf vs. Scott Wagner: Your guide to the 2018 Pa. governor race](#) - Gov. Tom Wolf, a Democrat, and Scott Wagner, a Republican, are set to face each other on Election Day — the first time that two people from York County will compete for governorship in Pennsylvania.

[In the only debate for Tom Wolf and Scott Wagner, voters learned little](#) new - The first and only debate between Pennsylvania's gubernatorial candidates could have been as mentally challenging as a game of "Jeopardy!" but it didn't provide voters many answers they didn't already know.

[Pittsburgh Post-Gazette joins other news groups to launch state government watchdog reporting team](#) - The Pittsburgh Post-Gazette is joining with the Philadelphia Inquirer and LNP Media Group in Lancaster to launch a news project designed to collaborate on investigative and explanatory coverage of the state capital.