



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

ARIPPA PERIODIC MEDIA NEWS – 6-1-18

LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY ISSUES: FEDERAL

[Trump Prepares Lifeline for Money-Losing Coal Power Plants](#) - Trump administration officials are making plans to order grid operators to buy electricity from struggling coal and nuclear plants in an effort to extend their life, a move that could represent an unprecedented intervention into U.S. energy markets.

[How can existing coal plants run better? DOE wants to know](#) - The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) has opened an inquiry into possible improvements to the country's fleet of coal-based power plants, with emphasis on making them more efficient, flexible and reliable.

[EPA air chief praises House efforts to alter New Source Review](#) - Environmental Protection Agency Assistant Administrator William Wehrum told House members he supports the legislative effort to alter New Source Review (NSR) permitting regulations under the Clean Air Act during a committee hearing on Wednesday.

[Administrator Pruitt Signs Memo to Reform the National Ambient Air Quality Standards Review Process](#) - U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Scott Pruitt signed a memorandum outlining a “Back-to-Basics” process for reviewing National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) under the Clean Air Act.

[Feds refuse Connecticut's request to force Brunner Island power plant to cut smog pollution](#) - The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has turned down Connecticut’s petition to force the Brunner Island power plant to cut down on smog pollutants the state claims heavily contribute to its unhealthy air.

[Department of Energy Seeks Information on Small-Scale Modular Coal-Based Power Plants of the Future](#) - The U.S. Department of Energy’s (DOE) Office of Fossil Energy has issued a Request for Information (RFI) for input on the development of small-scale, modular coal-based power plants of the future.

[EPA designates areas non-compliant with 2015 ozone standards](#) - The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency on Tuesday identified 51 areas in 22 states that do not currently meet federal ozone requirements, a step toward carrying out national air quality standards for ozone that were issued in 2015.

[U.S. Rep. Rothfus sends another letter to Trump urging action to save coal, nuclear plants](#) - U.S. Rep. Keith Rothfus has sent a second letter to President Donald Trump, urging him to enact an emergency order that could keep struggling coal and nuclear plants open.

[EPA Sets Schedule for Potential ELG Rule Revision](#) - The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has issued an official timeline for rulemaking that would potentially revise the Obama administration’s 2015 effluent limitations guidelines and standards (ELGs) for steam electric power plants.

[White House Aides Are Urging President Trump to Fire Scott Pruitt, the E.P.A. Chief](#) - Senior White House staff members are encouraging President Trump to fire Scott Pruitt, his embattled Environmental Protection Agency chief, according to two top administration officials.

[Two Top Aides to Scott Pruitt Quit the E.P.A. Unexpectedly](#) - Two top aides to Scott Pruitt, the Environmental Protection Agency chief who is facing an array of investigations related to his spending and management practices, have resigned amid widening scrutiny of their roles at the agency.

LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY ISSUES: STATE

[Governor, lawmakers aren't panicking as budget push nears](#) - As the most intense part of this year's budget season is about to get underway, it's been remarkably quiet in the state Capitol, and policymakers say they're hopeful that bodes well for an improvement in what's been a strained process for several years.

[Sen. Scott Wagner resigning his seat to focus on governor's race](#) - Republican gubernatorial nominee Scott Wagner will resign his seat in the state Senate next week to focus on his attempt to take Gov. Tom Wolf's job.

[One year later: Officials still torn over whether to save TMI from shut down](#) - One year since Exelon Corp. announced it would close its reactor on Three Mile Island, state legislators and industry leaders are still torn on whether to step in and keep the dying nuclear plant afloat.

[Energy coalition brings conservative view to energy discussion](#) - There is a new kid on the energy block in the Keystone State. Pennsylvania Conservative Energy Forum, a coalition of conservative energy proponents, launched during a news conference Thursday morning.

[Pennsylvania Primary Election Results](#) - Tuesday's primaries were the first test of Pennsylvania's new districts, drawn in response to a court order that deemed the old map unconstitutional for its gerrymandering in favor of Republicans.

[Sen. Bob Casey rolls out a coal miner ad as fight with Barletta ramps up](#) - Who is better for coal miners? That appears to be the first chapter of the Bob Casey versus Lou Barletta general election saga with a U.S. Senate seat on the line.

[Bill would revamp how Pennsylvania draws district boundaries](#) - A Pennsylvania Senate committee is advancing a proposal to completely overhaul how the state draws districts for the Legislature and Congress.

[Wolf Administration Awards Funding to Help Homeowners Identify Potential Mine Subsidence Risks](#) - The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) awarded grants to two Pennsylvania universities and one non-governmental organization to improve efforts to educate homeowners of mine subsidence risks by converting old paper maps of underground coal mines into electronic formats for use by DEP and state and local governments.

[Pennsylvania Allocates More Than \\$20 Million to Support Water Quality Improvement Projects Statewide](#) - Growing Greener Plus, Pennsylvania's most widely recognized environmental grant program, opens May 14 with more than \$20 million available to municipalities and nonprofit organizations for projects to improve water quality in their community or statewide.

[Wolf Administration Announces Funding to Support 150 Abandoned Mine Reclamation Projects to Create Jobs and Improve Safety and the Environment Statewide](#) - The Wolf Administration today announced the approval of \$55.6 million in funding that will support at least 150 abandoned coal mine reclamation projects that will create new jobs, reduce health and safety risks, and improve the environment and outdoor recreation opportunities throughout Pennsylvania.

[New push for severance tax in Harrisburg](#) - A severance tax is being proposed once again in Harrisburg. Gov. Tom Wolf, who was joined by a bipartisan coalition of lawmakers Monday, announced new legislation in both the Senate and House of Representatives meant to "create a reasonable, commonsense severance tax in Pennsylvania."

[Gov. Wolf sets Nov. 6 as date for U.S. House special elections](#) - Pennsylvania will fill the empty seat of resigned U.S. Rep. Patrick Meehan in a special election on Nov. 6, the day of the general election.

CFB, COAL REFUSE, ENERGY INDUSTRY

[PJM loses a quarter of its nuke capacity in latest power auction](#) - Cleared nuclear capacity fell by more than a quarter in PJM's latest Base Residual Auction, the grid operator announced Wednesday, while demand response, renewables, natural gas and coal all increased their cleared capacity compared to last year.

[U.S. Power Grid Payout Sends Surprise Boost to Coal, Nuclear](#) - Embattled coal and nuclear power-plant operators stand to get a lot more money to provide capacity to the biggest U.S. electricity grid -- if they can hold on for another three years.

[Could Clean Coal Actually Become A Reality?](#) - Imagine a world where “clean coal” was no longer rhetoric – a world where coal was not just low emission, but no emission. This seemingly far-fetched idea is to many, nothing more than science fiction. However, researchers at the Ohio State University in Columbus, Ohio may be about to change that perception.

[DOJ, FERC Back Illinois in Nuclear Subsidy Fight](#) - The U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) on May 29 told the U.S. 7th Circuit Court of Appeals that Illinois’ nuclear subsidy program does not preempt federal statute, siding with the state and Exelon Corp. in a contentious legal fight that has divided the power sector.

[New Jersey OKs \\$300M annually to rescue nuclear industry](#) - Legislation that would authorize \$300 million annually to rescue New Jersey's nuclear energy industry - a request for financial help made by the state's largest utility company - was signed into law Wednesday.

[Resilience Leads Discussion at PJM Annual Meeting](#) - Attendees who didn’t pick up on the theme of PJM’s annual meeting last week weren’t listening. “Resilience” was uttered so many times during the General Session that speakers were sheepishly joking about using the word before launching into their own comments.

[PJM Board elects new chair, welcomes new member](#) - The PJM Board today elected Ake Almgren, Ph.D., as board chair to succeed the retiring chair, Howard Schneider, who served on the board since its inception in 1997.

[PJM Says Grid Reliable, but Will Analyze Resilience](#) - The operator of the nation’s largest electrical grid on April 30 reiterated its system will remain reliable even with the retirements of substantial generation resources. But PJM Interconnection, whose system covers customers in 13 states, said it will conduct a review of its operations over the next several months “to understand the fuel-supply risks in an environment trending towards greater reliance on natural gas.”

[EIA: Fossil Fuel Use for Electric Generation Falls to Lowest Level Since 1994](#) - Driven by massive declines in coal, overall fossil fuel use in electric generation fell to the lowest level since 1994, the Energy Information Administration reported.

[EIA: 2018 Capacity Additions Predicted at 10-Year High](#) - The latest prediction from the Energy Information Administration anticipates nearly 32 GW to come online in 2018, the most in any year over the past decade.

[FirstEnergy disputes report that grid won’t be affected by nuke plant closures](#) - The agency that oversees the electric grid for 13 states — including Pennsylvania — has stated that the premature retirement of FirstEnergy’s nuclear fleet won’t jeopardize the reliability of its transmission system, a statement that isn’t sitting well with the company.

[Pennsylvania researchers trying to grow hemp in coal waste using mine water](#) - Hemp is coming to Lackawanna County. The state recently awarded a hemp research permit to the nonprofit U.S. Ecological Advanced Research & Conservation Hub in Mayfield and Lackawanna College for them to grow and explore potential industrial uses of hemp, the college announced.

[Unfinished business: Oven Run AMD system updates underway, but ‘not enough’](#) - When the first phase of the Oven Run Treatment System debuted 22 years ago, it was celebrated as an acid mine drainage abatement marvel.

[Buffington project to address acid mine drainage](#) - A multimillion-dollar federal grant funneled through the state Department of Environmental Protection will cover construction of an abandoned mine drainage (AMD) treatment plant in Buffington Township.

[Abandoned mine work slated in Plum, Rostraver, Derry Township](#) - A long-burning underground mine fire near Renton in Plum, a coal refuse pile in Rostraver and the potential for mine subsidence in the Derry Township village of Bradenville are among 150 threats from long-abandoned mines slated for work this year, the Wolf administration announced Tuesday.

[Alstom Pulls Out of Joint Ventures with GE in \\$3.1 Billion Expense](#) - Alstom SA has decided to pull out of three joint energy ventures with General Electric, which will leave GE on the hook for \$3.1 billion, Bloomberg reported.

[Report: More Than One Quarter of U.S. Nuclear Power Plants are Closing or Unprofitable](#) - A new report by Bloomberg New Energy Finance concluded more than a quarter of U.S. nuclear plants don't make enough money to cover their operating costs.

[Climate Activists And Coal Interests Unite, Lending Support To Zero-Emissions Technologies](#) - When it comes to reducing the temperature on future coal use, either the world's biggest consumers have to severely cut their appetites or the fuel has to become a lot cleaner.