



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

ARIPPA PERIODIC MEDIA NEWS – 10-1-19

(News clips from the previous month)

CFB, COAL REFUSE, ENERGY INDUSTRY

[PJM capacity market plan to increase costs \\$8.4B, market monitor estimates](#) - PJM Interconnection's Independent Market Monitor, Monitoring Analytics, estimates capacity market costs will increase \$8.4 billion annually based on the grid operator's current proposal to retain all units at risk of retirement in the market with subsidies, according to a memo released Monday.

[Duke Energy, American Electric Power Separately Seeking to Go Net-Zero Carbon by 2050](#) - Two formidable U.S. coal power generators this week separately revised their carbon dioxide emissions reduction targets.

[NRG Aligns Carbon Goals with 1.5-Degree-C Climate Trajectory](#) - NRG Energy has joined a growing list of major U.S. coal generators that want to achieve net-zero greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 2050.

[ConEd, 8 other utilities challenge Trump's energy rule, repeal of Clean Power Plan](#) - Nine large electric utilities led by Consolidated Edison have petitioned the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals to review the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's decision to withdraw the Obama Administration's Clean Power Plan and replace it with the Affordable Clean Energy (ACE) rule.

[WVU engineer developing 'critical' rare earth elements from coal waste](#) - West Virginia University mining engineers are developing a method to create a self-supply of rare earth elements in the United States from coal waste.

[Three Mile Island shutdown is imminent](#) - The final shutdown of Three Mile Island, where 1979's terrifying partial meltdown became a landmark event in the life cycle of nuclear power in the United States, is imminent.

[Union Leader Talks Coal and Climate](#) - President of mine workers' union says that combatting climate change is important but it can't come at the cost of mining jobs.

[The Energy 202: Saudi oil strike renews debate over U.S. energy dominance](#) - Never let a crisis go to waste, as the saying goes. Those trying to shape U.S. energy policy are heeding that advice — versions of which have been attributed to Winston Churchill and Rahm Emanuel — in the wake of a series of suspected drone attacks targeting Saudi Arabia's oil facilities.

[PJM, parties reach 'agreement in principle' over \\$160M GreenHat FTR default](#) - PJM Interconnection announced Friday it has reached an "agreement in principle" with a broad range of stakeholders to address the June 2018 default of financial transmission rights (FTR) trading company GreenHat Energy and the \$160 million in related losses.

[A Proud Industry Thrives in Coal Country](#) - Anthracite mining in Pennsylvania has a long and rich history dating back to the 1700s. In the early days and up to the 1970s, deep mining was how anthracite coal was extracted from the land on which Lehigh Anthracite Coal LLC operates.

[Report: Gas-Fired Generation Will Rise in Pennsylvania as Coal, Nuclear Decline](#) - Power generation from natural gas is expected to rise in Pennsylvania over the next few years, according to the state Public Utility Commission's (PUC's) annual report on generation and transmission and distribution capacity released in late August.

[New England grid operator sees potential for year-round power constraints](#) - New England's continued reliance on natural gas-fired generation, coupled with the retirement of coal, oil and nuclear generation, has left it energy-constrained, according to a draft 10-year assessment of the region's electric grid.

[How Net Generation Has Changed in States with Renewable Portfolio Standards](#) - As of August 2019, 29 U.S. states and the District of Columbia had renewable portfolio standards (RPSs), and eight others had non-binding renewable portfolio goals. Three states also had clean energy standards, which set targets for low-carbon non-renewables, like nuclear, and two had clean energy goals. Our monthly infographic in September 2019 shows how shares for each source in states with targets have changed.

[Nuclear plants want court to stop vote on financial rescue](#) - The owner of Ohio's two nuclear power plants is asking the state Supreme Court to block a proposed statewide vote that aims to overturn a financial rescue for the plants.

[The unknown costs of a 100% carbon-free future](#) - State approaches to a 100% carbon-free future vary and while several costs remain unknown, some solutions are emerging.

[Former FERC adviser puts \\$5.7B price tag on PJM's clean energy market policy](#) - PJM's proposal to prevent state energy policies from affecting market prices is one of several high profile issues that could see advancement at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) with the Aug. 31 retirement of Commissioner Cheryl LaFleur.

[PJM policy to add \\$5.7B cost to capacity market? We don't think so](#) - Utility Dive recently published an article highlighting an August 2019 analysis released by Grid Strategies that found a strong application of the minimum offer price rule (MOPR) by FERC would increase capacity costs in PJM by \$5.7 billion, or 60%, annually. However, a deep dive into the assumptions and methodologies used in the Grid Strategies report reveals significant flaws that lead us to question the integrity of the analysis.

[Coal cleanup could generate revenue](#) - Because of the cost, the need for environmental cleanup can discourage development. In Antis Township, however, a potential environmental cleanup could support development of a trail from Bellwood to Juniata by generating municipal funds — along with additional ground for recreation.

[Renewables, storage poised to undercut natural gas prices, increase stranded assets: RMI](#) - If all proposed gas plants are built, 70% of those investments will be rendered uneconomic by 2035, according to the Rocky Mountain Institute.

[How to Ensure Plant Reliability and Regulatory Compliance](#) - Lock in safe, reliable operations by opening the door to third-party expertise

LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY ISSUES: FEDERAL

[FERC Chairman Highlights Progress but Key Decisions Languish](#) - Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Chairman Neil Chatterjee defended his agency's progress Thursday, saying the two Republicans and one Democrat remaining at the five-member commission are moving ahead on key issues, such as expanding the country's transmission network and integrating batteries into regional energy markets.

[GOP congressman introduces bipartisan carbon tax bill](#) - A new bill introduced by Republican Rep. Brian Fitzpatrick (Pa.) would place a price on carbon and invest revenue in infrastructure.

[Pelosi launches formal impeachment inquiry into Trump, alleging betrayal of office, national security, election integrity](#) - House Speaker Nancy Pelosi on Tuesday launched a formal impeachment inquiry into President Donald Trump, a dramatic development triggered by reports that the president pressured Ukraine to investigate a leading 2020 rival and his son.

[DOE allocates \\$56.5M toward clean coal-fired energy research](#) - More than 30 companies, universities and research entities will receive \$56.5 million in funding for development projects focused on advanced coal technologies.

[FERC proposes changes to Carter-era law promoting renewables](#) - An energy law passed during the Carter administration to promote the expansion of renewable energy was opened for reinterpretation today by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

[White House ethics guidance unexpectedly stymies FERC's Glick](#) - Just as a White House ethics waiver appeared to ease the risk of quorum lapses at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, clearing one member to participate on more orders, another commissioner has found himself steeped in recusal issues over an apparent misinterpretation of the Trump ethics pledge.

[Administration finalizes repeal of 2015 water rule Trump called 'destructive and horrible'](#) - For years, the fight over how much power the federal government should have to regulate the wetlands and tributaries that feed into the nation's largest rivers has played out across the country.

[Some Democratic presidential hopefuls pledge to ban fracking; it may hurt them in Pa.](#) - Several Democratic presidential candidates are running on a promise to ban fracking — and stepping on unstable political ground as they do so.

[EPA Provides \\$2.4 Million To Pennsylvania To Help Implement Chesapeake Bay Watershed Plan](#) - On September 11, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency announced it is reallocating portions of its Pennsylvania Chesapeake Bay funding from two fiscal years to help apply the funds more quickly and efficiently to the Commonwealth's efforts to restore the Bay and local waters.

[Legislation introduced to clean up abandoned coal mines](#) - Representatives Matt Cartwright (PA-08) and Glenn 'GT' Thompson (PA-15) introduced legislation on Monday to clean up America's abandoned coal mines, by ensuring states have enough resources to restore polluted sites to their original condition and to spur new economic development in former coal communities.

[ASFE Steven Winberg Speaks at the International Pittsburgh Coal Conference](#) - The U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Assistant Secretary for Fossil Energy (ASFE) Steven Winberg spoke at the International Pittsburgh Coal Conference (PCC) in Pittsburgh, PA on September 4th.

[FERC chairman to Congress: 'Make energy policy boring again'](#) - Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) Chairman Neil Chatterjee wants Congress to take up a large energy-focused legislative attempt, he told an industry crowd at the nonprofit Resources For the Future on Wednesday.

[Democrats propose spending trillions fighting climate change](#) - Five Democratic presidential candidates in the span of 24 hours have released sweeping plans to address climate change, ahead of a series of town halls devoted to the issue.

[Where the leading 2020 Democrats stand on climate change policy](#) - As leading candidates for the 2020 Democratic presidential nomination prepared for seven back-to-back hours of climate change conversation on CNN on Wednesday night, Hurricane Dorian slowly crept up the Atlantic coast from Florida.

LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY ISSUES: STATE

[Rep. Wentling Named Chair Of Joint Conservation Committee](#) - Rep. Parke Wentling (R-Mercer) has been named chair of the bipartisan, House-Senate Joint Legislative Air and Water Pollution Control and Conservation Committee.

[House Passes Bill To Require Repeal Of 2 Regulations For Every New Regulation Adopted, Create Duplicate \\$695,000 Office Of The Repealer](#) - After being voted down in April, House Republicans revived and passed House Bill 1055 (Klunk-R-York) by a vote of 103 to 98. The bill would enact an arbitrary requirement for state agencies to repeal 2 regulations for every new regulation a state agency wants to adopt.

[Pa. DEP to propose stricter manganese standard as studies suggest risks to children](#) - Pennsylvania environmental regulators are planning to propose strict new limits on the amount of manganese that can be released into state waterways in response to research showing the mineral can be harmful to children's developing brains.

[House, Senate Members To Introduce Bills To Protect Coal-Fired Power Plants From Carbon Tax](#) - On September 16, Representatives James Struzzi (R-Indiana), Donna Oberland (R-Clarion) and Pam Snyder (D-Fayette) announced plans to introduce legislation to protect coal-fired power plants from any proposed carbon tax by requiring the approval of the General Assembly to join the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative or similar programs.

[Pennsylvania's top environmental official, head of House environmental committee spar over regional greenhouse gas compact](#) - Republicans on the Pennsylvania House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee expressed concern Thursday that the Wolf administration might be prepared to commit the state to participation in a Northeast climate change agreement without the input of lawmakers.

[House Committee Approves Bills To Fire All DEP Employees Reviewing Environmental Permits & Create Another Bureaucracy; Cut Public Comment Out Of Permit Reviews](#) - On September 17, the House State Government Committee approved 2 bills in the House Republican Energize PA natural gas use subsidy package that terminates all DEP employees now doing 31,000 environmental permit reviews and create another bureaucracy to those review permits and set environmental standards; and eliminate the public's ability to comment on any permit application.

[Here's what Pennsylvania is doing to address climate change — and why politics is making it difficult](#) - As the federal government under President Donald Trump has worked to roll back environmental protections and individual states have taken dramatic steps to combat climate change, Pennsylvania this year unveiled a sweeping plan to reduce the state's carbon footprint.

[Full slate awaits Pa. lawmakers in fall session](#) - Funding the replacement of voting machines, possible changes to gun laws and cyber school funding top the list of controversies awaiting lawmakers when they return to the Capitol for the fall session.

[Democratic Senators, Clean Power PA Coalition Announce Bill Requiring Power Sector 90% Greenhouse Gas Emission Reductions By 2040](#) - On September 4, members of the Clean Power PA Coalition, Senate Minority Leader Jay Costa (D-Allegheny) and Senators Steven Santarsiero (D-Bucks) and Art Haywood (D-Montgomery) announced the introduction of the Climate Change Mitigation and Energy Transition Act that would require the power generation sector to reduce greenhouse gas emissions at least 90 percent by 2040.

[Bucks, Montgomery County Democrats stump for solar, carbon cap](#) - At a press conference in Abington, Democratic state lawmakers connected climate change to Hurricane Dorian and other global events as they promoted bills to increase the state's use of solar energy while placing a cap on carbon emissions.

[The legal team in the Pa. gerrymandering case set their sights on N.C. They just won again.](#) - When a group of Pennsylvania voters successfully won their challenge last year to the state's gerrymandered congressional map, it was a seismic event for the legal and political establishment.

[Pennsylvania Has Permanently Protected More Land In Chesapeake Bay Watershed Than Any Other Bay State](#) - On September 4, the Chesapeake Conservation Partnership released Marking Milestones: Progress in Conserving Land in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Report showing Pennsylvania has permanently protected over 3.5 million acres in the Bay Watershed, more than any other single Bay state.