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ARIPPA PERIODIC MEDIA NEWS – 2-1-21

(News clips from the previous month)

CFB, COAL REFUSE, ENERGY INDUSTRY

[Wind, solar, and coal: Joe Biden's curious renewable energy cocktail](#) - President Joe Biden enlisted the entire U.S. government in the fight against climate change on Wednesday, even telling the Central Intelligence Agency to consider global warming a national security threat.

[Report: Utilities Plan to Keep Coal Plants Running](#) - A report from a major environmental group said that coal-fired power generation will continue to play a large role in U.S. electricity production for at least another 10 years.

[Ohio Attorney General Dave Yost seeks to block lesser-known fee that generates \\$102 million for FirstEnergy](#) - When a court blocked fees for Ohio's \$1 billion nuclear bailout last month, another charge slipped through.

[Pritzker admin hires firm to verify Exelon's nuke hardship claims](#) - The report's deadline is April 1, which will give the governor and lawmakers just a few months to decide whether to subsidize Exelon's power plants for a second time.

[Report Explains Why California Power Grid Couldn't Take the Heat in 2020](#) - California began some of the first rotating power outages in nearly two decades last August as hundreds of thousands sat in the dark during the scorching heat.

[2021 Outlook: 10 power sector trends to watch](#) - A new administration under a new party is one sign that 2021 will look different for policymakers, utilities and other stakeholders, but the continuation of some older trends is expected as well.

[Nuclear and coal will account for majority of U.S. generating capacity retirements in 2021](#) - According to the U.S. Energy Information Administration's (EIA) latest inventory of electric generators, 9.1 gigawatts (GW) of electric generating capacity is scheduled to retire in 2021. Nuclear generating capacity will account for the largest share of total capacity retirements (56%), followed by coal (30%).

[PJM's long-term power demand could be lower than forecast: Platts Analytics](#) - S&P Global Platts Analytics expects PJM Interconnection power demand to materialize at lower levels than forecast in the grid operator's recently released long-term load forecast due to increases in energy efficiency and behind-the-meter generation that could offset end-use consumption.

[The Power Purchase Agreement in Transition](#) - The power purchase agreement, commonly called a PPA, is a fundamental element to the development, construction, and financing of power generation projects. Like many things in the power industry, the PPA is going through a radical transformation.

[US sector readies for transition away from pro-coal White House](#) - The U.S. coal sector continued to struggle under the pro-coal Trump administration and will likely face new challenges on the political front under a Biden presidency and a U.S. Congress controlled by Democrats.

[Can a city truly be 100% renewable? It's complicated.](#) - In 2014, Burlington, Vermont, the birthplace of Ben and Jerry's ice cream and the stomping grounds of Senator Bernie Sanders, announced that it had reached an energy milestone.

[Power Sector Faces Continued Financial Distress in 2021](#) - The last few months have seen the power sector plagued with enduring lower power prices, exacerbating the continued negative impact on power generation companies and electric utilities.

[FirstEnergy faces another audit as advocates and others press for broader investigations](#) - The order comes as newly released documents point to a larger role on legislative matters for the former utilities commission chair.

[Angry shareholders pile into lawsuits that could cost FirstEnergy millions of dollars](#) - Ohio's largest electric utility, its reputation battered by scandal, has been besieged by more than a dozen lawsuits filed by angry shareholders who include some of the country's biggest institutional investors.

LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY ISSUES: FEDERAL

[Judge blocks Trump rule to limit health studies in EPA regs](#) - A federal judge has blocked a last-minute rule issued by the Trump administration to limit what evidence the Environmental Protection Agency may consider as it regulates pollutants to protect public health.

[10 GOP senators propose \\$600B compromise COVID-19 stimulus deal, posing challenge for Biden](#) - Ten Republican senators announced plans Sunday to release an approximately \$600 billion coronavirus relief package as a counterproposal to President Joe Biden's \$1.9 trillion plan, posing a test for the new president who campaigned as a bipartisan deal-maker.

[Biden's Orders Focus on Climate, Emissions](#) - President Biden has signed executive orders designed to move the U.S. to carbon neutrality by midcentury, part of a \$2 trillion plan that would overhaul the nation's electricity and transportation sectors. The president's plan, outlined Jan. 27, focuses on climate change and includes a White House task force that would direct policies on greenhouse gas emissions.

[As Biden vows monumental action on climate change, a fight with the fossil fuel industry has only begun](#) - Joe Biden had long promised to become the climate president, and on Wednesday he detailed far-ranging plans to shift the U.S. away from fossil fuels, create millions of jobs in renewable energy, and conserve vast swaths of public lands and water.

[Lawmakers press DOE head nominee Granholm over potential job, revenue losses in fossil fuel sector](#) - Republican and Democrat Senators on Wednesday pressed former Michigan Gov. Jennifer Granholm for assurance that the clean energy transition will not lead to a segment of Americans being "left behind" by the nascent green economy.

[Chatterjee calls on Congress to update federal energy policy to alleviate burden on FERC](#) - Federal Energy Regulatory Commissioner Neil Chatterjee on Tuesday called on Congress to update federal energy policy to alleviate some of his agency's work load.

[Biden Effects Regulatory Freeze, Revokes Trump Actions, Rejoins Paris Agreement](#) - President Joe Biden just hours after his inauguration effected an immediate freeze on several Trump-era deregulatory actions that directly affect the power sector, and revoked a long list of rules and executive actions affecting the bulk power system.

[Restoring Environmental Rules Rolled Back by Trump Could Take Years](#) - President Biden has promised to reinstate more than 100 rules and regulations aimed at environmental protection that his predecessor rolled back. It won't happen overnight.

[Glick named FERC chair, promises 'significant progress' on energy transition](#) - Commissioner Richard Glick was named chair of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission by President Joe Biden Thursday morning.

[DOE Will Have New, Diverse Leadership Team](#) - The U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE's) new leadership team is a diverse group of individuals with a wide range of experience across the power sector and academia.

[FERC fails to act on raft of power measures during last meeting under Trump](#) - The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission on Jan. 19 failed to act on a number of key power-related matters during an unusual monthly open meeting that saw multiple items unexpectedly dropped from the agency's agenda.

[DC Circuit rejects Trump EPA ACE rule, opening door for more stringent regulations under Biden](#) - The United States Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit on Tuesday unanimously struck down the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's proposed replacement for the Obama-era Clean Power Plan.

[In Trump's last days, a spree of environmental rollbacks](#) - The Trump administration has gone on a spree of environmental rollbacks in its final days, loosening standards for equipment Americans use to heat their homes, reducing protected habitat for the northern spotted owl and opening conservation lands in California and Utah to development.

[Energy Chairman Joe Manchin warns Democrats against climate mandates: 'You cannot eliminate your way to a cleaner environment'](#) - Joe Manchin, the most conservative Democrat in a split Senate, is signaling that he'll be a check on liberal climate change policies such as a mandate for carbon-free electricity.

[Biden's \\$1.9T plan to stem COVID-19, steady economy includes \\$1,400 stimulus checks](#) - President-elect Joe Biden has unveiled a \$1.9 trillion coronavirus plan to end "a crisis of deep human suffering" by speeding up vaccines and pumping out financial help to those struggling with the pandemic's prolonged economic fallout.

[17 states sue EPA for declining to tighten air pollution standards](#) - A coalition of 17 states and New York City are suing the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) over its decision not to tighten major air pollution standards.

[FERC calls for subset of essential energy workers to quickly receive COVID-19 vaccines](#) - Specific workers at America's electric utilities who have heroically worked to keep the lights on during the ongoing pandemic should more quickly receive COVID-19 vaccinations, according to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC).

[Democrats to take Senate majority after Georgia victories. Here's how it could impact the power sector.](#) - Democratic candidates Raphael Warnock and Jon Ossoff defeated their respective Republican opponents in Georgia's Senate runoff on Wednesday, giving Democrats the majority in both chambers of Congress.

[EPA finalizes science rule expected to have limited effect on power sector, but NGOs still see threat](#) - The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency on Tuesday finalized a rule that narrows what studies it will consider in future rulemakings, based on whether the underlying data is public.

[Christie sworn into FERC, bringing commission to 5](#) - Mark Christie was sworn into FERC Monday, bringing the commission to its full capacity of five commissioners for the first time since December 2018.

[117th Congress opens to new energy, environment fights](#) - The 117th Congress opened to an uncertain political landscape yesterday, with a tight vote for the House speakership and with Senate control still up in the air.

[Biden set to supercharge clean energy push with \\$40B stash](#) - The Department of Energy is poised to play an essential role as the Biden administration looks to leverage clean energy investments.

[Pelosi narrowly re-elected as House speaker; Pa.'s Conor Lamb votes for Hakeem Jeffries](#) - Nancy Pelosi was narrowly re-elected Sunday as speaker, giving her the reins of Democrats' slender House majority as President-elect Joe Biden sets a challenging course of producing legislation to tackle the pandemic, revive the economy and address other party priorities.

LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY ISSUES: STATE

[PUC Invites Comments On Order Limiting Generation Of Tier II Alternative Energy Credits To PA](#) - The Public Utility Commission published notice in the January 30 PA Bulletin inviting public comments on the Tentative Order outlining responsibilities for implementing Act 114 of 2020 limiting the geography area of Tier II Alternative Energy Portfolio renewable energy credits to Pennsylvania.

[Governor Wolf 2021 Agenda Prioritizes Economic Recovery, Building on Bipartisan Measures, Government Reform](#) - As the General Assembly convenes for a new legislative session, Governor Tom Wolf today outlined his agenda, in which he continues to prioritize ensuring that Pennsylvania businesses and workers have a path toward recovery following the COVID-19 pandemic, building on bipartisan progress by removing barriers to help everyday Pennsylvanians succeed, and demanding accountability through government reform.

[Pennsylvania Senate OKs \\$912M pandemic recovery aid bill](#) - Pennsylvania's state Senate on Wednesday unanimously approved legislation to distribute just over \$900 million to aid schools and hospitality-related businesses hit hard by the coronavirus, as well as people struggling to pay rent or utility bills.

[Comments on carbon-cutting plan show industry divided over Pa.'s energy future](#) - The Wolf administration's plan to impose a price and shrinking cap on emissions of carbon dioxide from Pennsylvania's power plants has revealed striking divergences among the program's supporters and detractors in industry.

[New DEP Air Quality Permit Fees Effective January 16](#) - The Environmental Quality Board published notice in the January 16 PA Bulletin of final regulations increasing Air Quality Program permit fees. The new fees become effective January 16.

[House GOP focuses on ways to kickstart the economy to make Pa. the 'envy of the East'](#) - A group of House Republican lawmakers has been tasked with coming up with a strategy to kickstart the state's economic recovery as it climbs out from under the damage done from the COVID-19 shutdown

[Republicans On House Committee OK Letter Urging IRRC To Disapprove Reg. Reducing Carbon Pollution From Power Plants As Part Of Their 2021 Environmental Agenda](#) - On January 12, Republicans and one Democrat on the House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee voted to approve a letter to the Independent Regulatory Review Commission expressing its disapproval of proposed regulations reducing carbon pollution from power plants compatible with the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative.

[Zicarelli concedes, Brewster to be sworn in Wednesday morning](#) - State Sen. Jim Brewster, who will be sworn in Wednesday to the 45th District seat, said it has been a long two months of legal maneuvering as he defended his seat from court challenges raised by Republican challenger Nicole Zicarelli.

[Senate Republicans, Democrats Finish Naming Standing Committee Chairs; Sen. Comitta Takes Over As Democratic Chair Of Environmental Committee](#) - On January 15, Senate Republicans and Democrats completed naming Majority and Minority standing committee Chairs for the 2021-22 legislative session.

[House Names Members Of Standing Committees](#) - On January 11, the House named members of standing committees for the new 2021-22 legislative session.

[Lancaster County Rep. Bryan Cutler re-elected as Speaker of the Pennsylvania House](#) - State Rep. Bryan Cutler, R-Lancaster County, has been elected to his first full term as Speaker of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives.

[Meet Pa.'s new General Assembly: A mother-son and father-daughter combo, 2 women floor leaders & more](#) - As the 2021-22 legislative session gets underway in Pennsylvania, it will be shy two members right from the start.

[GOP Blocks Bulk Of Rules Changes Advanced By Democrats In PA Legislature](#) - Both chambers of the Pennsylvania General Assembly on Tuesday side-stepped proposed rules changes that would have diminished the power of majority-party leaders to control the legislative agenda.

[DEP Names Jim Miller Southwest Regional Office Director; John Holden Acting Director Of Northwest Regional Office](#) - Effective January 2, Jim Miller became the regional director of the Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) Southwest Regional Office. He replaces Ronald Schwartz, PE, BCEE, who recently retired after nearly 35 years of service.

[Pa. state senator dies from brain cancer at age 49](#) - Pennsylvania Sen. Dave Arnold died Sunday at home with his wife and daughter by his side, ending a 15-month battle with brain cancer.

[Pa. Republican Rep. Mike Reese dies at 42](#) - Pennsylvania Rep. Mike Reese died Saturday afternoon after suffering an apparent brain aneurysm, his family announced.