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ARIPPA PERIODIC MEDIA NEWS – 4-1-19

(News clips from the previous month)

CFB, COAL REFUSE, ENERGY INDUSTRY

[DEP, EPCAMR, Trout Unlimited Tell U.S. House Subcommittee Hearing Reauthorizing Federal Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fee Critical, There's A Lot More To Do](#) - On March 28, the U.S. House Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources held a hearing on Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation: Innovative Approaches and Economic Development Opportunities.

[Reliability, Fuel Supply Strong in PJM During 2018-2019 Winter](#) - The PJM electrical grid came through the 2018–2019 winter reliably in the face of extreme temperatures and high electricity demand.

[Gas Now Tops Coal in PJM, but Nuclear Still No. 1](#) - A report from an independent market monitor for PJM Interconnection shows that natural gas-fired power generation topped coal-fired output in PJM in 2018, the first time that gas has topped coal in the history of the largest U.S. grid operator.

[Market Monitor: 3 GW nukes, 12 GW coal uneconomic in PJM](#) - The independent market monitor for the PJM Interconnection released its "2018 State of the Market Report" on Thursday, showing the unprofitability of some nuclear and coal plants in the mid-Atlantic power market.

[Monitor Says PJM's Capacity Market not Competitive](#) - Unsound rules for calculating default market seller offer caps and other persistent structural flaws made PJM's capacity market uncompetitive in 2018, the RTO's Independent Market Monitor said Thursday.

[Who's afraid of FirstEnergy Solutions' restructuring plan? Every government agency that has seen it](#) - A power generator's plan to restructure its business after a year-long bankruptcy isn't sitting right with a long list of federal and state government agencies.

[PJM Tells 2 House Committees Competitive Electric Markets Significantly Reduced Prices For PA Ratepayers; Grid Will Remain Reliable Into The Future](#) - On March 11, F. Stuart Bresler, III, from the PJM Interconnection, the interstate electric grid operator, told two House Committees competitive electricity generation markets have served Pennsylvania consumers well by significantly reducing electricity prices.

[PJM pushes FERC to act on capacity market rules, citing 'uncertainty' and 'confusion'](#) - The PJM Interconnection on Monday sent a letter to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, pushing the agency to approve the grid operator's rewrite of capacity market rules before fast-approaching deadlines for its August auction.

[Power Companies Refute Findings of Widespread Coal Plant Groundwater Contamination](#) - An estimated 91% of U.S. coal power plants that submitted groundwater monitoring data as required by the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) 2015 Coal Combustion Residuals (CCR) rule have unsafe levels of one or more contaminants, a collaborative analysis of the monitoring data by several environmental groups suggests.

[Eastern PA Coalition For Abandoned Mine Reclamation Opposes Transfer Of Environmental Stewardship, Keystone Funds To Pay Agency Operating Costs](#) - On February 25, the Eastern PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation sent a letter to Gov. Wolf opposing the transfer of monies from the Environmental Stewardship (Growing Greener) and Keystone Recreation, Parks and Conservation funds to pay operating expenses for DEP and DCNR.

[States Take Lead with Plans for 100% Carbon-Free Energy](#) - Minnesota and Wisconsin recently joined the list of states aiming for a 100% clean-energy future, while some Illinois lawmakers are pushing for not only carbon-free power, but also 100% renewable energy.

[Commentary: The Fallacy of Wind Power Generation](#) - The source of energy for driving wind turbines is the wind, and in this context, it is important to remember the first law of thermodynamics, which states that energy cannot be created or destroyed, only transformed from one form to another.

LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY ISSUES: FEDERAL

[Perry eyes innovation as answer to mitigating coal's demise in fuel mix](#) - Counting out the coal industry at this point would be equivalent to counting out American ingenuity and innovation, Energy Secretary Rick Perry said at a forum Friday, while others made a case for preserving coal's place in the fuel mix for reliability and national security purposes.

[House Democrats introduce legislation to keep U.S. in Paris Climate Agreement](#) - House Democrats introduced legislation Wednesday that would keep the U.S. in the Paris Climate Change Agreement and calls on President Trump to release a plan for the country to keep its commitment under the United Nations pact.

[Senate defeats Green New Deal, as Democrats call vote a 'sham'](#) - The Senate on Tuesday rejected the Green New Deal, with Republicans casting the proposal to reduce dependence on fossil fuels to combat climate change as a far-left idea and with Democrats taking the rare step of voting "present" on a politically driven vote.

[FERC chief of staff Pugliese steps down](#) - Anthony Pugliese, the chief of staff at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, has resigned effective March 15, the agency announced Wednesday.

[Plant bailout back on tap as Perry, coal interests reportedly derail FERC nomination](#) - A federal coal bailout is back in the spotlight in Washington due to a new White House economic report and headlines about a shakeup in the nomination process for the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC).

[Utility groups ask US EPA not to jeopardize billions in mercury rule investments](#) - The US' largest electric utility groups are asking the Environmental Protection Agency not to jeopardize billions of dollars in investments made to comply with an Obama-era rule that restricts mercury emissions from oil- and coal-fired power plants.

[Perry says federal coal & nuke bailout not dead, but encourages states to act](#) - The Department of Energy (DOE) has not given up on crafting a financial support package for at-risk coal and nuclear plants, Secretary Rick Perry said Wednesday, but he encouraged states to devise their own programs as well.

[Chatterjee: Transmission could be resilience docket solution](#) - The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's high profile proceeding to enhance grid resilience could feature transmission investments as a solution, Chairman Neil Chatterjee said for the first time in public on Thursday.

[McNamee still mulling resilience docket recusal](#) - Federal Energy Regulatory Commissioner Bernard McNamee is still working with agency ethics officials to determine if he will participate in a pending proceeding on grid resilience, he told reporters Wednesday.

[Trump's energy budget makes coal and nuclear a priority over renewables](#) - President Trump's fiscal 2020 budget energy priorities emphasize coal, nuclear and national security over renewable energy and climate change.

[The Energy 202: Congress has held at least 15 climate hearings since Democrats won the House](#) - There's been one on climate change and infrastructure. Another on climate change and publicly owned lands. And there have been two on climate change and oceans.

[Obama-era EPA was 'weaponized against coal sector': former administrator Pruitt](#) - Before the Trump administration, the Environmental Protection Agency was "weaponized" against several sectors of the US economy, including the coal sector, the agency's former administrator Scott Pruitt said Wednesday.

LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY ISSUES: STATE

[PA Receives \\$53.8 Million In 2019 Federal Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation Funds, Reclamation Fee Due To Expire](#) - On March 19, the federal Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement announced Pennsylvania will receive \$53,846,935 in Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation funding.

[\\$500 million Pennsylvania nuclear rescue plan triggers fierce battle from rival power producers](#) - After two years of preparation and months of speculation, supporters of Pennsylvania's nuclear industry on Monday unveiled a proposed \$500 million rescue package that they say would cost each state household about \$1.77 a month in higher electric rates.

[House Consumer Affairs Committee To Hold 4 Hearings On House Bill 11 Adding Nuclear Power Plants To AEPS To Support Industry](#) - The House Consumer Affairs Committee will hold a series of 4 hearings starting April 8 on House Bill 11 (Mehaffie-R-Lancaster) adding nuclear power plants to the Alternative Energy Portfolio Standards to provide financial support to the industry.

[Self-described climate contrarian tells Pa. House committee global warming alarm is overblown](#) - Gregory Wrightstone's testimony on what he called climate myths Wednesday ended up drawing a chuckle from a vampire, fairy, and other mythical creatures who gathered to protest a self-described climate contrarian's take on the global warming.

[Updated Agency-By-Agency Regulatory Agenda Published By Governor's Office](#) - On March 23, the Governor's Office published an updated agency-by-agency Regulatory Agenda listing regulations agencies are in the process of developing and adopting.

[House Bill Would Give Either Senate Or House Environmental Committee A Veto Over Any DEP Groundwater Withdraw Regulations](#) - Rep. Dan Moul (R-Adams) has again introduced legislation-- House Bill 804-- authorizing DEP to broadly regulate groundwater withdrawals for the first time, but would give either the Senate or House Environmental Committees the authority to veto any regulation adopted to implement the legislation without a full vote of the Senate or House.

[Wolf Administration Names Environmental Excellence Award Winners](#) - One individual and 17 organizations, businesses, and local governments in Pennsylvania have been selected by the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to receive the prestigious 2019 Governor's Award for Environmental Excellence.

[DEP Deputy Secretary George Hartenstein To Retire After 37 Years Of Public Service](#) - DEP Deputy Secretary for Waste, Air, Radiation and Remediation George Hartenstein will retire at the end of March after 37 years of public service at the Department of Environmental Protection.

[DEP: Coal ash is regulated](#) - A report released Monday cited a power generation station in Lawrence County as the fifth-worst polluter of underground water in the country.

[Senate's Next Job: Consider Confirmation Of DEP, DCNR, Agriculture Secretaries](#) - With budget hearings now out of the way, one of the Senate's next tasks is to consider Gov. Wolf's nominations of Patrick McDonnell as DEP Secretary, Cindy Adams Dunn as DCNR Secretary and Russell Redding as Agriculture Secretary.

[Lawmakers keep questioning Wolf's 'intricate web' of environmental funding](#) - State lawmakers remain skeptical about a provision in Governor Tom Wolf's budget plan to transfer money out of special environmental funds to fill financial gaps.

[Joint Conservation Committee Celebrates 50th Anniversary With Special Report Reviewing Its History](#) - The Joint Legislative Air and Water Pollution Control and Conservation Committee recently celebrated its 50th anniversary by putting out a special report highlighting its history, the issues it was involved with and accomplishments.