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ARIPPA PERIODIC MEDIA NEWS – 11-1-19

(News clips from the previous month)

LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY ISSUES: FEDERAL

[Meuser Introduces Legislation to Incentivize Coal Refuse Environmental Cleanup in Pennsylvania Communities](#) -

Congressman Dan Meuser (PA-09) today introduced legislation that would incentivize environmentally-focused cleanup and remediation of coal refuse piles across Pennsylvania.

[House Bill Aims at Resuscitating Coal-Refuse Sector](#) - Two House lawmakers reintroduced a bill Oct. 18 to save power plants that burn coal refuse that mining companies tossed aside decades ago.

[Meuser moves to incentivize coal refuse environmental cleanup](#) - U.S. Rep. Dan Meuser Friday introduced legislation that would incentivize environmentally focused cleanup and remediation of coal refuse piles across Pennsylvania.

[Bill would offer incentives for reclaiming waste coal](#) - Cogeneration plants would receive tax credits for reclaiming piles of waste coal through a bill that U.S. Rep. Dan Meuser, R-9, Dallas, introduced Friday with support from U.S. Rep. Matt Cartwright, D-8, Moosic.

[Federal legislation could help local plants, incentivize coal refuse clean-up](#) - A bill before the U.S. House of Representatives could have a local impact by incentivizing "environmentally-focused cleanup and remediation of coal refuse piles."

[Cong. Meuser/Cartwright Introduce Bipartisan Federal Tax Credit Bill To Support Coal Refuse-Fired Power Plants](#) - On October 18, Congressmen Dan Meuser (R-PA) and Matt Cartwright (D-PA) announced they have introduced legislation to incentivize environmentally-focused cleanup and remediation of coal refuse piles across Pennsylvania.

[Bill would reward power plants that burn mine waste](#) - Pennsylvania lawmakers are proposing a tax credit to help power plants burn coal from cleaning up old piles of mining waste.

[E.P.A. to Roll Back Rules to Control Toxic Ash from Coal Plants](#) - The Trump administration is expected to roll back an Obama-era regulation meant to limit the leaching of heavy metals like arsenic, lead and mercury into water supplies from the ash of coal-fired power plants, according to two people familiar with the plans.

[11 attorneys general urge FERC to respect state energy rights](#) - Eleven attorneys general called for the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to "advance, not impede" state clean energy policies in a Monday letter.

[Senate Dems lose forced vote against EPA power plant rule](#) - Senate Democrats forced a floor vote Thursday to block the implementation of a Trump administration environmental rule that aims to weaken regulations on power plant emissions.

[In Pittsburgh visit, Trump reiterates commitment to withdraw from Paris climate accord](#) - President Donald Trump reiterated his administration's commitment to withdrawing from the landmark Paris climate accord in a speech to natural gas executives and employees Wednesday in Pittsburgh.

[Trump to nominate Energy Dept. deputy Dan Brouillette to succeed Rick Perry as secretary](#) - President Trump on Friday said he intends to nominate Energy Secretary Rick Perry's deputy, Dan Brouillette, to succeed him at the helm of the agency.

[Chatterjee Denies Resignation Rumors](#) - FERC Chairman Neil Chatterjee emphatically denied Thursday that he is considering resigning from the commission by the end of the year, as was reported by POLITICO earlier this week.

[Secretary Perry Announces Resignation, Effective Later This Year](#) - Today, Secretary Perry informed President Donald J. Trump that he will resign from his position, effective later this year. The Secretary is immensely grateful to President Trump and the American people for this opportunity to serve and looks forward to continuing to support the President's agenda after he returns home to Texas later this year.

[FERC authority over carbon pricing in power markets may soon be put to test](#) - With at least one regional transmission organization working on a carbon pricing proposal for Federal Energy Regulatory Commission review, questions remained over the agency's authority to regulate carbon emissions through the wholesale power markets, a move that could accelerate coal retirements and make fossil generation more costly.

[Despite 'political tug-of-war,' the US 'still needs fossil fuels': DOE General Counsel](#) - The Department of Energy remains focused on President Trump's directive to preserve nuclear and fossil fuel generators, according to the department's head attorney.

[U.S. Department of Energy Invests \\$7 Million for Projects to Advance Coal Power Generation under Coal FIRST Initiative](#) - The U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Office of Fossil Energy (FE) has selected seven Coal FIRST (Flexible, Innovative, Resilient, Small, Transformative) conceptual designs to receive \$7 million and proceed with preliminary front-end engineering design (pre-FEED) studies.

[Court: Trump's EPA Can't Erase Interstate Smog Rules](#) - A federal appeals court panel on Tuesday struck down a 2018 Trump administration rule that had relieved states of their obligation to curb air pollution that causes smog in downwind states hundreds of miles away.

[Federal agency underwrites grants to struggling coal communities](#) - Pennsylvania communities harmed by downturns in the coal industry will reap \$8 million in grants from the Appalachian Regional Commission to bump up local economic initiatives.

[The Energy 202: Trump breaks with tradition by tapping only a Republican for key energy panel](#) - President Trump finally chose a new Republican commissioner for a key panel of federal energy regulators. But he did so without naming a Democrat to go with him, setting off a potential battle with Senate Democrats over the future of renewable energy and gas pipeline projects across the country.

[Coal-heavy states press FERC for any action on resilience to help troubled generators](#) - Six state regulators are pressing the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to prioritize its resilience docket, citing concerns over rapid coal plant retirements, Bloomberg first reported Monday.

[EPA Exceeds President's Goals for Reducing Regulations](#) - An internal watchdog report shows the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has exceeded the president's regulatory reduction goals, removing more regulations per regulation issued in fiscal year 2017 than any other federal agency.

CFB, COAL REFUSE, ENERGY INDUSTRY

[October 2019 – Panther Creek Energy Facility](#) - On this edition of the Argall Report, we present highlights from a news conference at the Panther Creek Energy Facility in Nesquehoning, Carbon County to announce new legislation to help support the threatened coal refuse industry in Pennsylvania.

[Morgantown Energy Associates set to partially shutdown](#) - Morgantown Energy Associates may be coming off the city's power grid because the plant is set for deactivation in January 2020.

[Bruce Mansfield workers cut, 49 layoffs expected in February](#) - FirstEnergy Solutions Corp. plans to lay off 49 employees from the Bruce Mansfield Generation Plant in February, but union leadership says many workers have already left the facility.

[Centralia sees 6th annual cleanup](#) - The former Michelle Buckley on Saturday found herself cleaning up garbage in the yard where her house once stood in Centralia.

[Summer of 2019 on the PJM Grid: Reliability Powered by Generator Performance](#) - The electric grid operated by PJM Interconnection in 13 states and Washington, D.C., reliably served 65 million people in its territory this summer, thanks to cooperation from its member companies and improved generator performance.

[Op-Ed: Let's Get Reauthorization Of The Federal Abandoned Mine Land Fund Done, Get PA's Congressional Delegation On Board](#) - The Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 (SMCRA) is the primary federal law that regulates the environmental effects of coal mining in the United States and provides for a funding stream for reclamation for states that are affected by abandoned coal mines.

[FERC OKs PJM, SPP storage plans, sets separate proceedings for minimum run-time requirements](#) - The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) on Thursday gave its first two approvals to grid operator plans to implement its energy storage order.

[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.

[Sunbury Generation plant demolished by explosives](#) - A former Snyder County coal-fired plant was demolished Friday morning with a live implosion.

[Facility to Make Coal Cleaner, More Efficient, Taking Shape in Wyoming](#) - Clean Coal Technologies Inc. (CCTI) has begun reassembling a test facility designed to produce a cleaner-burning and more-efficient coal. The coal beneficiation and byproducts extraction plant, first built in Tulsa, Oklahoma, for an initial test of the technology, and then moved to Gillette, Wyoming, is expected to be completely rebuilt in the next few months, a company official told POWER on Oct. 9.

[FirstEnergy Solutions' shift on pensions paves way for bankruptcy exit](#) - Ohio-based FirstEnergy Solutions (FES) agreed on Tuesday to honor the contracts its parent company FirstEnergy Corp. negotiated with its power plant employees, paving the way for the generation company to emerge from federal bankruptcy.

[Trump's push to save coal is failing. Coal demand to plunge to 42-year low](#) - President Donald Trump's mission to revive America's coal industry is failing.

[Murray Energy, largest US producer, joins long list of bankrupt coal companies](#) - Murray Energy, the largest underground coal mining company in the United States, filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy Monday morning, despite the Trump administration's vow to save the coal sector.

[Report: Amount of Marcellus, Utica natural gas higher than in 2011](#) - The amount of recoverable natural gas in the Marcellus and Utica shale formations in the Appalachian Basin is significantly greater than previously thought, according to a new estimate by the U.S. Geological Survey.

[EIA: Renewables Will Account for Half of Global Power Generation by 2050](#) - Solar power is expected to take a larger share of global power generation across the next 30 years, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA), as renewable energy continues to be adopted worldwide.

[A New Technology for Bottom Ash Conversion Emerges](#) - New environmental regulations have forced many coal power plant operators to consider alternative options for handling their boiler bottom ash. Although mechanical drag systems can often meet regulatory requirements, space can pose problems and costs can be significant. An innovative grinder-conveyor design offers a number of advantages over more-traditional systems.

LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY ISSUES: STATE

[This month's Argall Report highlights coal refuse industry in Pennsylvania](#) - This month's local TV program hosted by Senator David G. Argall (R-Schuylkill/Berks) focuses on highlights from a news conference at the Panther Creek Energy Facility in Nesquehoning to announce new legislation to support the threatened coal refuse industry in Pennsylvania.

[Gov. Wolf seeks to cap Pa.'s power plant emissions and join regional carbon market](#) - Gov. Tom Wolf plans to join a coalition of regional states to set a mandatory, shrinking cap on the amount of carbon dioxide that can be released from Pennsylvania's fossil fuel power plants.

['The stakes are too high': Climate skeptics meet their own critics at state House committee hearing](#) - A testy hearing featuring both nationally known climate skeptics and an Ivy League expert in climatology played out Monday before a state House committee.

[Green initiative concerns local legislators](#) - Pennsylvania's inclusion in a consortium of states in a green energy initiative will ruin the coal and coal refuse industries, and potentially threaten the fledgling Marcellus Shale natural gas industry, some state legislators say.

[Senators Criticize Governor's Unilateral Decision to Tax Carbon](#) - Senators Joe Pittman, Gene Yaw and Dave Argall reiterated their legislative proposal requiring General Assembly approval should a tax be imposed on Pennsylvania employers. From their co-sponsor memorandum of September 17, 2019, the Senators stated that a carbon tax is a major energy and fiscal policy initiative.

[Senator Langerholc Issues Statement on Governor Wolf's Executive Order to Join RGGI](#) - Senator Wayne Langerholc, Jr. (R-35) issued the following statement regarding Governor Wolf's decision to begin the regulatory process in order for Pennsylvania to join the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI)...

[Joining RGGI to boost Pennsylvania gas-, coal-fired power prices, double emissions traded](#) - Adding Pennsylvania to the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative cap-and-trade program would roughly double the volume of carbon dioxide emissions traded and would add about \$6/MWh to the cost of in-state coal-fired generation and about \$2/MWh to the cost of gas-fired generation, an analyst said.

[Commissioners oppose proposed energy tax](#) - While matters of energy generation strategy and environmental quality standards often prompt political leaders to draw lines of division, the fate of Indiana County's workforce and local economy prevailed amid an air of unity Wednesday as the county board of commissioners stood opposed to the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative being advanced by Gov. Tom Wolf.

[Senator John Yudichak's Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fund Resolution Passes Senate](#) - Senator Yudichak's resolution that urges Congress to reauthorize the Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fund through 2036 passed the Senate unanimously today.

[PA Conservative Energy Forum Urges Senate Republican Policy Committee To Embrace Clean & Renewable Energy](#) - On October 22, the Senate Republican Policy Committee held a workshop on conservative approaches to renewable energy featuring the PA Conservative Energy Forum which urged Republicans to take ownership of clean and renewable energy development.

[Pennsylvania's Emissions Fell 92% as Energy Production Soared by Almost 3000%](#) - Emissions in Pennsylvania have fallen by as much as 92 percent since 1990, even as the Commonwealth's energy demand and production have soared eleven fold from 2010 to 2018 and natural gas plant processing expanded more than eightfold during that same time, a Consumer Energy Alliance (CEA) analysis released today finds.

[Commissioners Welcome Ralph Yanora To Public Utility Commission](#) - On October 23, the Public Utility Commission welcomed Ralph Yanora, from Northeastern Pennsylvania, to the PUC. The Commission thanked Gov. Tom Wolf, who nominated Yanora to serve a five-year term on the PUC, along with the Senate for its support of his nomination.

[Gabler Legislation to Support Local Coal Jobs Becomes Law](#) - While remaining a major employer in Pennsylvania, the coal industry can be a difficult line of work due to the economy and fluctuations in the markets.

[Pennsylvania accepting applications for environmental project awards](#) - The state is accepting applications for the 2020 Governor's Awards for Environmental Excellence from those who participated or led an environmental stewardship project, as well as all schools, nonprofits, businesses, farms, and government agencies.