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## ARIPPA PERIODIC MEDIA NEWS – 3-1-20

(News clips from the previous month)

### CFB, COAL REFUSE, ENERGY INDUSTRY

[How coal mine waste could help build your next phone](#) - Near Mt. Storm, West Virginia, a pilot plant under construction will soon test a potential win-win for industry and the environment.

[With tax liability, nuclear refueling issues settled, FirstEnergy Solutions to exit bankruptcy](#) - Ohio-based FirstEnergy Solutions (FES) is preparing to emerge from federal bankruptcy protection as early as today, just days before a scheduled refueling of one of its nuclear power plants. FES filed for bankruptcy on March 31, 2018.

[The Year Wind Surpassed Hydro as the Top Renewable in the U.S.](#) - Annual wind power generation exceeded hydroelectric generation for the first time in 2019, according to data published by the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA) on Feb. 26, making wind the top-producing renewable source of electricity in the country, a position long held by hydro.

[Exelon now sees potential criminal or civil penalties from Illinois investigations](#) - Exelon said Tuesday that ongoing investigations of its lobbying activities in Illinois could subject it and Commonwealth Edison to civil or criminal penalties, sanctions or other remedial measures.

[PJM Interconnection Announces Executive Appointments](#) - PJM Interconnection announced today that the PJM Board of Managers has appointed Lisa M. Drauschak and Asim Z. Haque to the PJM executive team.

[Utilities, regulators overlook recycling revenue options amid rising state tensions over coal ash: NARUC](#) - Coal ash may present an increasingly complicated and controversial problem for utilities, regulators and ratepayers as tensions rise over the environmental impacts of the waste stream and federal regulations remain in flux, according to a new report.

[Energy CO2 emissions suddenly stop growing — report](#) - Energy-related carbon dioxide emissions unexpectedly stopped growing last year, according to a report released last night from the International Energy Agency.

[MOPR could cause PJM capacity market pricing collapse: study](#) - The PJM Interconnection's capacity market could see a collapse in pricing if four states with aggressive climate goals choose to leave the market in response to rule changes aimed at countering the impact of state subsidies for clean energy resources.

[In coal country, Trump holds sway despite failing to revive industry](#) - More than 600 feet underground in the Appalachian region of southwestern Pennsylvania, it's almost like John Morecraft, a 45-year-old history teacher turned coal miner, is back in a classroom.

[Coal to concrete? Scientists report chemical breakthrough](#) - Rice University researchers have discovered a way to convert coal, petroleum coke, plastic or any carbon-based waste into a substance that they say can slash emissions cheaply from some of the most energy-intensive industries, such as concrete and cement manufacturing.

[A Closer Look at Coal Power Plant Impacts](#) - When I see estimates of premature deaths attributable to coal-fired power plants, I usually take the data with a grain of salt. It's not that I don't trust researchers to do their best to calculate the numbers, I just have trouble believing adverse effects can be tallied precisely. There are so many variables that must be considered and obtaining reliable estimates seems nearly impossible to me.

[Wind Turbine Blades Can't Be Recycled, So They're Piling Up in Landfills](#) - Companies are searching for ways to deal with the tens of thousands of blades that have reached the end of their lives.

## LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY ISSUES: FEDERAL

[Massive new bipartisan Senate energy legislative package could see vote as early as next week](#) - Sens. Lisa Murkowski, R-Alaska, and Joe Manchin, D-W.Va., introduced a comprehensive bipartisan energy bill on Thursday.

[Spending more on renewables 'inappropriate,' as technology is already viable: DOE Secretary](#) - Department of Energy Secretary Dan Brouillette called federal investments in renewable energy "inappropriate" as he defended President Donald Trump's proposed energy budget in front of the House Committee on Appropriations on Thursday.

[EPA reports drop in key power plant emissions](#) - Power industry pollution again fell last year as overall emissions of three key pollutants all registered noteworthy drops, according to preliminary EPA data released today.

[McConnell: Together, President Trump and I have ended Obama's regulatory war on coal](#) - For generations, our nation's strength has been powered by the miners in Kentucky's coal fields. Their hard work helps fuel American innovation and provides millions of families and small businesses with reliable and affordable energy.

[Utilities oppose EPA's pending rollback on mercury emissions](#) - For more than three years, the Trump administration has prided itself on working with industry to unshackle companies from burdensome environmental regulations.

[Final EPA coal ash proposal could allow some ponds to go unlined, despite DC Circuit ruling](#) - The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is proposing to allow utilities to continue dumping coal ash into ponds that are scheduled for closure, and allow some to remain unlined.

[Legal assaults await FERC fossil fuel lifeline](#) - Settle in for a drawn-out legal battle over the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's new plan for energy resource participation in the biggest electricity market in the country.

[EPA advisers back status quo on ozone standard](#) - An EPA advisory panel has concluded a second whirlwind review of national air quality standards the same way it ended the first: divided and holding to the status quo.

[Trump adviser to return to EPA as chief of staff](#) - Mandy Gunasekara, a former senior EPA official, is expected to return to the agency in a top role.

[Ex-utility exec, Hill aide tapped for EPA's No. 2 job](#) - President Trump plans to nominate a former utility executive and Hill aide to serve as EPA deputy administrator, the White House announced today.

[Trump nominates Mark Menezes for deputy secretary](#) - The White House announced this morning that the president will nominate Department of Energy Undersecretary Mark Menezes to be deputy secretary.

[White House resubmits James Danly for FERC seat](#) - The White House yesterday resubmitted the needed paperwork for Federal Energy Regulatory Commission General Counsel James Danly to serve as a member of the panel.

[Chatterjee defends markets after FERC order backlash](#) - Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Neil Chatterjee defended the efficacy of capacity markets yesterday and cautioned states against exiting over policy differences governing the market.

[Committee approves Interior deputy secretary, mining nominees](#) - The Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee today approved two of the Trump administration's Interior Department nominees.

[Feds lower coal mine cleanup funding for Pa.](#) - Declining coal production, end of one-time funding stream cause \$20 million drop

[Trump proposes deep energy, environmental cuts](#) - President Trump's \$4.8 trillion fiscal 2021 budget proposal released today once again seeks to slash many energy and environmental programs to help shore up national security spending.

[DOE Secretary announces \\$64M in coal efficiency and low-emissions research](#) - Energy Secretary Dan Brouillette announced on Friday up to \$64 million of federal funding for coal research as part of the Department of Energy's Coal FIRST initiative kicked off in 2019.

[Suit claims EPA 'exacerbates' cross-state ozone woes](#) - The Trump administration's defense of the coal-fired power industry is facing another legal challenge as five environmental groups allege that EPA hasn't met Clean Air Act requirements to deal with smog-forming emissions that cross state lines.

[Glick: FERC actions 'freeze out' states, court would overturn MOPR order](#) - The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's recent actions interpreting the Natural Gas Act and the Federal Power Act "freeze out the states," Democratic Commissioner Rich Glick told a crowd of state energy officials on Wednesday.

[Bipartisan US House duo pitches 'innovate first, regulate later' climate concept](#) - Amid a partisan divide in the U.S. Congress over climate change policy, one coal-state Republican and a West Coast Democrat have joined forces to craft a framework for reducing greenhouse gas emissions from the power sector in the coming decades.

[EPA lawyer: WOTUS rule tackles 'tortured' legal history](#) - EPA's top attorney said today that the agency stands ready to defend its Clean Water Act protections for streams and wetlands against a wave of anticipated litigation that could stymie the rule's implementation across the country.

[Trump's State of the Union address touts economy, trade deals amid partisan flare-ups](#) - On the eve of a likely acquittal in his Senate impeachment trial, President Donald Trump confidently strode into the U.S. House of Representatives to make his case for re-election in his prime-time State of the Union address.

[Trump's Second War on Regulation May Tie Up EPA in Red Tape](#) - President Donald Trump declared war on regulations in his first term, ordering that for every new rule issued two others had to be eliminated.

#### **LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY ISSUES: STATE**

[Lawmakers: Greenhouse gas agreement will cost state jobs](#) - A group of Republican lawmakers on Monday blasted a proposal by the Wolf administration to enroll in a regional agreement to cut greenhouse gas emissions, saying the move will cost jobs.

[Pennsylvania DEP defends Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative plans](#) - Pennsylvania's top environmental official said the state's pending entry into the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) need not sacrifice jobs for air quality, as critics of the program assume it would.

[DEP Budget Testimony: Gov. Wolf's Budget Request Means Cleaner Water, Healthier Air, Remediated Land](#) - DEP Secretary Patrick McDonnell submitted this written testimony on Gov. Wolf's DEP 2020-21 budget request to the House and Senate Appropriations Committees.

[Waste coal officials weigh cost crisis](#) - As the energy market evolves, pieces of our heritage remain. Those pieces are waste coal. A dozen representatives of the waste coal industry appeared Friday morning before the Pennsylvania Legislature's Joint Legislative Air and Water Pollution Control and Conservation Committee at the Strand in McAdoo.

[First draft of Pa. carbon-cutting rules aims to save waste coal plants](#) - Pennsylvania power plants fueled by piles of discarded coal would largely be spared by a plan to cut the state's carbon dioxide emissions, according to an early draft released by the state Department of Environmental Protection.

[Senators Yudichak, Argall, Yaw To Introduce Resolution Directing Joint Conservation Committee To Study Impacts Of Joining RGGI On Coal Waste Cogeneration](#) - On February 7, Senators John Yudichak (I-Luzerne), David Argall (R-Schuylkill) and Gene Yaw (R-Lycoming) announced their intent to introduce a resolution directing the Joint Air and Water Pollution Control and Conservation Committee to study the potential impacts of joining the Regional Greenhouse Gas Reduction Initiative on the coal waste-fired electric generation industry.

[Joint Conservation Committee: DEP- Coal Waste-Fired Power Plants Will Not Incur Significant Compliance Costs Under Draft RGGI Reg.](#) - On February 3, DEP Secretary Patrick McDonnell told the Joint Legislative Air and Water Pollution Control and Conservation Committee coal waste-fired power plants will not incur significant compliance costs under DEP's draft Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative regulations.

[With eye on climate future, Pennsylvania makes allowances in cap-and-trade proposal for fossil fuel past](#) - State environmental regulators have released the details of a cap-and-trade program that aims to cut into carbon emissions, even as it provides a carve-out for a politically popular industry with mixed environmental impacts.

[Witnesses Tell House Committee About The Negative Consequences Of PA Joining Regional Greenhouse Gas Reduction Initiative](#) - On February 5, the House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee heard from eleven witnesses who highlighted what they thought were the disadvantages and negative impacts to Pennsylvania's economy and jobs if DEP goes ahead with regulations establishing a cap-and-trade program to reduce carbon dioxide emissions from power plants.

[Sen. Street Announces Bill Package To Transition From AEPS To New Clean Energy Standard With Carbon Capture](#) - On February 18, Sen. Sharif Street (D-Philadelphia) announced he will be introducing a package of bills to, among other things, amend the state's Alternative Energy Portfolio Standards to create a new Clean Energy Standard that includes carbon capture as a major element.

[38 Groups, More Than 5,500 Citizens Call On Speaker Turzai To Remove House Environmental Committee Chair Daryl Metcalfe](#) - On February 1, the Better Path Coalition submitted a petition with more than 5,500 signatures to Speaker Mike Turzai (R-Allegheny), along with a letter signed by 38 organizations calling for the removal of Rep. Daryl Metcalfe (R-Butler) as Majority Chair of the House Environmental Committee because of his unabashed climate denial, obstructionism, and unprofessional behavior.

[DEP Starts Work To Extinguish Dolph Mine Fire, Reclaim Abandoned Mine In Lackawanna County](#) - On February 12, the Department of Environmental Protection announced work to extinguish the 14-year old Dolph Mine Fire in Olyphant, Lackawanna County will begin this spring. The project will eliminate a public health hazard that contributes to air pollution in the area.

[Highlights of Gov. Tom Wolf's state budget proposal](#) - Highlights of Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Wolf's spending plan for the 2020-21 budget year that starts July 1.

[Gov. Wolf's Budget Proposal Repairs Damage To Environmental Funding Done Last Year; Proposes Additional Funding For FY 2020-21](#) - On February 4, Gov. Tom Wolf proposed an FY 2020-21 state budget that restores many of the cuts made to environmental funding in last year's budget, and frees up more than \$43 million in funding for community-based farm conservation, watershed restoration and recreation projects.

[In one-sided hearing, coal workers lay out dire stakes for cap-and-trade](#) - State House lawmakers heard from a dozen opponents — but no supporters — of Pennsylvania's entrance into a proposed carbon reduction program during an occasionally testy committee hearing Wednesday.

[Senate Leaders Announce Changes in Leadership Staff](#) - Senate President Pro Tempore Joe Scarnati (R-25) and Senate Majority Leader Jake Corman (R-34) have announced new changes to Senate Republican Leadership senior staff.

[Could the Ohio River have rights? A movement to grant rights to the environment tests the power of local control](#) - Can you imagine if the Ohio River and its tributaries had legal rights? While speculative, the idea isn't necessarily far-fetched. This month marks the one-year anniversary of residents in Toledo, Ohio, bestowing Lake Erie with its own bill of rights.