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ARIPPA PERIODIC MEDIA NEWS – 9-1-19

(News clips from the previous month)

CFB, COAL REFUSE, ENERGY INDUSTRY

['Long overdue': East Beth coal refuse dump cleanup nearly ready to start](#) - Jasen Henck said the Black Dog Hollow gob pile in East Bethlehem Township has been there since he was a kid.

[National conference on abandoned mine land coming to Pittsburgh](#) - Pennsylvania has the most abandoned mine lands in the country, so it is only fitting a national conference on the issue is coming to Pittsburgh in September.

[EIA data shows coal generation continues precipitous slide](#) - New data from the U.S. Energy Information Administration illustrates the rapid decline of coal-fired electricity, showing a more-than 13% decline in generation from the fuel in the first half of 2019.

[Market Monitor Finds PJM Wholesale Electricity Markets Competitive](#) - PJM Interconnection's wholesale electric energy market produced competitive results during the first six months of 2019, according to the 2019 State of the Market Report for PJM: January through June, released today by Monitoring Analytics, LLC, the Independent Market Monitor for PJM.

[Utilities, Pennsylvania Fight Maryland's Call For Tougher EPA Ozone Rules](#) - Pennsylvania regulators, Midwestern power plants and other industry groups are fighting Maryland's call for EPA to strengthen rules on ozone-forming emissions in the Keystone State, echoing the Trump administration's stance that the East Coast will soon attain federal ozone standards so no new agency rules are needed.

[ERCOT calls 2nd energy emergency this week, 3rd in 5 years](#) - The Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT) issued an Energy Emergency Alert (EEA1) Thursday, marking the second time this week that the grid operator was forced to rely on customer conservation and call on all available sources of generation.

[Four Illinois Coal-Burning Power Plants Closing](#) - Vistra Energy announced Wednesday it is closing its coal burning power plants in Canton, Havana, Hennepin and Coffeen.

[FirstEnergy Solutions' bankruptcy plan hits snag as judge presses utility to resolve union contracts](#) - The federal bankruptcy judge overseeing the FirstEnergy Solutions (FES) reorganization has held up the case until the company can reach an equitable agreement with the labor unions representing workers at its nuclear power plants.

[Coal Unit at Center of Trump Bailout Bid to Shut 19 Months Early](#) - A Pennsylvania power plant that was at the center of President Donald Trump's effort to revive the coal industry will be closing 19 months ahead of schedule.

[Opinion: Why 100% renewables isn't feasible by 2050](#) - Transitioning U.S. electricity supply resources to 100% renewables means the end of power production from fossil fuel-based power plants such as coal, natural gas and oil.

[Bipartisan Senate support for nuclear grows with \\$7.5B bill to extend life of current fleet](#) - A bipartisan group of senators on Thursday introduced a bill that aims to extend the life of the United States' current nuclear fleet.

[FirstEnergy Solutions behind argument against Ohio nuclear subsidy referendum](#) - A public records request confirms that FirstEnergy's bankrupt generation subsidiary, FirstEnergy Solutions, is behind a tax argument being advanced to block a referendum on an Ohio bill granting subsidies to nuclear and coal plants.

[Attorney General Approves Language For Nuclear Bailout Referendum Attempt](#) - The group Ohioans Against Corporate Bailouts, opponents of Ohio's nuclear power plant bailout law, are one step closer to begin collecting the signatures they need to put a referendum on next year's ballot.

[To Counteract Trump on Climate, States Set Clean Energy Targets](#) - Democratic state lawmakers passed a wave of bills this year they hope will reduce greenhouse gas emissions and combat climate change, even as the Trump administration moves in the opposite direction.

[If You Want 'Renewable Energy,' Get Ready to Dig](#) - Building one wind turbine requires 900 tons of steel, 2,500 tons of concrete and 45 tons of plastic.

[Construction Of SR89 Passive Mine Drainage Treatment System Has Begun In Washington Twp., Butler County](#) - The Slippery Rock Watershed Coalition is excited to report that construction of the SR89 passive system is underway in Washington Township, Butler county.

[Developer Blasts Ohio Nuclear Deal, Pulls Plug on Gas Plant Project](#) - The president of a company developing two new natural gas-fired power plants in Ohio said he is ending a project for a third plant there after lawmakers passed legislation to help two struggling nuclear generation facilities in the state.

[Exelon CEO warns Wall Street that Illinois nukes could close](#) - Chris Crane says three Exelon plants here are "financially challenged" and that the company is working with lawmakers to ensure nuclear power is included in clean-energy legislation.

[Circulating Fluidized Bed Combustion Is a Winner](#) - New coal power plant technology is being developed by various companies around the world, but there are some pretty efficient and reliable designs already commercially available. Circulating fluidized bed combustion systems have proven to be among the best.

[What will electricity pricing look like in 2040?](#) - Experts weigh in on their rate design predictions: Is the future complex rates and set-it, forget-it technologies or Netflix-like subscription plans?

[EPCAMR Seeking Volunteers For Annual Centralia Trash/Litter Cleanup Day Oct. 19, Columbia County](#) - The Eastern PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation is seeking volunteers for the annual Centralia Trash/Litter Cleanup Day on October 19 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. in Columbia County.

LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY ISSUES: FEDERAL

[Eyes on Supreme Court, Trump EPA aims to fast-track ACE case](#) - The Trump administration is eager to defend its Affordable Clean Energy rule, quickly.

[Senate Democrats raise concerns with FERC over potential PJM capacity market changes](#) - Ten US senators urged federal regulators Thursday not to enact policy limiting participation of state-supported clean energy in PJM Interconnection's capacity market that could exclude 14 GW of renewable energy resources and increase consumer costs by \$5.7 billion/year, citing a clean energy consultant's estimate.

[FERC's LaFleur Decries Partisanship and Politicization](#) - "I hate to see things going out along party lines," Cheryl LaFleur, outgoing commissioner of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), told POWER during an exclusive interview. "During my 35 years of watching FERC, that has not been the pattern."

[EPA's Final Regional Haze Guidance Highlights State Discretion, Flexibility](#) - New guidance issued by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on Aug. 20 to help states prepare for the second implementation period of the federal regional haze program puts emphasis on "discretion and flexibilities" they can use to comply with long-standing mandates to protect visibility in federal areas.

[22 states sue Trump over repeal of Obama-era power plant rules](#) - A coalition of mostly Democratic-led states has filed a lawsuit against the Trump administration, arguing its rules for addressing power plant pollution are so weak they violate federal law.

[EPA moves to streamline permitting for power plant expansions, gas pipelines](#) - The Environmental Protection Agency published a proposed rule in the Federal Register on Friday to revise its New Source Review (NSR) regulations to reflect the administration's earlier guidance on whether changes or expansion that lead to increased emissions at an existing power plant or other major emitting facility requires stricter permitting.

[The Energy 202: Bernie Sanders announces a \\$16.3 trillion Green New Deal](#) - Bernie Sanders released a comprehensive plan to address a "climate crisis" he says is on par with that America faced during the Second World War, vowing to declare the global buildup of planet-warming gases a national emergency and to spend more than any other Democratic candidate has proposed to address the issue.

[Trump's Top Energy Regulator Invites Execs to Coal Country](#) - President Donald Trump's chief energy regulator has invited a group of environmentalists, energy executives and other industry leaders to the heart of Coal Country for a summit on "the future of American energy."

[Proposed Revisions to Clarify New Source Review Permitting Process](#) - Today, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is proposing a rule to clarify the process for evaluating whether a New Source Review (NSR) preconstruction permit is needed when an existing major-emitting facility plans to make changes or expand.

[FERC, Justice Dept challenge latest FirstEnergy Solutions restructuring plan](#) - The Justice Department and its federal bankruptcy court division, the U.S. Trustee, objected to FirstEnergy Solutions' (FES) latest (sixth) reorganization plan in a filing on Friday, based on the protection that the plan would give to parent energy First Energy and other affiliates.

[How McConnell's coal guy is helping Trump remake federal energy policy](#) - Critics say FERC, the independent overseer of power markets and pipelines, is at risk of becoming a tool of the administration.

[The Energy 202: A 'climate corps' is core to many 2020 Democrats' environmental plans](#) - Democrats running for president on promises to slow climate change are asking young people to do more than just vote for them. Many White House hopefuls are laying out plans to put teenagers and 20-somethings to work guarding the country against the worst effects of global warming.

LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY ISSUES: STATE

[PUC Expects Natural Gas-Fired Electric Generation To Increase From 30 To 45% Of Capacity By End Of 2022 In PA](#) - The Public Utility Commission released its annual assessment of generation, transmission and distribution capacity in Pennsylvania last week which projected a significant increase in natural gas-fired electric generation capacity from 30 percent to as much as 45 percent of capacity by the end of 2022.

[DEP Announces State Plan to Improve Water Quality in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed](#) - Today the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) announced the final state plan to promote the long-term viability of farming, outdoor recreation, and other economic sectors; protect public health and water supplies; and help communities reduce flooding by improving local water quality in 43 counties in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed.

[Mike Doyle's climate change town hall focused on electric cars and Paris Agreement](#) - U.S. Rep. Mike Doyle (D-Forest Hills) hosted a town hall Wednesday evening amid an ongoing debate in the Democratic Party over the best way to combat climate change.

[Pa. legislation proposed to boost air pollution fines](#) - State Rep. Austin Davis has introduced legislation that would increase fines for industries violating state air pollution rules and require those facilities to create a municipal alert system to warn residents when the air is unhealthy.

[Pennsylvania promotes playbook for redeveloping former coal plant sites](#) - State officials used a federal grant to draw up plans that lay out redevelopment options for retired coal plants.

[GOP retains Pennsylvania House seat in special election](#) - Republicans easily won a special election to retain a seat in the state House of Representatives in a GOP-leaning district in central Pennsylvania.

[PUC Appoints Renardo L. Hicks Chief Counsel](#) - On August 8, Public Utility Commission announced the appointment of Chief Counsel Renardo "Rick" L. Hicks, effective August 12.