



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

ARIPPA PERIODIC MEDIA NEWS – 1-2-20

(News clips from the previous month)

CFB, COAL REFUSE, ENERGY INDUSTRY

[CFB Ash's Diverse Beneficial Uses](#) - Circulating fluidized bed (CFB) boilers are increasingly utilized for electric power production today, both for their ability to accommodate multiple fuel sources and to generate clean energy without conventional external emissions control equipment.

[Abandoned coal mines continue to foul native trout waters](#) - More people live over abandoned coal mines in Pennsylvania than in any other state. Water pools in the deep caverns, absorbing rust-colored sediments and emerging to send “legacy pollution” to streams that once held native brook trout and reproducing browns that trace their lineage to forebears stocked by fishing groups 100 years ago.

[CEO of top U.S. power market is under fire even before he starts](#) - The incoming head of the largest U.S. power market is under pressure even before he begins his new job.

[EPRI Researches Emerging Beneficial Uses](#) - The power industry has a long history of investigating beneficial uses of coal combustion products (CCPs).

[Is carbon capture a cure for coal's struggles or a waste of money?](#) - GILLETTE — A fresh blanket of snow coated the field surrounding the Dry Fork Station power plant. Set underneath a flawless blue sky in the heart of Wyoming's coal country, the untouched landscape looked like a blank canvas awaiting its first brush stroke.

[Once a booming industry, natural gas is in midst of a bust](#) - The boom began in October 2004, although it didn't resonate like a boom at the time. This was more like an autumnal rustling of leaves in a quiet slice of Americana.

[Report looks at impact of coal mining on 'neighbors on the surface'](#) - Pennsylvania's coal mining industry has more active mines than five years ago but is causing less damage to water supplies and surface structures a new report on the industry shows.

[Mixed Reactions to FERC's Recent MOPR Order from Power Generators](#) - On Dec. 19, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) directed PJM Interconnection to dramatically expand its Minimum Offer Price Rule (MOPR) to nearly all state-subsidized capacity resources.

[NERC: Long-Term Reliability Uncertain Amid Rapid Changes to Bulk Power System](#) - Significant and rapid changes that are reshaping North America's power sector will likely leave Texas and Ontario, Canada, with supply shortfalls over the next decade, and energy deficiencies could also occur during off-peak conditions in the Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO) area and the Western Electricity Coordinating Council (WECC) region, the North American Electric Reliability Corp. (NERC) says in its newly released 2019 Long-Term Reliability Assessment.

[Will there be enough electricity after coal plants shut down?](#) - Coal plants are shutting down across the West. But will there be enough electricity once they are gone? The answer has industry leaders concerned.

[Coal Endures as World's Favorite Fuel for Electricity Generation](#) - Coal consumption is set to rise in the coming years as growing demand for electricity in developing countries outpaces a shift to cleaner sources of electricity in industrialized nations.

[PJM tracker: Power prices up on month, down on year, due to load, gas changes](#) - Wholesale power prices in the PJM Interconnection market were up in November, compared with October, but down year on year, largely because of changes in power demand and natural gas prices.

[PSC considers Mon Power proposal to terminate contract with Morgantown plant](#) - Mon Power wants the state Public Service Commission to approve its plan to pay the owners of a downtown Morgantown waste coal power plant millions of dollars to terminate an electricity producing contract. If approved, the owners plan to switch the plant to natural gas.

[Building robotic safety inspectors nabs Gecko Robotics \\$40 million](#) - Gecko Robotics has landed \$40 million in financing as it looks to build an additional 40 robots over the next year to meet what the company sees as growing demand for its safety and infrastructure monitoring services.

[Paris Disagreement: States Split on Climate, So U.S. to Miss Emissions Target](#) - When the United States formally withdraws from the 2015 Paris Agreement in less than a year, nearly half of states — or at least their governors — will remain committed to meeting the goals of the global compact to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to stave off the worst effects of climate change.

[Natural Gas Boom Fizzles as a U.S. Glut Sinks Profits](#) - Chevron's multibillion-dollar write-down of gas assets is the most recent sign that the gas supply has far outstripped demand.

[AP FACT CHECK: Bloomberg says he's killing coal. He's not](#) - Democratic presidential contender Michael Bloomberg broadly, repeatedly — and wrongly — took a huge amount of credit Friday for driving the U.S. coal industry to its knees.

[U.N. climate talks end with hard feelings, few results and new doubts about global unity](#) - Global climate talks lurched to an end here Sunday with finger-pointing, accusations of failure and fresh doubts about the world's collective resolve to slow the warming of the planet — at a moment when scientists say time is running out for people to avert steadily worsening climate disasters.

[Amid Exelon controversy, bill surfaces to repeal 2016 nuke bailout](#) - The bipartisan measure, sponsored by Illinois House members who opposed the ratepayer-funded subsidies to keep two plants open, comes as the company and subsidiary ComEd are under federal investigation.

[Report: U.S. coal mining industry continues to lose jobs](#) - U.S. coal mining employment has fallen 42% since 2011, most dramatically in Pennsylvania and elsewhere in the Appalachian region, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration.

[Report Says Global CO2 Emissions From Coal Down This Year](#) - Global emissions of carbon dioxide (CO₂) from coal-fired power plants and industrial facilities fell in 2019, according to research published Dec. 3, though overall emissions of CO₂ rose due to the increased use of natural gas and oil for power generation and other industrial processes.

[Overpowered: PJM market rules drive an era of oversupply](#) - For many decades one of the centers of the U.S. coal industry, Ohio is undergoing a transformation triggered by a shift in demand to other energy sources — primarily natural gas.

[Early November cold weather prompts fuel switching in PJM and MISO](#) - A historic November cold snap sent temperatures below freezing in 75% of the Lower 48 states.

[Renewables, legal groups challenge FERC's authority to upend PURPA](#) - Proposed changes to a 40-year-old clean energy law could put small renewables projects outside competitive wholesale markets at risk, clean energy and legal groups said Tuesday.

[FirstEnergy Solutions claims victory on nuke bailout referendum, but proponents push forward](#) - Proponents of a referendum to undo Ohio's new law subsidizing nuclear power plants continue their efforts to legally extend the period to garner signatures to get the measure on the state's November 2020 ballot, after the state Supreme Court on Wednesday rejected a lawsuit brought by FirstEnergy Solutions (FES) opposing the referendum effort.

[Using Technology to Tackle Power Plant Emissions](#) - Power plant owners and operators have a range of systems available to help reduce pollutants at their facilities, depending on a number of factors. And industry experts agree—there is no “one size fits all” when it comes to making a choice.

[Is Chasing Grid Demand Killing Your Large Coal Boiler? Here Are Four Concerns to Address](#) - In today’s energy market with the increased penetration of renewable energy and high-efficiency combined cycle power plants, many of the once-baseloaded pulverized coal (PC) power plants must cycle and/or operate at low load.

LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY ISSUES: FEDERAL

[The Significance of FERC’s Recent PJM MOPR Order Explained](#) - A divided Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) issued a long-awaited order on Dec. 19 in which it directed PJM Interconnection to dramatically expand its Minimum Offer Price Rule (MOPR) to nearly all state-subsidized capacity resources.

[EPA’s scientific advisers warn its regulatory rollbacks clash with established science](#) - The Environmental Protection Agency is pressing ahead with sweeping changes to roll back environmental regulations despite sharp criticism from a panel of scientific advisers, most of whom were appointed by President Trump.

[EPA Overrides Subpart D in Newly Proposed Federal Coal Ash Permitting Rule](#) - Only “high hazard” CCR units will be subject to immediate compliance deadlines under a newly proposed Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) rule that revises federal permit requirements for the management of coal combustion residuals (CCRs) at power plants.

[EPA makes Georgia 2nd state to operate coal ash program, proposes 'efficient' rule for other 48](#) - Georgia will become the second state to operate its own coal ash permitting program, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency announced Thursday.

[U.S. senators ask for government investigation of coal tax credit program](#) - Three U.S. Democratic senators have asked the investigative arm of Congress to evaluate a \$1 billion-a-year subsidy for burning chemically treated refined coal, after research has shown that some power plants using the fuel produced surging amounts of mercury and smog instead of cutting pollution.

[FERC Directs PJM to Expand Minimum Offer Price Rule](#) - The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) today acted to protect the competitive capacity market administered by PJM Interconnection, L.L.C. (PJM) by directing PJM to expand its current Minimum Offer Price Rule (MOPR) to address state-subsidized electric generation resources, with certain exemptions.

[FERC move to raise PJM capacity market bids shows 'clear bias' against new, clean generation: Glick](#) - Federal regulators on Thursday voted to effectively raise the bids of subsidized resources selling their power into PJM Interconnection’s wholesale capacity market.

[EPA Says PA’s Final Chesapeake Bay Plan Falls 25% Short Of Meeting Necessary Nitrogen Reductions, Fails To Identify Funding To Implement The Plan](#) - On December 19, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency released its evaluation of the final Watershed Implementation Plans submitted by Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, New York, Virginia, West Virginia and the District of Columbia describing how they will meet the phosphorus and nitrogen reduction goals for 2025.

[House foregoes new tax credits for storage, offshore wind as it approves \\$1.4T spending bill](#) - The U.S. House of Representatives approved a broad spending bill on Tuesday extending tax credits for wind energy, which expire at the end of 2019, for another year.

[Miners pension fix part of deal on government spending bill](#) - A deal to help preserve pensions and health care for thousands of active and retired coal miners and their families will be part of a huge government spending bill voted on by Congress later this week.

[EPA proposes rule to speed up disputed industry pollution permits](#) - The Environmental Protection Agency is aiming to speed up the process by which industry permits are granted after they are challenged before the agency’s appeals board.

[EPA Reinterprets 'Ambient Air,' Further Tweaks New Source Review](#) - The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has finalized a change to a long-standing policy interpreting “ambient air”—a foundational concept under the Clean Air Act that applies to all types of air pollution, from ground-level ozone, particulate matter, and greenhouse gases.

[Brouillette Takes Over as Energy Secretary](#) - The U.S. Senate on Dec. 2 confirmed Dan Brouillette as the new Secretary of Energy, tapping the former lobbyist for Ford Motor Company to replace Rick Perry, the former Texas governor who stepped down as Department of Energy (DOE) chief after becoming part of the impeachment inquiry into President Trump.

[Congressional Policy Tracker: Everything you need to know from carbon capture to wind energy](#) - Renewable energy developers are lobbying for tax credit extensions while Republican leaders seek bipartisan research-focused solutions to support advanced nuclear, carbon capture and energy storage.

[Cartwright bill to reauthorize trust fund that turns mine wastes into viable land](#) - A pool of cash collected to right the coal industry's historic wrongs could start running dry in 2021 unless Congress reauthorizes the Abandoned Mine Land Trust Fund.

LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY ISSUES: STATE

[DEP Posts Board And Advisory Committee Meeting Schedules For 2020](#) - The Department of Environmental Protection published notice in the December 21 PA Bulletin of the 2020 meeting dates, times and contact persons for their boards and advisory committees.

[GOP leadership names Yudichak to four Senate committees](#) - Republican leadership in the Senate announced Wednesday that State Sen. John Yudichak, an Independent, has been appointed to four Senate committee.

[Sen. Steve Santarsiero Named Minority Chair Of Senate Environmental Committee](#) - On December 18, Sen. Steve Santarsiero (D-Bucks) was named the Minority Chair of the Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee.

[9 States Target Transportation Emissions with New Cap-and-Trade Plan](#) - Nine Eastern states have committed to cut transportation emissions in their region by designing a new cap-and-trade system. It's the latest and perhaps most significant example of states working together to fill a void left by the federal government to address climate change.

[Senate Appropriations Releases Budget Hearing Schedule On FY 2020-21 Budget Request](#) - On December 18, the Senate Appropriations Committee released its hearing schedule on the Governor's FY 2020-21 budget request.

[EQB Approves For Comment Regulations Controlling Methane Emissions From Existing Oil & Gas Operations, Setting Manganese Water Quality Standard](#) - On December 17, the Environmental Quality Board approved proposed regulations to control methane emissions from existing oil and gas operations and setting a new numeric human health criterion for manganese for public comment.

[Pa., N.J., and other states are cutting environmental spending at the worst time, report finds](#) - Over a 10-year period, Pennsylvania cut its spending on core environmental protection programs by 16%, New Jersey cut 20%, and Delaware slashed 33%, all in inflation-adjusted dollars, according to a report released Thursday by the Environmental Integrity Project.

[Metcalf to join Pennsylvania panel that reviews plan for climate action](#) - One of the General Assembly's most vocal climate change skeptics has been tapped to review state plans to combat rising global temperatures.

[Survey: Pa. greenhouse gas emissions dropped 19% from 2005 to '16](#) - Pennsylvania's net greenhouse gas emissions dropped nearly 19% from 2005 to 2016, according to a new inventory prepared by the state Department of Environmental Protection.

[7 House Members Retiring, Not Returning; Legislators To Get 1.9467% Raise In 2020](#) - Rep. Neal Goodman (D-Schuylkill), Democratic Caucus Administrator, announced last week he is retiring at the end of his term. Also not seeking reelection in 2020 are-- Rep. Steve Barrar (R-Delaware), Rep. Cris Dush (R-Jefferson) and Rep. Steve McCarter (D-Montgomery).