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ARIPPA PERIODIC MEDIA NEWS – 12-1-19

(News clips from the previous month)

CFB, COAL REFUSE, ENERGY INDUSTRY

[Despite the Talk of Coal's Demise, It Still Powers the World](#) - For all the talk of ditching fossil fuels to fight climate change, coal remains king in much of the world.

[What's Driving Wholesale Power Price Changes? Not What You Think](#) - Falling natural gas prices tamped down annual U.S. wholesale power prices over the last decade by \$7/MWh to \$53/MWh—to a much higher degree compared to the impact of wind and solar growth—a new report from Lawrence Berkeley National Lab (LBNL) suggests.

[PJM, NYISO and ISO-NE pay \\$1.4B annually for excess capacity: Report](#) - PJM Interconnection, New York Independent System Operator (NYISO) and ISO-New England (ISO-NE) retain more control over resource adequacy than the states in their service areas, leading to higher reserve margins and higher capacity market prices, which favor incumbent assets, according to a paper published by Grid Strategies on Thursday.

[PJM Board Names Manu Asthana as PJM President & CEO](#) - The PJM Board of Managers announced today that it has appointed Manu Asthana to serve as PJM Interconnection's President and CEO, effective Jan. 1, 2020.

[Generators call on PJM to expedite delayed capacity auction, once new rules are set](#) - The Electric Power Supply Association (EPSA), which represents competitive generators, is urging PJM Interconnection to move "expeditiously" to hold its annual Base Residual Auction (BRA) for the 2022/23 delivery year — once federal regulators have approved new auction rules.

[PJM power prices lowest since energy market created, market challenges persist: monitor](#) - PJM Interconnection's inflation adjusted load weighted real-time energy prices were lower in the first nine months of 2019 than in the corresponding period of any year since PJM's energy market was created in 1999, the independent market monitor said Thursday.

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

[10 MINUTES WITH Bobby Hughes: Cleaning up anthracite mining's legacy has been his mission since he was a youngster. Today, Bobby Hughes is that much closer to achieving his dream.](#) - Robert "Bobby" E. Hughes, executive director of the Eastern Pennsylvania Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation (EPCAMR) in Ashley, feeds tiny rainbow trout for his classroom training program. When the tiny trout are fingerlings, they are released into Harveys Creek.

[Beaver Valley's parent will be renamed Energy Harbor](#) - Akron-based FirstEnergy Solutions announced on Monday that it will be renamed Energy Harbor once it emerges from bankruptcy. That is expected to happen by the end of this year.

[Report: Carbon dioxide emissions from U.S. energy sources up in 2018](#) - U.S. carbon dioxide emissions related to energy generation and energy use rose in 2018 for the first time since 2014, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA).

[PJM and Members Ready to Meet Winter Electricity Needs](#) - PJM Interconnection and its members are prepared to meet the forecasted winter electricity demand across 13 states and the District of Columbia.

[US coal-fired power generation falls 11.2% on year to 85.9 TWh in September](#) - US coal-fired power generation totaled 85.9 TWh in September, down 8.8% from August, US Energy Information Administration data showed Tuesday.

[How Safe is the U.S. Power Grid?](#) - At any one time, the United States uses more than 400,000 megawatts of electricity. That's a lot of power, and it takes a lot of non-stop work to keep it flowing. But how safe is America's power grid from cyber attacks and other disruptions?

[Why some hydropower plants are worse for the climate than coal](#) - According to a new study published in Environmental Science Technology, hundreds of active hydropower plants are making a worse impact on the climate than fossil fuels.

[Two of America's biggest coal plants closed this month](#) - First the dirtiest ones began shutting down. Then it was the old ones. Now it's some of the biggest. America's coal plants are turning off the boilers, facing brutal economics and customers fleeing for natural gas and renewable energy.

[IEA World Energy Outlook: Solar Capacity Surges Past Coal and Gas by 2040](#) - Solar photovoltaic (PV) could surge ahead of coal and gas and become the largest source of installed power capacity in the world by 2035 if countries pursue stated policies and targets, the International Energy Agency (IEA) said in its newly released World Energy Outlook 2019 (WEO2019).

[Last New York Coal Plant Set to Close](#) - The last operating coal-fired power plant in New York state could close by mid-February. Somerset Operating Co. on Nov. 15 asked the New York State Public Service Commission to waive the state's 180-day notice requirement to shutter the 675-MW plant, asking regulators to allow the facility to close as early as Feb. 15, 2020.

[U.S. judge approves deal requiring Brunner Island owners to pay record \\$1M penalty for coal ash pollution](#) - The owner of the Brunner Island Steam Electric Plant must pay a \$1 million penalty to the state and set aside \$100,000 for environmental restoration projects under a consent decree just approved by a federal judge.

[Contractor begins work in attempt to extinguish mine fire in Plum](#) - A fire that has been burning in a shallow coal mine in Plum for more than 50 years, emitting smoke that can be seen above ground and kills trees by burning their roots, is about to be extinguished, at least that's what officials are hoping.

[First cyberattack on solar, wind assets revealed widespread grid weaknesses, analysts say](#) - A March 5 cyberattack of U.S. wind and solar assets is back in the news, with fresh documents helping shed light not just on the extent, but also the simplicity of the first-of-its-kind intrusion. Cybersecurity experts say it reveals a utility sector not sufficiently vigilant, and failing to employ the most simple fixes.

[What will happen to Murray Energy's coal mines if company goes out business?](#) - Murray Energy, which has filed for bankruptcy protection, has 13 mining permits in Ohio. The state estimates that it would cost \$202 million to reclaim those mining sites if the company went out of business and walked away from them, but a state fund to cover those costs contains only \$21 million.

[Bill Gates' nuclear venture teams up on project to make coal-based carbon fiber](#) - TerraPower, the venture that's working on next-generation nuclear reactors with backing from Microsoft co-founder Bill Gates, is now working on next-generation uses for coal as well.

LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY ISSUES: FEDERAL

[Inside the fight to overhaul PURPA: What three commissioners think of FERC's proposed changes](#) - The 1978 law is facing a potential major shift, and though most regulators agree the rule should be changed, they disagree with some of FERC's mechanisms.

[Interior to hamstring federal mine oversight](#) - The Trump administration is doubling down on efforts to reduce the federal government's role in regulating coal mining.

[The Energy 202: Most Americans haven't heard about the Green New Deal despite all the talk in Washington](#) - The Green New Deal, an ambitious if at times vague call to drastically reduce greenhouse gas emissions while tackling economic inequality, seemed to be on the lips of everyone in Washington this year, drawing endorsements from many Democratic presidential candidates and outsized condemnation from President Trump and GOP lawmakers.

[Democrats move to take 100% clean energy push national with new bill](#) - Democrats introduced new legislation Thursday to adopt a 100% clean energy economy goal nationwide by 2050.

[Trump hasn't saved coal. Can DOE?](#) - One of the United States' largest coal plants shuttered last week, unable to compete with cheaper natural gas and renewables. Weeks earlier, Murray Energy Corp. became the eighth coal company in a year to file for bankruptcy protection.

[EPA estimates proposal to relax power plant wastewater standards will save utilities \\$312M a year](#) - The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency on Friday proposed to relax its technology-based effluent limits for power plants related to flue gas desulfurization wastewater and bottom ash transport water.

[House clean energy tax bill sees broad industry support, but Senate path uncertain](#) - House Ways and Means Subcommittee on Select Revenue Measures Chairman Mike Thompson, D-Calif., introduced a draft bill on Tuesday to expand and extend renewable energy use through the tax code.

[Northeast senators seek to expand regional climate programs](#) - U.S. senators across the Northeast are working to create new regional greenhouse gas reduction programs and expand existing efforts.

[Trump's FERC, DOE, DOI Nominations Voted Through to Full Senate](#) - The Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources on Tuesday voted through to the full Senate three Trump administration nominations for key roles in energy related departments.

[Glick asks for return to 'nonpartisan' FERC as Senate advances Trump's pick](#) - Federal Energy Regulatory Commissioner (FERC) Richard Glick told a crowd of state energy regulators on Tuesday that he was surprised to find little "opportunity to compromise" within the regulatory body.

[U.S. House Subcommittee Hears About Urgent Need For Reauthorization Of Federal Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fee/Program](#) - On November 14, the U.S. House Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources held a hearing on bipartisan legislation-- HR 4248-- to reauthorize the fee supporting the federal Abandoned Mine Reclamation Program.

[Energy secretary nominee distances himself from Ukraine scandal, pledges baseload power support](#) - The Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee grilled Department of Energy Deputy Secretary Dan Brouillette, the nominee to replace outgoing Secretary Rick Perry, about any potential ties to Ukraine as well as his commitment to baseload power at a Thursday confirmation hearing.

[How the DOE Plans to Modernize the Grid in the Near Term](#) - Twenty-three projects chosen by the Department of Energy (DOE) in response to its 2019 Grid Modernization Lab Call provide a broad look at the critical issues that are roiling the nation's power sector, as well as the tools and technologies that it has determined will best bolster the grid of the future in the near term.

[House Republicans Challenge Energy Regulator on Lack of Action on Electricity Grid Resilience](#) - A group of House Republicans is looking for answers from federal energy regulators two years after an independent commission committed to investigating potential threats to the electricity grid.

[E.P.A. to Limit Science Used to Write Public Health Rules](#) - The Trump administration is preparing to significantly limit the scientific and medical research that the government can use to determine public health regulations, overriding protests from scientists and physicians who say the new rule would undermine the scientific underpinnings of government policymaking.

[Sen. Manchin 'fighting' for White House nomination of Democratic FERC candidate](#) - The Senate Energy and Natural Resource Committee on Tuesday questioned James Danly, the White House nominee for one of two vacancies on the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

[Trump makes it official: U.S. will withdraw from the Paris climate accord](#) - The Trump administration notified the international community Monday that it plans to officially withdraw from the Paris climate accord next fall, a move that will leave the world's second-largest emitter of greenhouse gases as the only nation to abandon the global effort to combat climate change.

[EPA Proposes Revisions to Two Obama-Era Rules: Effluent Limitations Guidelines and Coal Ash](#) - The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has issued long-awaited proposed revisions of two 2015 Obama-era rules that apply to effluent limitations guidelines (ELGs) for steam electric power plants and coal combustion residuals (CCR) management by electric utilities.

LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY ISSUES: STATE

[Senators Unveil RGGI, Carbon Tax Legislation](#) - Senators Joe Pittman (R-41), Gene Yaw (R-23) and David G. Argall (R-29) and other legislators today (November 19) unveiled and discussed bills that will be introduced in the Senate and House of Representatives addressing Governor Wolf's proposal to have Pennsylvania enter into the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI).

[Western Pa. lawmakers fight Gov. Wolf on Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative](#) - A group of lawmakers from Western Pennsylvania is challenging Gov. Tom Wolf's effort to make Pennsylvania a member of the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI), saying the resulting carbon tax will hurt the state's energy sector and consumers.

[Citizens Advisory Council Hears Overview Of DEP's Process To Develop A Market-Based Program To Reduce Carbon Dioxide Emissions To Address Climate Change Compatible With RGGI](#) - On November 19, DEP's Citizens Advisory Council heard a presentation providing an overview of DEP's process for developing a carbon dioxide cap-and-trade program covering power plants that is compatible with the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative to address climate change.

[Aiming to raise alarm over climate change, Pennsylvania auditor general draws fire from both left and right](#) - Pennsylvania Auditor General Eugene DePasquale released a report Wednesday arguing that the state has failed to properly reckon with the effects of climate change and calling for leaders to take a more active role in preventing climate-related calamities.

[Pa. Dems lose a state senator: John Yudichak of Luzerne County declares himself independent, will caucus with GOP](#) - A state senator from Luzerne County said Tuesday he is changing his party registration from the Democratic Party to become an Independent, and will start attending caucus meeting in Harrisburg with the majority Republicans.

[Governor's Office Announces Transfer Of \\$45 Million To Augment DEP, DCNR Budgets](#) - On November 16, the Governor's Office of the Budget published notice in the PA Bulletin announcing the transfer of \$45 million from 5 non-environmental special funds to "augment" the budgets for the departments of Environmental Protection and Conservation and Natural Resources.

[State budget agency projects billion-dollar plus deficits in early 2020's — and that's without a recession](#) - Better get used to budget fights. Pennsylvania's fiscal watchdog agency is predicting deficits in the hundreds of millions of dollars annually over the next five years — some topping a billion dollars in the early 2020's.

[Report: Pennsylvania performance contributed to record natural gas growth in 2018](#) - Largely because of growth in Pennsylvania and Ohio, U.S. natural gas production reached a new record in 2018 and saw the largest increase since 1930, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration.

[Vitali brings heated climate change debate to Haverford](#) - John Hanger, former Pennsylvania Department of Environment secretary, gave a passionate speech at a House Democratic policy committee hearing on climate change that state Rep. Greg Vitali brought to the Haverford Township Building Friday.

[Pennsylvania Announces Funding Availability to Boost Economic Development Projects at Abandoned Mine Land Sites](#) - The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is now accepting applications for funding for environmental cleanup projects focused on economic development or community revitalization project proposals at abandoned mine land (AML) locations across Pennsylvania.

[Opportunity To Bid On DEP Mine Reclamation Projects In Cambria, Lackawanna Counties](#) - The Department of Environmental Protection published notice of the opportunity to bid on mine reclamation projects in Cambria and Lackawanna counties in the November 30 PA Bulletin.

[Opportunity To Bid On DEP Mine Reclamation Project In Elk County](#) - The Department of Environmental Protection published notice of an opportunity to bid on a mine reclamation project in Elk County in the November 9 PA Bulletin.

[DEP Our Common Wealth Blog: Drone's-Eye-View Of Acid Mine Drainage Treatment Plant Reveals Water's Transformation](#) - Tasked with taming acid mine drainage (AMD) and mitigating the impact of past mining practices on the Commonwealth's land and water resources and communities, DEP's Bureau of Abandoned Mine Reclamation (BAMR) is a recognized national leader.