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ARIPPA PERIODIC MEDIA NEWS – 5-1-19

(News clips from the previous month)

CFB, COAL REFUSE, ENERGY INDUSTRY

[Four Million-Ton Symbol of Coal's Past Finally Being Cleaned Up](#) - A 110-foot mountain of coal debris, one of the most prominent symbols of decades of mining in rural Pennsylvania, is finally being cleaned up—and a company that had nothing to do with the pile's creation is footing a big chunk of the bill.

[Mine reclamation project begins in Swoyersville](#) - State Sen. John Yudichak believes the Harry E mine reclamation project is a good illustration of how coal refuse companies are helping communities such as Swoyersville address the serious environmental impact of mine-scarred land.

[Reclaiming history: Work begins at Swoyersville coal waste site](#) - The mountain of coal waste that's been an eyesore to borough residents for generations finally is being hauled away.

[Cambria Cogeneration plant to go dark – for at least two years](#) - A Cambria Township waste coal plant will shut down this summer until at least 2021, the facility's owner said.

[Going green: Mine waste remediation projects pay dividends for former coal towns](#) - Like everyone else in Ehrenfeld, Ken Fetsko Jr. grew up in the shadow of a waste coal mountain.

[Study Shows 150% Return On Investment For Cleaning Up Little Conemaugh Watershed, Cambria County](#) - The Foundation for Pennsylvania Watersheds recently released a study of the Little Conemaugh Watershed in Cambria County which found a 150 percent return on investment for detoxifying local rivers and denuded landscape.

[EIA: Renewables to top coal generation for first time in April/May](#) - Data in the U.S. Energy Information Administration's latest Short Term Energy Outlook forecasts renewable energy resources, including hydroelectricity, will generate more electricity in April and May than coal-fired plants.

[PJM endorses plan to evaluate pricing carbon emissions into its wholesale power markets](#) - PJM Interconnection initiated a process Thursday to explore the feasibility of developing a regional or sub-regional approach to pricing carbon emissions into its wholesale power markets, with members and stakeholders endorsing the plan by a wide margin.

[Pennsylvania nuclear plants largely profitable for next 10 years: study](#) - An anti-nuclear subsidy group Monday released a report by former PJM Interconnection chief economist Paul Sotkiewicz that determined four of Pennsylvania's five nuclear power plants appear profitable through at least 2028, based on public data.

[Water pools left by mining a blessing and curse for region](#) - If the massive water pools under the Wyoming Valley are both a potential blessing and a curse, toward which possibility is the pendulum swinging as we move deeper into the 21st century?

[Rare, valuable elements extracted in Hazleton area](#) - Five small glass jars holding powders and flakes of yellow, tan and white prove that a team of companies can extract scarce, valuable elements from mines of Jeddo Coal in the Hazleton area.

[Utilities flee UARG as Congressional Dems tee up probe into lobbying group](#) - Seven electric utilities have reportedly ended their membership in an industry lobbying group as Congressional Democrats step up their scrutiny of its connections with the Environmental Protection Agency's top air quality official.

[PJM Will Hold Capacity Auction Under Current Rules in August](#) - PJM Interconnection said it will hold its 2022–2023 capacity auction under current market rules on Aug. 14, 2019, though the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) has yet to issue a decision on the grid operator’s plan to revamp its Minimum Offer Price Rule (MOPR).

[Group pitches minelands cleanup](#) - The Eastern Pennsylvania Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation made a strong pitch Thursday before a congressional committee for bipartisan support of continued cleanup of mine-scarred land.

[Supreme Court won't hear nuke subsidy cases, clarifying state energy jurisdiction](#) - The U.S. Supreme Court on Monday declined to take up a pair of cases challenging state nuclear subsidies in New York and Illinois, affirming the legality of the similar programs.

[Report: Natural gas surpasses coal for electrical power generating capacity](#) - Combined-cycle natural gas power plants like the one that opened in South Huntingdon in December are tipping the scales of U.S. electrical power capacity more toward natural gas and away from coal, the U.S. Energy Information Administration said Wednesday.

[Report: U.S. consumed more energy in 2018 than ever before](#) - The United States consumed more energy in 2018 than ever before, the U.S. Energy Information Administration said on Tuesday.

[Report: Pennsylvania largest net exporter of electricity in U.S.](#) - Pennsylvania was the largest net exporter of electricity in the United States from 2013-17, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration.

[Exelon Files Required Three Mile Island Decommissioning Report With NRC](#) - On April 5, Exelon Generation, owner and operator of the Three Mile Island (TMI) Unit 1 nuclear energy facility, filed the federally required Post Shutdown Decommissioning Activities Report (PSDAR) detailing plans for the plant after its final shutdown, scheduled September 2019.

[PJM files update to energy market price formation rules with FERC](#) - PJM Interconnection filed a proposal on Friday with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to update its energy market price formation rules, due to an impasse among its stakeholders.

[Appalachian Independent Power Producers Accepting Mine Reclamation Grant Applications](#) - The Appalachian Region Independent Power Producers (ARIPPA) is now accepting applications for two \$2,500 mine reclamation grants. Applications are due May 1.

[The Economic Thicket of Generating Cost Comparisons](#) - Is there a process to improve cross-technology cost comparisons? Berkeley’s Borenstein, in a 2011 paper, has several suggestions. One is eliminating direct subsidies and tax breaks from LCOE calculations.

[Exelon spent millions in lobbying after announcing TMI closure](#) - Exelon Corp. nearly tripled its lobbying expenditures in Pennsylvania between 2016 and 2018 — and it will soon see if that paid off as hearings about subsidizing nuclear energy begin next week.

[Bankrupt FirstEnergy Solutions spends millions on bailout campaigns in Ohio and Pennsylvania](#) - Bankruptcy documents reveal that FirstEnergy Solutions has spent millions of dollars on outside lobbying and public relations firm as it seeks bailouts for its nuclear power plants from consumers in Ohio and Pennsylvania.

[Judge rejects FirstEnergy's plan to get rid of environmental liabilities in subsidiary's bankruptcy](#) - FirstEnergy Corp. and its bankrupt subsidiary FirstEnergy Solutions hit a major snag in their plan to trade future environmental liabilities for several billion dollars to recapitalize the bankrupt power generation firm.

[ERCOT's reliability anxiety: Energy groups square off on what's to blame](#) - With natural gas and wind now nearly two-thirds of the Texas energy mix, Texans are beginning to worry about whether the Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT) can keep the power flowing. And they are looking for someone to blame.

[Wild trout, a canary in the coal mine of water conservation](#) - Wild trout are clearly one of Pennsylvania's greatest conservation success stories. In the fifth most-populated American state -- recognized worldwide for its industry, once notorious for its pollution -- wild trout are making a dramatic comeback.

LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY ISSUES: STATE

[Lawmakers present new legislation to keep coal refuse industry alive](#) - Several local lawmakers are joining forces to try and keep the state's coal refuse industry alive.

[Proposal to Help Threatened Coal Refuse Industry](#) - Lawmakers in our area from both sides of the aisle are coming together to try to keep an energy industry above water.

[Officials tout waste coal plan](#) - The Panther Creek Energy facility in Nesquehoning processed over 150,000 tons of waste coal last year, continuing its dual mission of producing power and reducing waste coal banks around the anthracite region.

[Legislative Proposal Would Increase Coal Refuse Energy & Reclamation Tax Credit To \\$45 Million A Year](#) - On April 26, Senators David Argall (R-Schuylkill) and John Yudichak (D-Luzerne) unveiled a legislative proposal to extend and increase the Coal Refuse Energy and Reclamation Tax Credit from \$10 to \$45 million per year.

[Saving the coal industry](#) - Cogeneration plants need assistance to stay competitive in the current energy market.

[State Lawmakers Look To Help Coal Refuse Industry](#) - Across Pennsylvania there are 15 coal refuse plants. Today lawmakers and officials go together at Panther Creek Energy in Nesquehoning to talk about the industry in peril.

[Proposed bill aims to help Pa's coal refuse plants by extending tax credit](#) - Two Pennsylvania state senators have unveiled legislation to address coal refuse across the state.

[Bipartisan proposal to aid the state's threatened coal refuse industry](#) - At a press conference today at the Panther Creek Energy facility in Carbon County, Senator David Argall (R-Schuylkill/Berks) and Senator John T. Yudichak (D-Carbon/Luzerne) unveiled a bipartisan legislative proposal to help aid the state's threatened coal refuse industry.

[Argall, Yudichak seek to extend Coal Refuse Energy and Reclamation Tax Credit program](#) - A pair of state senators unveiled a bipartisan legislative proposal to "help aid the state's threatened coal refuse industry" in a press conference held earlier today in Carbon County.

[Wolf says regional cap-and trade plan needs 'serious' look](#) - Gov. Tom Wolf said Monday he wants to take a serious look at Pennsylvania joining a consortium of states that sets caps on greenhouse gas emissions from power plants.

[Pennsylvania Releases State Climate Action Plan, Join U.S. Climate Alliance](#) - Governor Tom Wolf was joined today by Representative Steve McCarter, Senator Steve Santarsiero, Senator Jay Costa, Representative Frank Dermody, Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Secretary Patrick McDonnell, Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Secretary Cindy Adams Dunn, and members of the Climate Caucus to announce Pennsylvania's membership in the U.S. Climate Alliance and release the state's new climate action plan.

[House Hearing: Bill To Aid Nuclear Plants Will Significantly Increase Electricity Costs For Businesses, Threatens Competitive Electric Market, Offers No Job Guarantees](#) - On April 29, the House Consumer Affairs Committee hear testimony at its third hearing on House Bill 11 (Mehaffie-R- Lancaster) to provide financial support for nuclear power plant the bill will significantly increase electricity costs for business, offers no job guarantees for workers and threatens Pennsylvania's competitive electricity market.

[Solar and wind energy advocates may hold swing vote in Pennsylvania's divisive nuclear rescue debate](#) - The debate over Pennsylvania's proposed \$500 million nuclear rescue package pits the natural gas and nuclear industries in an epic struggle between the state's two energy giants. But renewable power advocates believe they hold the swing vote in a tight battle, and they want a seat at the table.

[Legacy of Three Mile Island accident, political power of gas industry makes nuclear subsidies an uphill battle in Pennsylvania](#)

- Pennsylvania is the latest state to debate whether to provide a rescue package to its nuclear power industry, but the commonwealth's unique history and current energy landscape may make subsidies a tougher sell here.

[Pennsylvania utility regulator speaks out against state Senate's nuclear bailout bill](#) - A state utility regulator is voicing opposition to a bill aimed at propping up Pennsylvania's nuclear power industry.

[Citizen climate petition advances, after state board approves further study of cap-and-trade program](#) - Pennsylvania's Environmental Quality Board voted Tuesday to advance a citizen climate petition aimed at dramatically cutting the state's greenhouse gas emissions.

[Environmental Quality Board Publishes Proposed \\$12.6 Million Air Quality Fee Increases For Comment](#) - The Environmental Quality Board published notice in the April 13 PA Bulletin inviting comments on proposed increases in Air Quality Permit Review Fees. (PA Bulletin, page 1777)

[DEP Releases Water Quality Assessment Showing Agriculture, Abandoned Mines, Stormwater Runoff Remain Top 3 Pollution Sources](#) - On April 18, the Department of Environmental Protection released its 2018 Integrated Water Quality Monitoring and Assessment Report, the biennial comprehensive analysis of the water quality status of the more than 86,000 miles of streams and rivers and more than 160,000 acres of lakes in Pennsylvania required by the federal Clean Water Act.

[Fossil fuel industry group-backed poll finds Pennsylvanians uninformed about nuke proposal, skeptical when educated](#) - A poll funded by a fossil fuel-boosting organization shows 77 percent of Pennsylvanians have heard little or nothing about a deal that would aid the state's nuclear industry at the expense of consumers.

[Nuclear Power Plant Owners Again Oppose Financial Needs Test To Receive Aid To Keep Plants Open At House Hearing](#) - Talen Energy last week, and now Exelon told the House Consumer Affairs Committee at an April 15 hearing it would not support a financial needs test if it was added to House Bill 11 (Mehaffie-R- Lancaster) adding nuclear power plants to the Alternative Energy Portfolio Standards.

[Sen. DiSanto To Introduce Bill Aiding Communities Impacted By Power Plant Closures](#) - On April 10, Sen. John DiSanto (R-Dauphin) announced plans to introduce legislation to help mitigate the impact of reduced property taxes and payments as a result of power plants closing.

[Supporters, critics have their say on \\$500 million rescue plan for Pennsylvania nuclear plants](#) - The Pennsylvania House Consumer Affairs Committee on Monday held the first of four planned hearings in Harrisburg about a proposed \$500 million rescue for the state's nuclear industry.

[Wolfs supports studying petition to cap greenhouse gases](#) - Gov. Tom Wolf supports allowing his administration to formally study a petition that calls for Pennsylvania to impose a cap-and-trade program to make Pennsylvania carbon neutral by 2052.

[Senators Yaw, Yudichak, Reps Metzgar, Snyder To Co-Chair Legislative Coal Caucus](#) - On April 26, Sen. Gene Yaw (R-Lycoming) and Sen. John Yudichak (D-Luzerne) along with Rep. Carl Metzgar (R-Somerset) and Rep. Pam Snyder (D-Fayette) announced they will serve as Co-Chairs for the Legislative Coal Caucus during the 2019-2020 Session.

[Green lawmakers seek to elbow their way into Pa.'s nuclear debate](#) - A group of Pennsylvania lawmakers declared Wednesday that the "Green Dogs" intend to be players in the big energy policy poker game taking place at the state Capitol this spring.

[Pa. Senate bill aims to aid state nuclear plants](#) - Legislation to direct several hundred million dollars from Pennsylvania electricity ratepayers to the state's nuclear plants to save them from early retirement was introduced in the state Senate on Wednesday, three weeks after a similar bill landed in the House.

[Pennsylvania's energy future pivots on what Harrisburg does with all this gas, deliberators decide](#) - In summer 2017, Pennsylvania convened a group of 35 people to envision the state's energy future. Leading the exercise was a team from Royal Dutch Shell, the company behind the sprawling petrochemical campus rising in Beaver County.

[York County GOP lawmakers tout regulation reform package](#) - A group of York County GOP lawmakers and economic leaders are pushing a package of bills that would reevaluate the state's more than 150,000 regulations and change how future statutes are adopted.

[DEP Announces \\$25 Million In Federal Funding For 7 Mine Reclamation Projects](#) - On April 24, the Department of Environmental Protection announced the approval of \$25 million in federal funding for environmental cleanup and revitalization projects at abandoned mine land (AML) locations across Pennsylvania.

LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY ISSUES: FEDERAL

[DOE policy chief: 'My office is not working on anything to do with subsidized coal'](#) - Department of Energy Assistant Secretary Bruce Walker said Monday that last year's leaked memo, which he helped write, was not meant to target a coal bailout.

[Federal Court Vacates Parts of Obama EPA's ELG Rule](#) - In a legal victory for environmental groups, a federal court has vacated key portions of the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) November 2015-promulgated effluent limitations guidelines (ELGs) for steam electric power plants, deeming them "unlawful."

[House panel launches probe of EPA's air policy chief](#) - The House Energy and Commerce Committee launched an investigation Thursday into whether the Environmental Protection Agency's air policy chief and his deputy have improperly aided their former industry clients since joining the administration.

[\\$1B RECLAIM Act gains momentum, is reintroduced in U.S. Congress at coal communities' urging](#) - After years of groundwork by coal-impacted communities and a positive hearing in the House Natural Resources Committee in March, the bipartisan RECLAIM Act was reintroduced in the U.S. House Tuesday.

[DOE to spend additional \\$100M on lower emission coal plant development](#) - The Department of Energy (DOE) announced on Friday up to \$100 million will be invested in research to improve the national coal-fired power plant fleet to provide power with near-zero emissions.

[Department of Energy Announces \\$87 Million for Coal Research and Development Projects](#) - Today, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) announced up to \$87.3 million in federal funding for cost-shared research and development (R&D) projects for advanced coal technologies and research.

[Collision of state policy, competitive markets a 'vexing' challenge: FERC chairman](#) - Resolving the tension between competitive markets and state policies that subsidize resources like renewable and nuclear generation is a difficult issue to solve, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Chairman Neil Chatterjee said Wednesday.

[FERC approves PJM plan on key congestion-relief payments](#) - The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission has accepted a PJM Interconnection plan to give interconnection customers more information about whether they will get incremental capacity transfer rights, which are congestion-relief payments that can help the viability of generation projects.

[The Energy 202: Here's how Republicans want to address a water law that's choking new pipelines](#) - One of President Trump's biggest energy-related goals is to build more pipelines before he leaves office. But Republicans are concerned the way a piece of half-century-old water pollution law is being used is thwarting those efforts.

[EPA Seeks Public Input for Development of National Water Reuse Action Plan](#) - The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is seeking public input on the development of an action plan to accelerate the application of water reuse as a safe, reliable, and sustainable way to meet the country's current and future water demands.