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## ARIPPA PERIODIC MEDIA NEWS – 6-1-21

(News clips from the previous month)

### CFB, COAL REFUSE, ENERGY INDUSTRY

[NERC sees potential summer energy shortfalls, says energy transition 'pace' may threaten reliability](#) - California, Texas, New England and parts of the Midwest face an "elevated risk" of energy emergencies this summer, exacerbated by the growth of intermittent resources and the likelihood of extreme weather, the North American Electric Reliability Corp. (NERC) said on Wednesday.

[Climate change concern mark shifts at Shell and Exxon that may reverberate throughout the industry](#) - Royal Dutch Shell was ordered by a Dutch court to slash its emissions harder and faster than planned, a ruling that could have far-reaching consequences for the rest of the global fossil fuel industry.

[NRG push for sweeping retail market changes in Northeast meets Texas-sized obstacles](#) - NRG Energy is spearheading a political effort to make the most sweeping reforms to competitive retail electricity markets in the Northeast in over two decades.

[Biden administration opens up California coast for 4.6 GW of offshore wind development](#) - The Biden administration on Tuesday announced an effort with California to develop areas on the Western Outer Continental Shelf to bring up to 4.6 GW of floating offshore wind online.

[Dominion's exit from regional capacity market raises some eyebrows — and questions](#) - Citing a controversial federal order that made it difficult for renewables to compete against traditional fossil fuel power plants in regional electricity markets, Dominion Energy this spring withdrew all its Virginia resources from the regional capacity market run by PJM, which coordinates the electric grid in all or part of 13 states and Washington, D.C.

[PJM Summer Outlook Forecasts Adequate Supplies To Serve Electric Demand](#) - PJM Interconnection, the nation's largest electric grid operator, forecasts adequate supply to meet summer electricity needs for the 65 million customers it serves in what is expected to be a relatively hot summer.

[Court rules that coal mines need a permit for water pollution from valley fills](#) - The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit issued a ruling in late March upholding a district court decision that an operator cannot be held liable under the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act (SMCRA) for a discharge that is otherwise shielded from liability by the Clean Water Act.

[Energy agency: End new fossil fuel supply investments](#) - A report by the International Energy Agency says immediate action is needed to reshape the world's energy sector in order to meet ambitious climate goals by 2050, including ending investments in new coal mines, oil and gas wells.

[Coal industry sees relevance in tech embraced by Paris climate agreement](#) - The coal industry is betting it can survive the decarbonization of electricity and industry and keep fossil fuels in the mix by leaning on carbon-capture technology, the head of the World Coal Association told Reuters.

[Coal Shipments to Power Sector at Lowest Level in 14 Years](#) - Shipments of coal to U.S. power plants in 2020 fell 22% year-over-year, according to data released May 13 by the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA).

[EIA expects changes in electricity generation and increased electricity use as economy improves](#) - EIA expects U.S. electricity generation will look different this summer compared with last summer as rising natural gas costs drive many electricity generators to switch to renewables and coal.

[Vineyard 800 MW offshore wind farm first US utility-scale facility to get federal construction approval](#) - The U.S. Department of the Interior issued a Record of Decision on Tuesday granting final approval for Vineyard Wind to move ahead with an 800 MW offshore wind installation off the coast of Massachusetts, marking the first approval of a commercial-scale offshore wind farm in the U.S.

[America's largest coal-producing state threatens to sue other states that refuse to buy the product](#) - Wyoming Gov. Mark Gordon (R) is looking to bolster the state's coal industry by threatening to sue states attempting to block Wyoming coal exports, which could cause coal facilities to shut down.

[Penn State to lead critical minerals consortium powered by \\$1.2 million from DOE](#) - A region famous for the coal that once fueled a growing nation is now the focus of a \$1.2 million project, led by Penn State researchers, aimed at establishing domestic supplies of critical minerals needed to produce modern technology from cell phones to fighter jets.

[TVA, Eyeing Coal Phaseout by 2035, Will Rely on Nuclear](#) - The Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) expects to phase out its coal generation by 2035, but achieving net-zero carbon emissions without raising power prices or adversely affecting reliability will require substantial investments in energy storage and carbon capture and sequestration (CCS).

[Consol Energy, finding hungry industrial plants abroad, mines more coal than ever before](#) - Consol Energy Inc.'s prediction that the middle of last year was the trough from which the coal-maker would emerge has so far held true.

[Burning natural gas is now more dangerous than coal in Illinois, study shows](#) - Pollution from natural gas is now responsible for more deaths and greater health costs than coal in Illinois, according to a new study highlighting another hazard of burning fossil fuels that are scrambling the planet's climate.

[Equity, security and load: FERC conference considers the challenges and potential of electrification](#) - U.S. electricity load could double by 2050. The industry is focused on how to meet that need equitably and securely, panelists at a recent technical conference said.

[Process Control Strategies for Reducing the Minimum Load of Fossil-Fired Plants](#) - Recent Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI) research aims to better understand the potential of process control enhancements, such as load control, sliding pressure control, and steam temperature control, to improve low-load operation.

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

[Biden's First Budget Makes Significant Investments In Abandoned Coal Mine Reclamation, Community Economic Development Efforts](#) - On May 28, the Biden administration submitted to Congress the President's Budget for fiscal year 2022, including \$312 million for the Office of Surface Mining and Reclamation, which features \$165 million to address coal mine reclamation and economic development efforts.

[Republicans include \\$4B for EVs in 2nd counteroffer to Biden infrastructure plan](#) - Republican senators on Thursday unveiled their second counter-offer to President Joe Biden's proposed \$2 trillion infrastructure proposal, following multiple meetings between Republican leadership and White House officials.

[House committee approves bills funding abandoned mine land reclamation](#) - Lawmakers have pushed two bills designed to help coal communities in West Virginia and throughout the country address abandoned mine lands a step closer to passage.

[Biden administration wants to give more power back to states to block pipelines](#) - Plans to build massive ports for shipping coal abroad, seaside terminals for supercooling gas and thousands upon thousands of miles of pipelines cutting through rivers and streams across the United States will all soon be getting extra scrutiny as the Biden administration prepares to give states and tribes more authority to block energy projects.

[Senate Finance Committee advances energy tax credit overhaul bill amid partisan deadlock](#) - Members of the Senate Finance Committee vied on Wednesday to add and preserve resource-specific tax credits to the Clean Energy for America Act, a bill intended to replace some 40 individual tax incentives with broader and more uniform tax credits tied to carbon emissions reductions.

[U.S. senator prepares tax credit legislation for existing nuclear plants](#) - U.S. Senator Ben Cardin is preparing legislation that would provide a tax credit for existing nuclear power plants, a move that follows the Biden administration's signaling that it supports the subsidies to help meet climate goals.

[After dust-up between FERC commissioners, Glick ponders rules for open meetings](#) - Following an unusually combative Federal Energy Regulatory Commission agenda meeting, Chairman Richard Glick May 21 said he was mulling whether written rules were needed governing FERC's open meeting procedures, as well as questioning whether his colleague's surprise actions had damaged the trust needed among commissioners.

[White House environmental justice advisers express opposition to nuclear, carbon capture projects](#) - The White House Environmental Justice Advisory Council expressed opposition to nuclear and carbon capture projects as well as projects that expand capacity for fossil fuel production in a report issued Friday.

[EPA revokes Trump-era policy that loosened clean-air rules](#) - The Environmental Protection Agency is revoking a Trump-era rule that overhauled how the agency evaluates air pollutants, a move the Biden administration says will make it easier to enact limits on dangerous and climate-changing emissions.

[Biden cybersecurity order tackles software risks in energy, other sectors following Colonial hack](#) - Following a series of cyberattacks that exposed vulnerabilities in the United States' critical infrastructure, President Joe Biden signed an executive order May 12 aimed at bolstering defenses and transparency, including development of a Cyber Safety Review Board (CSRB) to assess major intrusions.

[Energy secretary lays out need for funding for clean energy, fossil fuel research near Pittsburgh](#) - Energy Secretary Jennifer Granholm outlined her agency's \$46.3 billion budget request — a 10% bump from the previous year — before House lawmakers on Thursday as a necessary investment in clean energy technology, while boosting funding for fossil fuel research at federal laboratories near Pittsburgh.

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

[No more fire found in abandoned Pa. mine](#) - Temperature readings from four boreholes drilled this week show no indication of a fire in an abandoned Northumberland County coal mine, the Department of Environmental Protection says.

[Pa. to end mask order June 28 or when 70% of adults are fully vaccinated, whichever comes first](#) - Pennsylvania now has a revised timetable on lifting the state's mask order in the fight against COVID-19.

[House plan would extend part of Wolf's emergency order until October](#) - A resolution moving in the state House would repeal many of the main components of Gov. Tom Wolf's emergency order while keeping a trimmed down emergency declaration in place until October.

[Axios: PA Republican State Treasurer Stacy Garrity Joins Group Threatening To Withdraw State Funds From Banks Not Lending To Coal & Natural Gas Companies As Part Of Decarbonization Efforts](#) - Axios reported on May 25, Republican State Treasurer Stacy Garrity joined a group of 14 other Republican state treasurers threatening to withdraw state funds from banks and financial institutions who do not lend money to coal, oil and natural gas companies as part of decarbonization efforts.

[Pa. to resume job search requirement for unemployment benefits](#) - Beginning July 18, Pennsylvania's unemployed workers again will have to prove they applied for two jobs per week to continue to receive jobless benefits, a state labor official said Monday.

[Environmental advisory committees give OK to proposed RGGI rule](#) - Three advisory committees to the Department of Environmental Protection are offering their support of the proposed rule to join the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative.

[IRRC Approves Final Chapter 91 & 92 Water Quality Permit Fee Increases](#) - On May 20, the Independent Regulatory Review Commission voted to approve the Environmental Quality Board's final Chapter 91 and 92 Water Quality Permit fee increases which were made necessary by cuts in funding by the General Assembly.

[Delta Institute Invites Comments From Individuals, Local Governments On How To Invest Revenue From DEP's Carbon Pollution Reduction Program \[RGGI\]](#) - Delta Institute is working with communities to create the Guiding Principles for Economic Diversification in Pennsylvania to help DEP guide investment opportunities from the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative Program covering power plants to provide communities with increased and diversified opportunities.

[Pa. Gov. Tom Wolf extends COVID-19 disaster declaration, days after votes to curb his powers](#) - Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Wolf has signed a renewal of the state's disaster order related to the coronavirus pandemic.

[Voters back curtailing Wolf's emergency powers in win for GOP lawmakers](#) - Pennsylvania voters have approved two ballot questions that would curtail the governor's emergency powers, a victory for Republican lawmakers in what was widely seen as a referendum on the Wolf administration's response to the coronavirus pandemic.

[RGGI opponents, proponents make their cases](#) - As the Wolf administration continues the process of bringing Pennsylvania into the Northeast Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, opponents — including several from Armstrong, Indiana and nearby counties — made their case Wednesday with the Pittsburgh skyline behind them.

[Updated analysis of Pa. carbon-cutting rule shows emissions decline, grim outlook for coal plants](#) - An updated analysis from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection shows its proposed rule to establish a price and declining cap on carbon dioxide pollution from power plants will push down greenhouse gas emissions across the state and regional power grid through 2030.

[Wolf withdraws nomination to utility regulator after lawmakers threaten no vote](#) - Gov. Tom Wolf is recalling his nomination to the state's utility regulator after GOP senators promised to block his candidates.

[Pennsylvania ends state program to extend unemployment benefits](#) - Pennsylvania is ending a state unemployment program that extends jobless benefits for eligible individuals, officials announced Friday.

[Pa. bill seeks to block towns from banning natural gas connections](#) - Pennsylvania is joining a host of states in considering bills promoted by natural gas utilities that would prohibit local governments from restricting or banning utility hookups based on the type of energy they supply.

[Senators Santarsiero, Collett To Reintroduce Bills To Give Attorney General Direct Jurisdiction Over Prosecuting Environmental Crimes](#) - Senators Steve Santarsiero (D-Bucks) and Maria Collett (D-Montgomery) announced they plan to introduce legislation to allow the state Attorney General to more directly investigate and pursue polluters, and others who damage our land, waterways and drinking water.

[Gov. Wolf 2021 Climate Impacts Report Projects Pennsylvania Will Be 5.9° F Warmer by Midcentury, Targets Areas to Reduce Risk](#) - Pennsylvania's average temperature will be 5.9° F higher by midcentury, with significant consequences for the health and safety of Pennsylvanians, especially those living in Environmental Justice communities, and for ecosystems, agriculture and other areas, according to Pennsylvania Climate Impacts Assessment 2021, released today by the Wolf Administration.

[Wolf takes next step to start carbon emissions caps in 2022](#) - Gov. Tom Wolf's administration on Tuesday solidified its intention to begin imposing a price on greenhouse gas emissions from power plants next year as part of a multi-state consortium, over the protests of coal- and gas-region lawmakers and elements of the energy industry.