



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

ARIPPA PERIODIC MEDIA NEWS – 4-1-20

(News clips from the previous month)

CFB, COAL REFUSE, ENERGY INDUSTRY

[Power plants donate supplies to St. Luke's](#) - St. Luke's Hospital-Miners Campus on Thursday received a supply of much-needed personal protective equipment for hospital staff.

[2020 PA Abandoned Mine Reclamation Conference Will Now Be Held Oct. 28-29 In State College](#) - The organizers of the 2020 PA Abandoned Mine Reclamation Conference have announced they are moving the Conference to October 28-29 due to concerns over the COVID-19 virus.

[What to Expect When You're Expecting the Expanded PJM Minimum Offer Price Rule](#) - On December 19, 2019, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) disrupted the holiday season for many in the U.S. energy sector by issuing an order requiring PJM Interconnection (PJM) to amend its Minimum Offer Price Rule (MOPR) to expand restrictions on the participation of all state-subsidized resources in the PJM capacity market.

[PJM files MOPR compliance plan with FERC, allaying renewable sector concerns of being shut out of capacity auctions](#) - PJM Interconnection on Wednesday issued a compliance filing with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission that largely satisfied some of the biggest critics of the regulatory body's controversial Minimum Offer Price Rule (MOPR) order.

[COVID-19 Energy Sector Response Efforts and Frequently Asked Questions](#) - Below is a product of collaborative efforts to gather current information. DOE appreciates everyone's patience during this dynamic event and encourages everyone to share information. Send any updates, concerns or questions to energyresponsecenter@hq.doe.gov. These Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) will be updated regularly as new information becomes available.

[Tracking the impact of coronavirus on the US power sector](#) - The U.S. power sector — like everything else — is experiencing an unprecedented disruption as a result of the novel coronavirus.

[COVID-19 Lightens Electricity Load, but Reliability Remains Strong](#) - While the coronavirus outbreak has made a moderate impact on the demand for power throughout the region served by PJM Interconnection, the electrical grid continues to operate reliably for 65 million people in 13 states and Washington, D.C.

[Electricity usage down across the region, which helps power grid staffing](#) - Electricity demand across the region has decreased as the coronavirus has closed schools and businesses and forced more people to work from home.

[Grid operators cancel travel, shift to remote meetings, as industry preps for broad coronavirus absenteeism](#) - Electric companies could see up to 40% of their workforce out sick as the coronavirus continues to spread, according to a bulletin issued by the Edison Electric Institute (EEI), which represents investor-owned utilities.

[Pandemic hits beleaguered US coal industry hard](#) - The spreading coronavirus pandemic may too heavy of a burden for the already struggling coal miners in the United States, with three companies announcing operations halts due to measures to contain the spread of the disease.

[COVID-19 could give coal an unforeseen boost](#) - The COVID-19 pandemic has shaken energy markets to the core in 2020, creating volatility for fuel prices. The one energy source that has not blinked through is coal, a fuel that may come out stronger through the current crisis, a Rystad Energy analysis shows.

[PJM over-forecasting costs consumers up to \\$4.4B for unneeded energy capacity: Report](#) - Customers pay as much as \$4.4 billion a year for unneeded energy in the PJM Interconnection, according to a new report published on Monday.

[US power sector coal stockpiles total 134 million st in January: EIA](#) - US power sector coal stockpiles totaled 134 million st in January, up 4.6% on month and 35.2% on year, US Energy Information Administration data showed Tuesday.

[Beaver Valley Nuclear Power Plant Owner Rescinds Closure Notice Based On Gov. Wolf's Proposal To Join RGGI Regional Climate Initiative](#) - On March 13, Energy Harbor Corp. notified PJM Interconnection, the regional transmission organization, of its decision to rescind the March 28, 2018, Deactivation Notices for the Beaver Valley Nuclear Generating Station in Shippingport, Beaver County.

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

[Global coal developers at risk of losing over \\$600B through building new plants: Report](#) - Developers investing in new coal plants are at risk of losing \$638 billion across world markets, according to a new report from Carbon Tracker.

[Foresight Energy is latest U.S. coal miner in bankruptcy](#) - Foresight Energy filed for bankruptcy with plans to hand ownership to its creditors, becoming the latest coal company to fail as power generators switch to cleaner and cheaper fuels.

[Carbon emissions fall as electricity producers move away from coal](#) - Carbon emissions from the global electricity system fell by 2% last year, the biggest drop in almost 30 years, as countries began to turn their backs on coal-fired power plants.

[Duke, Dominion, Southern won't hit clean energy targets at current pace: Report](#) - Duke Energy, Dominion Energy and Southern Company are not making investments consistent with their clean energy goals, according to a report released Monday from Synapse Energy Economics.

[Over 100 Groups Sign Letter Urging Congressional Action On Federal Mine Reclamation Fee, Black Lung Bills](#) - On March 9, over 100 organizations have signed on to a letter urging Congressional House Leadership to support legislation critical to the communities and miners struggling with America's declining demand for coal.

[IEEFA U.S.: Renewables generated more electricity than coal in February](#) - The unthinkable occurred in the U.S. last month: In the dead of winter, renewable energy (utility-scale solar, wind and hydropower) generated more electricity than did coal plants.

[Coal-Fired Power Plants Hit a Milestone in Reduced Operation](#) - Coal-fired power plants are retreating from the market in at least two big ways. One is hard to miss: Many plants are closing. The other is more subtle: Remaining plants are running much less often than before.

[PJM Tracker: Mild weather, light loads, cheap gas weaken Feb power prices](#) - Mild weather and cheap natural gas pushed wholesale power prices in the PJM Interconnection down both on the month and the year, and spring forward packages followed suit in reaction to lower natural gas futures and above-normal temperature forecasts.

[MOPR expansion to improve coal economics in PJM: trade organization](#) - PJM Interconnection's changes to its minimum offer price rule, or MOPR, will improve the economics for coal plants, but it will not be a game changer, an executive of a trade organization said Wednesday.

[Additional gas capacity, baseload generation 'critical' to maintaining reliability: DOE analysis](#) - A new analysis from the U.S. Department of Energy's National Energy Technology Laboratory (NETL) concludes additional natural gas pipeline capacity and baseload generation units, such as coal and nuclear, are "critical" to maintaining grid reliability and affordable electricity in the Eastern Interconnection during extreme weather events.

[Coal deliveries to US power plants fall to 555 million st in 2019: EIA](#) - Coal deliveries to US power plants fell to 555.02 million st in 2019, down 6.7% from 594.68 million st delivered a year earlier, according to US Energy Information Administration data released late Friday.

LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY ISSUES: FEDERAL

[Nearly \\$2T stimulus package omits direct renewable sector aid after Trump, McConnell opposition](#) - Relief for the renewable energy sector was not included in the \$2 trillion support package the Senate unanimously passed on Wednesday.

[EPA suspends enforcement of environmental laws amid coronavirus](#) - The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued a sweeping suspension of its enforcement of environmental laws Thursday, telling companies they would not need to meet environmental standards during the coronavirus outbreak.

[EPA relaxes enforcement because of COVID-19, but state and local governments do most oversight for major federal laws](#) - The recent announcement by the Environmental Protection Agency that it will not enforce violations if a facility's non-compliance results from the COVID-19 pandemic created swift condemnation from environmentalists and former EPA staffers.

[Coronavirus Doesn't Slow Trump's Regulatory Rollbacks](#) - As much of his government battles the coronavirus outbreak, President Trump is pushing ahead with major reversals of environmental regulations, including a restriction on scientific research that some doctors worry would complicate future pandemic controls.

[Advocacy groups push back on 'business as usual' at EPA during coronavirus](#) - Environmental groups, states and cities are urging the Trump administration to give the public more time to weigh in on key agency rules as almost all sectors of society are focused on the coronavirus pandemic.

[Energy regulators disagree on whether to delay actions amid coronavirus](#) - One commissioner on the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) has proposed delaying certain regulatory actions amid the global coronavirus outbreak.

[DOJ ends practice of allowing polluters to pay for environmental projects](#) - The Department of Justice (DOJ) will no longer allow polluting companies to reduce their fines by footing the bill for environmental projects, putting an end to a tool that's been popular with both industry and government agencies.

[DOE nixes automatic confidentiality designations for utilities, seen by NGOs as potential boost for coal and nuclear](#) - A final rule issued by the U.S. Department of Energy implements administrative procedures for the agency to designate Critical Electric Infrastructure Information (CEII) under the Federal Power Act, but also walks back provisions of the initial proposal that critics said would have violated federal records laws and the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

[Energy bill stalled amid amendment gridlock](#) - A mammoth energy policy bill hit a roadblock in the Senate on Monday night with a stalemate over amendments threatening to derail the legislation entirely.

[Comprehensive Senate energy bill draws industry, bipartisan support, but lags on tax credits, efficiency](#) - The bill would include 17 demonstration projects for advanced nuclear, carbon capture, long duration storage and geothermal, moving away from the Trump administration's more research-focused funding.

[The Energy 202: Oil glut on coronavirus may sink Trump's 2020 message of 'energy dominance'](#) - President Trump had made American "energy dominance" a key part of his platform for reelection. But a plunge in the price of oil threatens to undermine that 2020 message.

[Senate confirms Danly, but Manchin pledges to hold out for Democratic FERC pairing in future](#) - The Senate confirmed James Danly for a Republican seat on the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission on Thursday, with a 52-40 vote.

[DOE Secretary holds out hope for new low carbon coal plants as Senate drills him on renewables cuts](#) - Department of Energy Secretary Dan Brouillette is holding out hope for a new, low emissions coal fleet, he told reporters, after Senators grilled him on the Trump Administration's proposed spending cuts to DOE's energy efficiency and renewables programs.

LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY ISSUES: STATE

[\\$50 million state aid package, future recovery help, ready for Gov. Wolf's signature](#) - Both the state House and Senate passed a \$50 million recovery package Wednesday intended to help families and businesses deal with the growing economic fallout from the coronavirus threat.

[Divided Pa. Supreme Court rejects challenges to Gov. Wolf's business shutdown order over coronavirus](#) - Although one justice said he's "troubled by the uncertainty" of Gov. Tom Wolf's order closing non-life-sustaining businesses to contain the coronavirus, the state Supreme Court has turned aside two legal challenges to that edict.

[Pennsylvania governor, legislative leaders reach deal to postpone 2020 primary for coronavirus](#) - Top Pennsylvania lawmakers and Gov. Tom Wolf have reached agreement on postponing the state's primary election from April 28 until June 2, The Inquirer has learned, with legislation poised to advance Monday and move quickly through the state legislature.

[Pa. lawmakers pledge 'commitment' to transparency as coronavirus guidelines force them to vote remotely](#) - When the Pennsylvania House meets this week, its 203 members won't pack into the ornate Capitol chamber where they usually gather. Instead, most lawmakers will tune in remotely to consider a bill that moves the state's primary election to June 2.

[Pennsylvania exempts coal from COVID-19 order, allowing mines to stay open](#) - Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Wolf clarified that coal mines are exempted from a March 20 order to shut down non-life sustaining businesses in the state.

[DEP Senate Budget Hearing: DEP - Coal-Fired Power Plants Are Closing Without RGGI, We Have To Confront This Issue, Help Workers, Communities](#) - In comments at the March 4 Senate Appropriations Committee budget hearing, DEP Secretary Patrick McDonnell said the reality is coal-fired power plants are closing because of market forces and no one is making the financial commitment to fund new coal plants.

[Republicans Sweep 3 Special Elections for Pennsylvania House](#) - Republicans are claiming victory and Democrats conceding defeat in three special elections Tuesday to fill empty seats in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives.

[Take DEP Survey To Help Shape 2021 PA Climate Action Plan](#) - The Department of Environmental Protection is inviting the public to provide input to help inform the development of the 2021 PA Climate Action Plan by taking an online survey.