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ARIPPA PERIODIC MEDIA NEWS – 12-1-20

(News clips from the previous month)

CFB, COAL REFUSE, ENERGY INDUSTRY

[Building a new coal-fired power plant? Consol proposes ambitious test to counter coal's dim outlook](#) - It has been seven years since the last major new coal-fired power plant started making electricity in the United States.

[US coal jobs down 24% from the start of Trump administration to latest quarter](#) - Despite a campaign promise to put coal miners back to work and support "beautiful clean coal," President Donald Trump is on track to leave the White House with the nation posting the lowest coal production and jobs figures in recent history.

[PJM Reestablishes Capacity Auction Schedule](#) - PJM has announced a schedule for its next five annual capacity auctions following an order issued by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission on Nov. 12.

[Ohio PUC Chairman Samuel Randazzo abruptly resigns four days after FBI searched his home](#) - Samuel Randazzo, the former chairman of the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio, resigned Friday morning, four days after the FBI conducted an early morning search of his Columbus home and less than a day after FirstEnergy revealed in a U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission filing that it paid \$4 million in early 2019 to end a six-year contract with a consulting company believed to be linked to Randazzo.

[Bipartisan Legislation Introduced to Boost Advanced Nuclear, Preserve Existing Nuclear](#) - Legislation introduced on Nov. 17 by a bipartisan group of senators on the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works (EPW) will seek to strengthen the nuclear fuel supply chain, help incentivize commercial deployment of new reactor designs, and create a credit program to preserve existing nuclear reactors at risk of premature shutdown.

[Coal generation share in PJM rises in first-half November](#) - Coal generation rose in the first half of November in the PJM Interconnection to average 443,720 MWh, up from 375,975 MWh in the H2 October, but down from 556,786 MWh averaged in H1 November 2019, according to PJM data.

[In filing, FirstEnergy says former executives' firings tied to questionable \\$4 million payment to entity tied to unnamed state official](#) - A new federal filing from FirstEnergy offers additional details on why the Akron-based utility company abruptly fired three senior executives last month, including former CEO Chuck Jones.

[Madigan confidant and ex-ComEd CEO charged with bribery in lobbying scheme](#) - Federal prosecutors marched deeper into House Speaker Michael Madigan's inner circle Wednesday, charging longtime confidant Michael McClain and ex-ComEd CEO Anne Pramaggiore in a bribery scheme designed to curry favor with the powerful Southwest Side Democrat.

[IEA: Renewables Will Lead Global Generation in 2025](#) - The world's power generation is about to become even more green, according to a new publication from the International Energy Agency (IEA).

[Power companies pledge carbon neutrality by 2050 — with some time to figure out natural gas's place in the mix](#) - Two major players in Pennsylvania's electricity market announced last week, by 2050, they will contribute no additional carbon dioxide to the atmosphere.

[Biden and Electric Utilities Are Split on Emissions Goals](#) - For the last four years, as President Trump worked to roll back environmental regulations and boost fossil fuels, utilities forged ahead with ambitious plans to reduce emissions.

[PJM Tracker: Power prices follow lower gas prices despite colder weather](#) - PJM Interconnection wholesale power prices dropped an average of 11.2% year on year in October, following lower power demand and weaker spot gas prices, and not correlating with colder weather that normally drives up prices.

[MOPR reconsidered: Competitive generators move away from FERC's PJM order, toward carbon pricing](#) - Though competitive suppliers initiated the complaint that led to the MOPR expansion, they are now pivoting toward more markets-based mechanisms, in response to state threats to exit the markets.

[Generation share for gas in the US Northeast likely to fall this winter as prices rise](#) - As more winter-like temperatures arrive across the US Northeast, rising cash prices there could begin to pressure market share for gas as power generators switch away from the fuel in favor of coal.

[AEP Will Shutter Nearly Half its Giant Coal Power Fleet—5.6 GW—by 2030](#) - American Electric Power (AEP) will shut down or refuel 5.6 GW of its 2020 coal-fired power fleet by 2030 to comply with environmental rules—including recent revisions governing federal coal ash and effluent limitations—and rebalance its portfolio in a bid to meet ambitious climate goals.

[Court denies DEP's motion to dismiss case that raises coal mine reclamation concerns](#) - A federal court has denied state environmental regulators' motion to dismiss a lawsuit that raises questions about the financial health of West Virginia's surface coal mining reclamation program.

[PJM and Members Prepared to Serve Winter Electricity Demand; 65 Million Customers Served Reliably Through Summer 2020](#) - PJM Interconnection and its members are ready to meet the forecasted demand for electricity this winter for 13 states and the District of Columbia.

LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY ISSUES: FEDERAL

[GOP lawmakers call out FERC for inaction on grid resilience, seek answers on next steps](#) - A recent push by Republican US lawmakers urging the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to finally define grid resilience and take action to ensure coal's continued place in the energy mix is unlikely to spur any new policies this late in the game, a power industry observer said Nov. 23.

[FERC proposes transmission rating reform, upholds PURPA, ISO-NE orders](#) - The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission on Thursday upheld its order overhauling its implementation of the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act (PURPA), and issued a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NOPR) to reform transmission line ratings.

[States urge FERC to avoid further intrusions on authority in any future carbon pricing policy](#) - Stakeholders commenting on the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's proposed carbon pricing policy statement were divided on what role such a policy should play in the clean energy transition.

[Coal states flex as Barrasso seeks Senate Energy gavel](#) - Wyoming Sen. John Barrasso's decision to become top Republican on the Energy and Natural Resources Committee will leave coal state lawmakers largely in charge of energy and environmental policy in the Senate.

[New FERC Chair Danly cancels Chatterjee electric vehicle roundtable, nixes media briefings](#) - Newly-appointed Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Chairman James Danly is already making it clear his chairmanship, however short, will be different from that of Neil Chatterjee's.

[Glick vows to prioritize transmission, reassess capacity markets if named FERC Chair](#) - Commissioner Richard Glick said Tuesday that updating transmission policy, reassessing capacity market operations in relation to their impacts on state policies, and continuing to lower barriers to nascent clean energy technologies would be top priorities if he is named head of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission in 2021.

[FERC's carbon pricing statement draws criticism, cautious support](#) - A draft policy statement issued last month by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission encouraging carbon pricing rules in wholesale power markets has generated mixed feedback.

[Federal audit finds mine safety agency not doing enough to protect coal miners from silica](#) - The U.S. Department of Labor's Office of the Inspector General has released a report that found the Mine Safety and Health Administration has not sufficiently protected coal miners from a potentially life-threatening carcinogen and contributing cause of black lung disease.

[Trump races clock on remaining environmental rollbacks](#) - The Trump administration is scrambling to wrap up a slew of environmental rollbacks before President-elect Joe Biden takes office in less than 70 days.

[Chatterjee says exclusion of state regulators from carbon pricing conference was a 'mistake'](#) - Former chair of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Neil Chatterjee on Wednesday acknowledged that excluding state voices from FERC's carbon pricing conference may have been a "mistake."

[Biden announces energy, environment transition team members](#) - U.S. President-elect Joe Biden on Nov. 10 named members of his agency review teams who will be responsible for preparing Biden and Vice President-elect Kamala Harris for the start of their administration.

[How Biden's Presidency Could \(Further\) Transform the Power Sector](#) - Joe Biden on Nov. 7 clinched the 270 electoral votes needed to win the presidency, barring Donald Trump's prospects for a second-term. Almost immediately, reactions from various parts of the power sector streamed in, highlighting possibilities and pitfalls of Biden's wide-ranging energy and environment agenda.

[Trump ousts Chatterjee, taps Danly to lead FERC](#) - President Donald Trump on Thursday appointed Commissioner James Danly to chair the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, replacing Chairman Neil Chatterjee.

[EPA sued over coal plant wastewater rollback](#) - A coalition of nine environmental groups sued the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on Monday over its move to weaken regulations governing wastewater from coal-fired power plants.

LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY ISSUES: STATE

[Gov. Wolf vetoes GOP-backed bill on limiting COVID-19 liability](#) - Pennsylvania's governor on Monday rejected a bill that would have made it harder to sue schools, health care providers and other businesses for coronavirus-related claims.

[All but one Pa. county is now seeing 'substantial' spread of coronavirus, officials say](#) - Almost every county in Pennsylvania save one is now facing "substantial" spread of the coronavirus, Gov. Tom Wolf's administration said on Monday.

[Pennsylvania GOP lawmakers continue election attacks, promise report on 'sizable irregularities'](#) - A group of state GOP lawmakers contesting the result of the Nov. 3 election is continuing a "forensic investigation," even as their efforts to bring a resolution seeking to overturn the Pennsylvania election certification failed.

[Pennsylvania Supreme Court Rejects Republican Suit To Throw Out Ballots](#) - Another Republican effort to overturn the results of the 2020 election has been stopped, this time by the Pennsylvania Supreme Court, which on Saturday rejected a request that some 2.5 million mail-in ballots in the state be thrown out.

[Governor Wolf Signs Renewal to COVID-19 Disaster Declaration](#) - Yesterday Governor Tom Wolf signed a third renewal of his 90-day Proclamation of Disaster Emergency for the COVID-19 pandemic.

[Pennsylvania certifies election; Biden wins by 80K votes](#) - President-elect Joe Biden has been certified the winner of Pennsylvania's Nov. 3 election.

[Senator Yudichak, Senator Argall, Representative Heffley and Representative Kaufer Supportive of Waste Coal Provisions in State Budget](#) - Senator John Yudichak, Senator David Argall, Representative Doyle Heffley, and Representative Aaron Kaufer have announced that the final 2020-2021 fiscal year budget includes provisions that will support the coal refuse industry.

[Pennsylvania announces new limits on gatherings and issues stay-at-home advisory](#) - Pennsylvania is issuing a stay-at-home advisory and setting new limits on indoor and outdoor gatherings in an effort to mitigate the spread of the coronavirus, Gov. Tom Wolf and Health Secretary Dr. Rachel Levine said Monday.

[\\$11B budget package passes Pennsylvania Legislature](#) - An \$11 billion no-new-taxes spending package won passage in a lame-duck Friday night session in Pennsylvania's Legislature, as lawmakers sought to plug a multibillion-dollar deficit brought on by the pandemic and carry state government operations through the rest of the fiscal year.

[Pa. legislative committee rejects request to conduct election audit](#) - A bipartisan, bicameral legislative service agency on Monday, in a rare move, rejected a request from the House of Representatives to conduct a statistical-level review of the conduct of 2020 general election.

[In scathing opinion, federal judge dismisses Trump campaign lawsuit in Pennsylvania](#) - A lawsuit brought by President Trump's campaign that sought to block the certification of Pennsylvania's election results was dismissed by a federal judge on Saturday evening.

[COVID-19 vaccine may reach Pa. next month, but we could be wearing masks for all of 2021](#) - The first COVID-19 vaccine could arrive in Pennsylvania next month, and a second could arrive in January, state Secretary of Health Dr. Rachel Levine said Thursday.

[Split Pa. Supreme Court voids one of Trump's few legal wins in challenge to Keystone State vote](#) - A divided Pennsylvania Supreme Court on Tuesday reversed one of President Donald Trump's few legal victories in his wide-ranging challenge to the validity of Pennsylvania's vote count.

[DEP Report On Petition To Adopt Broad-Based Climate Cap-And-Trade Program Due To EQB In Early 2021](#) - On November 17, the Department of Environmental Protection told the Environmental Quality Board it expects to present its report and recommendation on a rulemaking petition proposing a climate cap-and-trade program covering all major sources of greenhouse gas emissions to the Board during the first quarter of 2021.

[Wolf Administration COVID-19 Announcements: Protecting The Health Care System, New Traveler Testing Order, Strengthened Masking Order, Recommendations For Colleges And Universities](#) - As Pennsylvania experiences a resurgence of COVID-19 cases with significantly higher daily case counts than in the spring and hospitalizations on the rise, the Wolf Administration has identified four new mitigation efforts, which Secretary of Health Dr. Rachel Levine announced today.

[Penn. House Dems, Senate GOP elect first women floor leaders](#) - Republicans in Pennsylvania's Senate and Democrats in its House both elevated women for the first time to the critical position of floor leader during closed-door caucus voting Thursday.

[Pa. election results: Republicans maintain control of state House, Senate](#) - Pennsylvania voters pushed Democrat Joe Biden over the top to make him the new president-elect, returned 18 members to Congress, and elected the first Republican auditor general in more than two decades.

[Pa. opens public comment process on controversial carbon-cutting plan](#) - The public comment period to weigh in on Gov. Tom Wolf's carbon-cutting plan for power plants will be open this weekend through Jan. 14, Pennsylvania environmental regulators announced Friday.