



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

ARIPPA PERIODIC MEDIA NEWS – 11-1-20

(News clips from the previous month)

CFB, COAL REFUSE, ENERGY INDUSTRY

[Federal, state, local officials celebrate removal of South Fork coal waste pile, opening of new trail segment](#) - Federal and state officials joined local leaders Monday in South Fork to celebrate the removal of more than 200,000 cubic yards of coal waste from a hillside overlooking the borough – and the opening of a new 1.6-mile-long segment of the Path of the Flood Trail through the refuse pile's former location.

[Bob Murray, coal titan and political lightning rod, dies at age 80](#) - Bob Murray, a coal titan who founded the company bearing his name, died on Sunday at age 80.

[US ELECTIONS: Political polarization creating regulatory 'ping-pong effect' for US energy](#) - As the US political climate has grown more polarized, the energy sector has faced increasingly significant shifts on the regulatory front every four to eight years, and the industry may have to ready itself for another pendulum swing after the November presidential election.

[Coal-Fired Power in 2021: A Recovery or a Reckoning?](#) - This has been the year from hell for coal-fired power and the coal industry. If current projections hold, coal generation in 2020 will be 21% lower than last year and 62% lower than the 2007 peak.

[2019 US wholesale solar prices more than double wind, gas as renewables use reaches record levels: EIA](#) - According to the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA), last year the average U.S. wholesale price for solar electricity was \$83/MWh – more than double the price paid to producers of electricity generated by wind, fossil fuels, or nuclear.

[Annual Centralia Cleanup fills 20 cubic yard dumpster](#) - Volunteers took to the streets and woodlands of Centralia and Conyngham Township Saturday for an annual cleanup, hosted by the Eastern Pennsylvania Coalition on Abandoned Mine Reclamation.

[US ELECTIONS: Pace of energy transition, innovation on the ballot in presidential election](#) - The US appears headed for a clean energy future regardless of who sits in the White House. But the pace of the energy transition – and presumably the severity of ensuing climate change impacts – could look dramatically different depending on the victor of the Nov. 3 presidential election.

[Coal has a 'very bright future' despite rise of fracking, Brouillette says](#) - Coal still has a bright future in an American energy industry that is transitioning to natural gas, Energy Secretary Dan Brouillette told Fox Business Network's "The Claman Countdown" Thursday.

[Energy secretary touts CTC technology](#) - A process to extract valuable metals from coal waste illustrates how Concurrent Technologies Corp. is applying its expertise to the energy industry, a national leader said Thursday.

[Duke Energy Pursuing Sweeping Changes to Generation Mix](#) - Doubling down on its net-zero efforts, Duke Energy will retire all coal-only units in the Carolinas, multiply its renewable portfolio, and cease emitting methane in its natural gas business by 2030.

[EIA raises forecast for coal generation bump in 2021, and more carbon emissions](#) - The Energy Information Administration (EIA) released its latest Short Term Energy Outlook (STEO) on Tuesday, forecasting that coal's share of U.S. electric generation will rise to 24% in 2021, after falling to 20% in 2020 amid ongoing plant closures.

[Heat storm and insufficient planning caused August rolling blackouts, California regulators say](#) - A combination of a climate change-induced heat storm, inadequate resource planning targets, as well as some aspects of the day-ahead energy market contributed to the rolling blackouts that occurred in California in August, state agencies said in a preliminary root cause analysis issued Tuesday.

[Cincinnati, Columbus sue to block nuclear bailout fees](#) - If state lawmakers and Gov. Mike DeWine won't repeal Ohio's \$1.3 billion nuclear bailout, leaders in Cincinnati and Columbus say they'll take matters into their own hands.

[Nuclear plants at center of Ohio subsidy fight operating above wholesale prices](#) - As the owner of two Ohio nuclear plants is pressed to open its books on the profitability of the units, the timing of subsidies at the center of a federal criminal investigation may be a larger issue.

[Gov. Mike DeWine wants Energy Harbor, FirstEnergy to prove nuclear plants need a \\$1.3B public bailout](#) - Gov. Mike DeWine said Thursday he wants Energy Harbor and FirstEnergy Corp. to open their books to the public about whether two nuclear power plants actually need a \$1.3 billion ratepayer bailout.

[Judge won't block donations from FirstEnergy to Ohio politicians, fees to nuclear plants](#) - Ohio Attorney General Dave Yost can't block FirstEnergy and affiliated companies from donating money to lawmakers as they consider repeal of a \$1.3 billion bailout of two nuclear plants, a Franklin County judge ruled Friday morning.

LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY ISSUES: FEDERAL

[Election 2020: For DOE, staffing, renewables spending, transparency at stake Nov. 3, analysts say](#) - A Biden administration could turn the agency's focus to clean energy, transparency and environmental justice. Under Trump, expect more of the same push for deregulation.

[Senate confirms Amy Coney Barrett as Supreme Court justice with 52-48 vote](#) - Amy Coney Barrett was confirmed to the Supreme Court late Monday by a deeply divided Senate, with Republicans overpowering Democrats to install President Donald Trump's nominee days before the election and secure a likely conservative court majority for years to come.

[Election 2020: Trump's FERC may need to shift course on clean energy, though Biden's road will not be easy](#) - No matter what happens Nov. 3, the agency will have no choice but to address the industry's transition, even if it means backing away from some of its more controversial policies under Trump.

[EPA expands coal ash storage options for utilities in move NGOs say violates DC Circuit ruling](#) - The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency on Friday issued a final rule expanding the lining standards for coal ash ponds.

[FERC confirms carbon pricing jurisdiction in wholesale markets, Chatterjee 'encourages' proposals](#) - The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission on Thursday cemented its jurisdiction over carbon pricing within wholesale markets, confirming that it does have the authority to approve such rules if brought forward by grid operators.

[FERC PJM order muddies state subsidy definition under MOPR, potentially hinders renewables, Glick says](#) - Federal regulators on Thursday accepted, in part, the PJM Interconnection's June compliance filing that responds to a commission order effectively raising the bidding floors for state-subsidized resources in the grid operator's wholesale capacity market.

[EPA Proposes Revised Cross-State Air Pollution Rule Update for 2008 Ozone NAAQS](#) - Today, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is proposing revisions to the Cross-State Air Pollution Rule (CSAPR) Update to address interstate air quality impacts for the 2008 ozone air quality standards.

[DC Circuit eyes US EPA's power plant rule with skepticism during oral arguments](#) - A panel of federal appeals court judges Oct. 8 appeared skeptical of the Trump administration's narrow replacement for the Obama-era Clean Power Plan, pressing a government lawyer defending the regulation on how it would actually work in practice.

[DOE Awards \\$1.95M for Conceptual Designs that Extract Critical Minerals and Rare Earth Elements from Coal Sources](#) - The U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Office of Fossil Energy selected 13 projects to receive approximately \$1.95 million in federal funding to develop conceptual designs of commercially viable technologies that will extract rare earth elements (REEs) from U.S. coal and coal by-product sources.

[FERC carbon pricing conference shatters attendance records, but where were the state voices?](#) - A historic nine and a half hour discussion on carbon pricing attracted at least 2,000 viewers and broke previous attendance records for a Federal Energy Regulatory Commission technical conference, according to Chairman Neil Chatterjee.

[EPA finalizes rule allowing some major polluters to follow weaker emissions standards](#) - The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on Thursday finalized a rule that could reclassify many "major" sources of pollution as minor ones, allowing facilities to abide by less-stringent emissions standards for dangerous substances such as mercury, lead and arsenic.

LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY ISSUES: STATE

[Trump and Biden differ sharply on the environment — and that means the election stakes are high for Pennsylvania](#) - President Trump spent four years dismantling nearly 100 federal environmental rules and policies. So, what would a second term for Trump mean for the environment?

[GOP asks Supreme Court again to block Pa. ballot extension](#) - The Pennsylvania Republican Party is asking the U.S. Supreme Court to speedily take up its case to block counties in the presidential battleground state from counting mailed-in ballots received up to three days after the Nov. 3 election.

[DEP Increases Permitting Efficiency, Maintains Environmental Protection Amid COVID-19 Pandemic](#) - On October 23, the Department of Environmental Protection announced it continues its efforts to maintain environmental protections and even increased permitting efficiency throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

[SRBC Announces Proposed Policy - Incentiving the Use of Impaired Waters Policy](#) - The Susquehanna River Basin Commission has released a proposed policy to update the Commission's existing policy and resolution that encouraged the use of impaired waters. Specifically, the policy addresses fee and timing of review incentives for 1) the use of waters impaired by abandoned mine drainage or 2) treated wastewater for recycling or reuse.

[Local projects awarded \\$2.7 million for coal-impacted towns, creating 272 new jobs and training 1,300 workers](#) - A job training center in Armstrong County, an economic development group and a Pittsburgh health system were awarded \$2.7 million in federal grants helping coal-impacted communities.

[Deadline looms to finish state budget](#) - Months after passing a partial budget that avoided some hard decisions, Pennsylvania's Legislature and governor face a deadline at the end of November to finish the job and plug a multibillion-dollar deficit.

[Pa. has no plans 'at this time' to reinstate stay at home orders, business restrictions, despite coronavirus spike](#) - Pa. Health Department Secretary Dr. Rachel Levine said that the state has no plans "at this time to change the mitigation orders that are already in place" despite a confirmed coronavirus case count spike over the last week and a half.

['A really destructive scenario': Pennsylvania could hold up outcome of presidential election](#) - Pennsylvania, one of the states most likely to decide the presidential election, is bracing for one of the slowest ballot counts in the country.

[Here's how Democrats could flip the Pennsylvania legislature](#) - Just nine GOP seats in the House and four in the Senate would have to flip to blue in order for power to change hands.

[Judge throws out Trump campaign's Pennsylvania lawsuit](#) - A federal judge in Pennsylvania on Saturday threw out a lawsuit filed by President Donald Trump's campaign, dismissing its challenges to the battleground state's poll-watching law and its efforts to limit how mail-in ballots can be collected and which of them can be counted.

[Environmental groups to spend \\$2M to flip Pa. legislature](#) - Several Pennsylvania environmental groups plan to pour millions into closely contested State House and Senate races with the goal of flipping the General Assembly in Democrats' favor.

[Audit finds problems with Gov. Wolf's COVID-19 business shutdown waiver program: 'This was not a level playing field'](#) - An ongoing audit of Gov. Tom Wolf's COVID-19 business shutdown waiver program has revealed inconsistencies and confusion that have led the state's fiscal watchdog to determine "this was not a level playing field for businesses across Pennsylvania."

[Senate Republicans Pass Bill Changing Membership Of DEP Air Quality Technical Advisory Committee To Favor The Senate, House](#) - On October 5, Republicans on the Senate Appropriations Committee reported out Senate Bill 1173 (Yaw-R-Lycoming) changing appointments on DEP's Air Quality Technical Advisory Committee from the Governor to appointments made by the House, Senate and the Governor.

[Toomey confirms he won't run for another Senate term or governor in 2022](#) - U.S. Sen. Pat Toomey, a Lehigh Valley Republican, on Monday announced he will call it quits in 2022 after a combined total of 18 years in Congress.

[More than 5,300 businesses to receive help through second round of COVID-19 relief assistance grant distribution](#) - Some 5,373 businesses will receive some money from the second of two rounds of awards provided through the COVID-19 Relief Statewide Small Business Assistance grant program, which is intended to help them recover from losses associated with Gov. Tom Wolf's pandemic-related business closure order.

[GOP leaders continue fighting COVID-19 shutdowns, mandates even after Trump's diagnosis](#) - Republican governors and lawmakers in many states have followed President Donald Trump's lead on their response to the coronavirus, declining to impose mask mandates and pushing to lift restrictions on businesses and social gatherings as swiftly as possible.

[Appeals court allows Pennsylvania to restrict crowd size](#) - Pennsylvania can restore pandemic restrictions on indoor and outdoor gatherings, a federal appeals court ruled Thursday, putting on hold a judge's ruling that threw out statewide limits on crowd size and other measures meant to limit the spread of the coronavirus.

[Wolf Administration Joins 6 States In Commitment To Develop Regional Carbon Dioxide Transport Infrastructure Plan To Promote Carbon Capture](#) - On October 1, Gov. Tom Wolf announced his administration is joining with six other states – Kansas, Louisiana, Maryland, Montana, Oklahoma and Wyoming – in signing a memorandum of understanding (MOU) expressing a commitment to establish and implement a regional CO2 transport infrastructure plan by collaborating and leveraging resources across the participating states.