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## ARIPPA PERIODIC MEDIA NEWS – 6-1-20

(News clips from the previous month)

### CFB, COAL REFUSE, ENERGY INDUSTRY

[Coal's Decline Continues with 13 Plant Closures Announced in 2020](#) - America is continuing its exodus from coal.

[PJM Prepared to Meet Summer Demand, Maintain Reliability](#) - PJM Interconnection, the nation's largest electric grid operator, has the resources available and is prepared to meet summer demand for customers in 13 states and the District of Columbia.

[PJM, retail suppliers scrambling to appease MOPR concerns amid state threats to exit capacity market](#) - PJM Interconnection and Calpine have indicated that they are willing to come to the table and negotiate alternative long-term solutions to the minimum offer price rule (MOPR) approved by federal regulators in December.

[PJM MOPR could cost market consumers up to \\$2.6B annually, report finds](#) - A new market rule could cost customers in the PJM Interconnection from \$1 billion to \$2.6 billion annually, according to an updated analysis from consulting firm Grid Strategies.

[Clean Energy Has Taken a Hit. Will It Rebound?](#) - Late in April, Warren Leon convened a meeting of leaders from around the country who are overseeing their states' transitions to clean energy. He feared the group — 14 states plus the District of Columbia that have committed to 100% clean power goals — would have had its ambitions set back by the ongoing pandemic.

[In coal, carbon advances, NETL looks to be a 'known gem' to WV, Appalachia](#) - The National Energy Technology Laboratory, located in Morgantown, has long been a "hidden gem" in the area, according to its leadership, but its recent advancements and technologies are expanding its role in the community.

[Coal-fired generation stays longer, gas generation grows slower in new forecast](#) - Coal-fired generation has been forecast to slow its decrease in share of US generation in S&P Global Platts Analytics' latest long-term forecast, compared with an earlier forecast, and natural gas-fired generation's share growth is also forecast to slow, but wind and solar output are forecast to accelerate.

[Renewables poised to outstrip coal generation in 2020 as COVID-19 accelerates transition: EIA](#) - Renewables generation is set to outpace coal generation in 2020, according to the latest short-term energy outlook from the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA), amid shrinking electricity demand caused by COVID-19 response measures as well as low natural gas prices.

[So far, COVID-19 fallout not altering plans to retire US coal-fired plants](#) - While U.S. power generators continue to assess what the total implications could be of a decline in electricity demand caused by the economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, those forecasting a shift to less carbon-intensive assets have not yet changed near-term plans to retire coal plants.

[Coal-fired plants could see water shortages if they add carbon capture technology: study](#) - Installing carbon capture and sequestration technology at existing large coal-fired power plants around the world could leave many of them short of water at least for part of the year, a new scientific study has found.

[Methane leaks much worse than previously thought, study says](#) - Natural gas drillers in Pennsylvania leaked more than 1.1 million tons of methane into the air in 2017, 16 times the amount they reported to the state, according to an Environmental Defense Fund review.

[Looming Coal and Nuclear Plant Closures Put 'Just Transition' Concept to the Test](#) - The coronavirus pandemic has not changed the grim reality facing workers at coal and nuclear power plants in the U.S. and Europe. How those workers will fare in the years ahead will vary greatly based on where they live and the prevailing political winds.

[Amid pandemic, U.S. renewable power sources have topped coal for 40 days](#) - Electricity generated by renewable sources like solar, wind and hydro has exceeded coal-fired power in the United States for a record 40 straight days, according to a report based on U.S. government data released on Monday.

[Global GHG emissions could fall 8% in 2020 amid pandemic: IEA](#) - Impacts of the new coronavirus pandemic (COVID-19) could lead to a near 8% drop in global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in 2020, according to a report from the International Energy Agency (IEA).

#### **LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY ISSUES: FEDERAL**

[FERC approves PJM reserve overhaul with \\$2B price tag, critics say move ignores overcapacity](#) - The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) on Thursday voted to overhaul the PJM Interconnection's reserve market, in a move that the grid operator and market monitor have estimated could cost consumers between \$500 million and \$2 billion annually.

[Trump Expands Regulatory Rollback, Including for Power, Amid Economic Fallout](#) - President Trump in a new executive order (EO) has directed federal agencies to rescind, modify, waive, or provide exemptions from regulatory requirements that may inhibit economic recovery.

[EPA accused of 'pandemic of pollution' as Trump orders regulatory relief](#) - President Donald Trump on Tuesday ordered federal agencies to ease regulatory burdens to spur economic recovery following a surge in unemployment.

[D.C. Circuit gives new life to Maryland drive to tighten pollution limits for upwind coal plants](#) - The U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit on Tuesday mostly agreed with the Environmental Protection Agency's rejection of Maryland and Delaware's petitions to tighten pollution limits on upwind power plants, which the two states claim are impacting their ability to meet federal ozone standards.

[Trump says US won't close over second COVID-19 wave](#) - President Trump said Thursday the United States would not shut down in the case of a second coronavirus wave.

[FERC Plans Discussion of COVID-19 Impacts](#) - The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) is planning a technical conference this summer that would look at long-term impacts of the coronavirus pandemic on the energy industry.

[FERC chairman mulls run for Virginia governor](#) - Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) Chairman Neil Chatterjee is considering running for governor in Virginia next year, Politico reported Monday.

[Chesapeake Bay Foundation, Other States Give Notice To EPA Of Intent To Sue Over Failure To Hold PA, NY Accountable For Meeting Bay Cleanup Milestones](#) - On May 18, the Chesapeake Bay Foundation and its partners filed a notice of intent to sue the federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for its failure to require Pennsylvania and New York to develop implementation plans that will achieve the 2025 Bay restoration goals.

[Nine U.S. states sue EPA for easing environmental enforcement amid pandemic](#) - Nine states on Wednesday filed a lawsuit against the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for relaxing a range of companies' compliance and monitoring requirements with federal clean air and water laws in response to the coronavirus pandemic, arguing the policy is too broad and not transparent.

[SBA slashes disaster-loan limit from \\$2 million to \\$150,000, shuts out nearly all new applicants](#) - An emergency disaster lending program for small businesses has been so overwhelmed by demand that it has significantly limited the size of loans it issues, while blocking nearly all new applications from small businesses, according to people familiar with the situation.

[Chesapeake area states, environmental groups sue over new federal water rule](#) - Several Chesapeake Bay states and watershed environmental groups have gone to court challenging the Trump administration's weakening of federal protections for wetlands and streams.

[What could a new normal look like? Draft of CDC guidelines for coronavirus reopenings offer hints](#) - A draft of guidelines for coronavirus reopenings from the Centers for Disease Control that is currently being reviewed by the White House offers hints at what a new normal might look like.

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

[Gov. Tom Wolf signs short-term budget with no tax hike, along with emergency federal aid](#) - Gov. Tom Wolf signed a short-term budget that includes no new taxes or tax increases, along with emergency aid from the federal government to respond to the coronavirus crisis.

[Gov. Tom Wolf talks about coronavirus, reopening more of Pa. and the return of school in the fall](#) - In his first in-person press conference since the middle of March, Gov. Tom Wolf moved 16 counties, including the Pittsburgh area, into the green phase in his plan to reopen the state.

[Pa. House passes resolution to limit Wolf's coronavirus emergency declaration](#) - The Pennsylvania legislature moved quickly this week, taking just three days to finalize a stopgap budget that's designed to give lawmakers more time to determine the impact of the coronavirus on Pennsylvania's fiscal fortunes.

[DEP stood to gain new staffers, but now faces flat funding to start next fiscal year](#) - Pennsylvania's Department of Environmental Protection was hoping to welcome 25 new staff members in the next fiscal year.

[All Pa. counties will be in 'yellow' by June 5, some going green next week - Pennsylvania counties still under strict coronavirus restrictions](#) — including hard-hit Philadelphia, its suburbs, and the Lehigh Valley — will move to the "yellow" reopening phase on June 5, Gov. Tom Wolf announced Friday while also moving some north-central and northwest counties to the green phase next week.

[Pa. House fails to override Gov. Wolf's veto of bill that would've allowed more businesses to operate](#) - Hoping to get barbers, hair stylists, animal groomers and more businesses reopened, the Pennsylvania House of Representatives on Wednesday attempted unsuccessfully to override Gov. Tom Wolf's veto of a bill that he said would undermine his measured phased-in approach to bringing back the state's economy.

[Gov. Wolf Vetoes Republican Bill Blocking Environmental, Other Regulations](#) - On May 19, as expected, Gov. Wolf vetoed Senate Bill 327 (Argall-R- Schuylkill), which contains a provision that would stop any proposed or final environmental or other state agency regulation from being finalized during the COVID-19 emergency.

[Lawmakers, advocates question Wolf's decisions, fear he's ruining Pa. businesses](#) - The push to reopen several sectors of Pennsylvania's economy was met with resistance Tuesday when Gov. Tom Wolf vetoed three bills that would have given county leaders limited powers to make economic decisions, as well as would have allowed certain companies to resume operations in the most restricted phase of the state's reopening strategy.

[Pennsylvania launches program to extend unemployment pay for 13 weeks](#) - In its latest response to the economic toll of the coronavirus crisis, Pennsylvania launched a program Sunday intended to provide 13 additional weeks of compensation to people who have exhausted their traditional unemployment benefits, the state's Department of Labor & Industry announced in a press release.

[DEP Invites Public, Businesses, Local Governments To Rate Their Experience With The Agency During The Pandemic Shutdown](#) - The Department of Environmental Protection is inviting the public, businesses and local governments to rate their experience with the agency during the pandemic shutdown.

[Wolf warns requests for business waivers could reveal proprietary information](#) - The legal battle surrounding Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Wolf's shutdown order intensified Thursday, with Republicans pushing for an expedited court decision that could force the Democratic governor to disclose records about waivers his administration granted businesses to operate during the pandemic.

[Pa. officials revoked business waivers the night before publishing list of recipients](#) - Pa. officials revoked business waivers the night before publishing list of recipients

[Pa. GOP takes Gov. Tom Wolf to court as it seeks records on controversial business waiver process](#) - Senate Republicans are taking Gov. Tom Wolf to court in an effort to force his administration to release more information about how it exempted certain businesses from a statewide coronavirus shutdown order.

[Wolf: More than 6K business owners granted waivers during covid-19 shutdown, nearly 13K denied](#) - More than 6,000 Pennsylvania businesses received waivers to operate during the pandemic-spurred lockdown, or about 14% of those who applied for the exemption, data released Friday show.

[Public officials cite virus while limiting access to records](#) - Many state and local governments across the country have suspended public records requirements amid the coronavirus pandemic, denying or delaying access to information that could shed light on key government decisions.

[Governor rejects withdrawal from RGGI](#) - Gov. Tom Wolf will not change his mind about his executive order including Pennsylvania in the multi-state Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative.

[Indiana County stakeholders highlight economic fallout of Gov. Wolf's RGGI proposal](#) - Indiana County business leaders, labor representatives, school district superintendents, and elected officials warned about the devastating economic impacts that would result from Pennsylvania's inclusion in the Northeast Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) during a virtual news conference hosted by the Power PA Jobs Alliance on Thursday.

[Governor's Office Updates List Of Regulations In Development By State Agencies](#) - The Governor's Office posted an update to the Regulatory Agenda which includes an agency-by-agency listing of regulations in development by state agencies in the May 9 PA Bulletin (PA Bulletin page 2481).

['I'm trying to be transparent,' Wolf says as his administration rejects bill to restart public records law](#) - The Wolf administration does not support a bill that would give the public and press access to government records during a disaster declaration, despite the measure's passing the state House this week with overwhelming bipartisan support.

[Bipartisan Group of PA House Members Urge Governor to Withdraw RGGI Order](#) - At the request of Rep. Donna Oberlander (R-Armstrong/Clarion/Forest), Rep. Jim Struzzi (R-Indiana) and Rep. Pam Snyder (D-Greene/Washington/Fayette), a bipartisan group of 58 Pennsylvania House of Representatives members signed a letter urging Gov. Tom Wolf and the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to suspend Pennsylvania's regulatory efforts to join the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI).

[Pa. tax revenues plummet \\$2.2 billion as top state official warns reopening won't end economic pain](#) - Pennsylvania's tax revenues nosedived \$2.2 billion in April, falling 50% below official estimates, according to figures released Friday by the state Department of Revenue.

[Wolf, Cuomo join other governors in efforts for covid-19 equipment](#) - Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Wolf and governors from six other Northeast and Mid-Atlantic states Sunday pledged to join forces to build the manufacturing capacity to make coronavirus testing kits, personal protective equipment and ventilators to protect the health care system in the fight against covid-19.