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ARIPPA PERIODIC MEDIA NEWS – 7-1-20

(News clips from the previous month)

CFB, COAL REFUSE, ENERGY INDUSTRY

[Federal, state and county officials tour abandoned mining sites impacting local waterway](#) - Raising awareness to the impact abandoned mine drainage has on Little Anderson Creek was the purpose for a meeting Tuesday.

[Pushback Against Two Cap & Trade Programs Follows Electoral Rejection Of Carbon Taxes](#) - Prominent environmental organizations and activists have spent recent months seeking to shoehorn talk of climate change into discussions about current events.

[FPL, JEA to retire 848 MW unit of largest US coal plant](#) - Plant Scherer in Georgia — for years, the highest capacity coal-fired plant in the U.S. — will lose one of its four units to retirement, a sign that even the largest coal power plants are not immune to the economic pressures driving down coal's standing in the U.S. generation mix.

[April coal deliveries to US power plants fall to over 13-year low: EIA](#) - Coal deliveries to US power plants fell to over a 13-year low of 30.02 million st in April, down 13.5% from 34.71 million st delivered in March and 32.9% lower than 44.77 million st in the year-ago month, according to US Energy Information Administration data released June 30.

[Almost all U.S. coal production is consumed for electric power](#) - Coal is one of the main sources of energy in the United States, accounting for 14% of domestic primary energy production in 2019, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration's (EIA) Monthly Energy Review.

[Industry supports abandoned mine lands compromise bill](#) - The National Mining Association (NMA) has recently offered its support for Senator John Barrasso's 'Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation Fee Reauthorization Act of 2020.'

[Rising energy loads from fewer COVID-19 limits, warming weather spark utility readiness concerns](#) - Economic restrictions related to the COVID-19 pandemic are easing in some parts of the country as temperatures have begun to warm. As a result, grid operators are now seeing electricity demand rise after a significant drop this spring, leading to concerns about their ability to keep the lights on — and how outages could impact vulnerable populations.

[Union miners sue Trump administration over COVID-19 workplace protections](#) - Two unions representing hundreds of miners in the Pittsburgh region sued the Trump administration on Tuesday, demanding federal workplace health officials authorize stronger COVID-19 protections for the country's mines as demand for coal and other minerals rebounds with the U.S. economy.

[The 100 Percent Renewable Dream: A Problem of Physics and Scale](#) - The drumbeat of press about the declining costs of installing wind and solar generators has led most of the public and our policy-makers to believe that an energy transition from fossil fuels to wind and solar is just around the corner.

[Man dies, another seriously injured after conveyor belt collapses at power plant in Schuylkill County](#) - A man died and another is seriously injured after what crews are calling "a catastrophic failure" with the conveyor belt and cherry picker at a decommissioned power plant in Schuylkill County Thursday afternoon.

[Utility-scale solar to soar in 2020, despite COVID, while coal decline accelerates, SEIA, EIA project](#) - Coal production is anticipated to fall 25% in 2020 due to slowed industrial production under the current economic recession, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration's short-term outlook released on Tuesday.

[PJM: MOPR compliance plan aims to avoid FERC's 'immense' and 'unreasonable' burden](#) - PJM Interconnection on Monday issued an updated compliance filing with federal regulators to avoid an "immense, unintended, and unreasonable administrative burden" on the grid operator and its market participants.

[\\$27M in Abandoned Mine Lands grants fund trails, campgrounds on former sites across WV](#) - An 8-mile-long Blackwater Canyon Loop Trail in Tucker County, a new ATV resort in Boone County and a new wildlife education center at the Forks of Coal State Natural Area in Kanawha County are among projects recommended for funding from this year's allocation of Abandoned Mine Lands funds.

[ARIPPA Anthracite & Bituminous Regions Reclamation Mini Grant Program Now Accepting Applications](#) - The Anthracite Region Independent Power Producers Association has again partnered with the Eastern PA Coalition For Abandoned Mine Reclamation and Western PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation to award mini grants for local mine reclamation projects.

LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY ISSUES: FEDERAL

[Comprehensive energy bill could see Senate floor as early as July: Murkowski chief counsel](#) - A comprehensive energy bill introduced earlier this year could come back to the Senate floor as early as July, Lucy Murfitt, chief counsel for the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, said on Monday.

[Dem climate plan would end greenhouse gas emissions by 2050](#) - House Democrats on Tuesday unveiled a plan to address climate change that would set a goal of net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050, while pushing renewable energy such as wind and solar power and addressing environmental contamination that disproportionately harms low-income and minority communities.

[U.S. Department of Energy putting money into coal 'innovation' grants](#) - The U.S. Department of Energy said it's spending \$122 million to establish research hubs around the country that will look at new ways to use coal as a base for material manufacturing.

[Clean coal is essential to America | U.S. Energy Secretary Dan Brouillette](#) - In March of this year, as COVID-19 began its upward climb, the State of Pennsylvania chose to include coal mining among its "essential" activities.

[House Democrats unveil green tax package](#) - House Democrats unveiled a major green tax package Thursday, offering tax incentives for renewables, electric vehicles and a host of other environmentally friendly businesses.

[FERC schedules technical conferences on carbon pricing, offshore wind integration challenges](#) - Federal regulators on Thursday announced they would hold two technical conferences based on issues raised by stakeholders — one on carbon pricing and one on whether current grid operator frameworks are suitable for offshore wind integration.

[A little known clause in the CARES Act can mean big savings for some small businesses](#) - When the CARES Act was passed back in late March, much attention was paid to the relief given to small businesses by the Paycheck Protection Program. But another, lesser-known part of the bill is also providing for many small-business owners who are smart enough to take advantage of a significant opportunity. That portion has to do with a loan program from the Small Business Administration.

['It's very discouraging': America's new \\$600 billion rescue program for small businesses is off to a rocky start](#) - The Federal Reserve's Main Street lending program is supposed to provide low-cost loans to small and midsize businesses. But small-business owners can't find banks willing to do the loans.

[Disbanded EPA science panel blasts lack of action on particulate matter in order to inform future litigation](#) - Former members of an Environmental Protection Agency scientific review panel are ramping up their criticisms of the agency's decision to maintain current particulate matter (PM) standards, despite scientific evidence that doing so could lead to tens of thousands of premature deaths annually in the United States.

[Trump's grid security order sows confusion in power sector — but don't expect a quick fix](#) - In May, President Donald Trump issued an executive order blocking the installation of bulk power system (BPS) equipment sourced from adversaries of the United States.

[FERC plans technical conference to tackle long-term energy sector impacts of COVID-19](#) - The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission said Friday it will hold a commissioner-led technical conference on July 8 and 9 to consider the "ongoing, serious impacts that the emergency conditions caused by COVID-19 are having on various segments of the United States' energy industry."

[Trump permitting order benefits fossil fuels and renewables, but NGOs vow to challenge](#) - President Donald Trump on Thursday signed an executive order designed to hasten the approval of infrastructure projects in a move that critics say will undermine critical environmental protections.

[Trump seeks to scale back environmental reviews for projects](#) - President Donald Trump signed an executive order Thursday directing agencies to look for ways to speed up building of highways and other major projects by scaling back environmental reviews, invoking special powers he has under the coronavirus emergency.

[EPA limits state power to veto energy projects, setting up clash with Democratic governors](#) - The Trump administration is revising water quality regulations that give states veto power over energy infrastructure, initiating a battle with Democratic governors who have used the authority to block several high-profile fossil fuel projects.

[Commission to ask EPA to help cut smog flowing into Maryland](#) - A multi-state commission will ask the federal Environmental Protection Agency to help cut down on pollution that flows from Pennsylvania into Maryland.

[The Energy 202: Coronavirus pandemic could give Democrats easier way to repeal major Trump EPA rules](#) - If Democrats win big in the November election, they may have an unusual way of quickly repealing some important Trump administration environmental rollbacks. That's because the coronavirus pandemic has upended the schedule in Congress.

[Coronavirus fallout will haunt U.S. economy for years, costing it \\$8 trillion through 2030, CBO says](#) - Fallout from the coronavirus pandemic will shrink the size of the U.S. economy by roughly \$8 trillion over the next decade, according to new projections released by the Congressional Budget Office on Monday.

LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY ISSUES: STATE

[DEP Draft 2020 Water Quality Report Found 25,468 Miles Of Streams Have Impaired Water Quality](#) - The Department of Environmental Protection published notice in the June 27 PA Bulletin inviting comments on the draft 2020 Integrated Water Quality Monitoring and Assessment Report.

[‘Clear as mud’: How Pa.’s chaotic coronavirus waiver program hurt small businesses](#) - On a Saturday in March, after Gov. Tom Wolf urged nonessential businesses to close, Cameron Peters turned off the lights in her flower shop on Phoenixville’s main street, pulled the candy-pink door closed, and started sobbing.

[Pa. lawmakers hear from industry, environmental advocates on impact of cap-and-trade program](#) - The hearing came the day after Governor Tom Wolf granted a six-week extension for his administration to draft a plan to join the effort.

[Gov. Wolf Gives DEP Until September To Submit Carbon Pollution Emissions Reduction Plan For Power Plants To EQB](#) - Late on June 22, Gov. Tom Wolf announced he is providing DEP a six-week extension to develop a Carbon Pollution Emission Reduction Program covering power plants to allow Pennsylvania to participate in the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative.

[43rd Statewide Grand Jury Finds Pennsylvania Failed To Protect Citizens During Fracking Boom](#) - Attorney General Josh Shapiro today announced the findings and recommendations of Pennsylvania’s 43rd Statewide Investigating Grand Jury report on the unconventional oil and gas industry.

[DEP Launches Permit Application Upload Form To Expand Online Permit Application Submissions](#) - On June 22, the Department of Environmental Protection announced a new online permit application tool that will help permit applicants submit their permit applications electronically.

[Centre County Republican Kerry Benninghoff elected as Pa. House majority leader](#) - Centre County Republican Kerry Benninghoff was elected on Monday as the majority leader in the GOP-controlled House of Representatives.

[Pa. Supreme Court to decide lawsuit seeking end to Gov. Wolf's coronavirus emergency order](#) - Pennsylvania's highest court on Wednesday granted Gov. Tom Wolf's request and took over a lawsuit by legislative Republicans that could end his pandemic shutdown order.

[Pennsylvania extends jobless benefits for 13 weeks](#) - Pennsylvania's unemployed will become eligible for an extension of their jobless benefits by the end of this week, state officials said Monday.

[Rep. Daryl Metcalfe reveals 5 articles of impeachment against Gov. Tom Wolf](#) - A state Representative from Butler County and 24 co-sponsors filed articles of impeachment against Gov. Tom Wolf.

[Gov. Tom Wolf talks about progress on coronavirus in Pa., the need for masks and more counties going green](#) - Gov. Tom Wolf spoke about the state's progress in its efforts to reduce the spread of the coronavirus, warned against complacency and said restrictions could be eased in more counties soon.

[House committee takes first step to block Pa.'s entry into regional cap-and-trade program](#) - A key state House committee Tuesday advanced a proposal to stop Pennsylvania from entering a regional cap-and-trade program with 10 other northeastern states.

[Climate Power 2020 Names Innamorato, Kenyatta, and Peduto PA Co-Chairs](#) - A trio of Pennsylvania lawmakers will lead a climate group's operation in the state for the upcoming election.

[DCED: Guidance Now Available For \\$225 Million COVID-19 Relief Statewide Small Business Assistance Grants Funded By Federal CARES Act](#) - On June 11, Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) Secretary Dennis Davin announced that program guidelines and additional details for the COVID-19 Relief Statewide Small Business Grants are now available on DCED's website.

[Target DEP: Republican Senate Bill Would Block All Regulations, Shut Down Citizen Advisory Committee Meetings During A Declared Emergency](#) - On June 5, Sen. Gene Yaw (R-Lycoming), Majority Chair of the Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee, introduced Senate Bill 1147 which would block all proposed and final regulations from publication and prohibit any state agency citizens advisory committee meetings for the duration of a disaster emergency declared by the Governor.

[Trump, Biden win Pa. primary contests amid unrest, pandemic](#) - Pennsylvania held a primary election Tuesday amid civil unrest, a pandemic, the introduction of new voting machines in some counties and the debut of mail-in balloting that pushed county election bureaus to their limits.