



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

ARIPPA PERIODIC MEDIA NEWS – 9-1-21

(News clips from the previous month)

CFB, COAL REFUSE, ENVIRONMENT, ENERGY INDUSTRY

[The Remarkable Responsibility of Coal Refuse Power](#) - West Virginia's only remaining coal refuse-fueled facility, the 80-MW Grant Town Power Project, is a 2021 Top Plant winner for powering on, despite challenges, to remediate 530,000 tons of coal refuse annually while reclaiming roughly 30 acres of land per year.

[Bitcoin mining facilities popping up at power plants near the Lehigh Valley](#) - Think about it like mining for gold — no pickax required. Only these miners are racing to unearth Bitcoin, the leading digital currency.

[Group Buys Pennsylvania Coal Refuse Plants to Power Bitcoin Mining](#) - A digital mining company has an agreement to purchase a second power plant in Pennsylvania, as the group increases its coal refuse reclamation operations in the state to provide energy for its bitcoin mining operations.

[Appalachian Region Independent Power Producers Assn. Highlights Partnership With Slippery Rock Watershed Coalition](#) - The Appalachian Region Independent Power Producers Association (ARIPPA) recently highlighted the SRWC [Slippery Rock Watershed Coalition] in their newsletter!

[68% of U.S. coal fleet retirements since 2011 were plants fueled by bituminous coal](#) - In 2011, the United States had 317.6 gigawatts (GW) of coal-fired electric generation capacity.

[New sensor can detect valuable rare earth element in non-traditional sources](#) - A new luminescent sensor can detect terbium, a valuable rare earth element, from complex environmental samples like acid mine waste.

[US FERC approves proposal to divide Exelon into two independent power companies](#) - The US Federal Energy Regulatory Commission has approved a transaction to effectively divide Exelon into two independent publicly traded companies.

[Critics: PJM's minimum offer price rule overhaul will 'crater' capacity market](#) - The PJM Interconnection is facing fierce pushback to its proposed replacement for a highly contentious minimum offer price rule, or MOPR, used to blunt the effect of member states' clean energy policies in the grid operator's multibillion-dollar capacity market.

[Global electric power demand returns to pre-pandemic levels](#) - Carbon dioxide emissions from the global electric power sector rebounded in the first half of 2021 to above pre-pandemic levels, according to an analysis, signaling that the world has failed to engineer a "green recovery" and shift decisively away from fossil fuels.

[Road to Decarbonization: U.S. Coal Plant Closures](#) - As the push to decarbonize starts to kick into gear in the U.S., how do coal plant closures factor into the equation?

[Electricity demand in Lower 48 states reached a high of 720 gigawatthours on August 12](#) - On August 12, 2021, most of the United States registered a daily high temperature above 90°F. Our Hourly Electric Grid Monitor shows that hourly electricity demand in the Lower 48 states reached 720 gigawatthours (GWh) for the hour ending 5:00 p.m. eastern daylight time (EDT) on that day, which is the highest reported value for a single hour since balancing authorities (BAs) began reporting hourly electricity demand to us in July 2015.

[While bulk power system remains reliable, key metric suggests worrying trend, NERC finds](#) - Electric grid operators were forced to shed firm load for 22.4 hours in 2020 across the bulk power system (BPS), a significant increase over recent years and a potentially worrying trend as extreme weather events continue to impact the grid, according to an annual assessment issued Tuesday by the North American Electric Reliability Corp. (NERC).

[Solar could be 40% of U.S. power by 2035 - Biden administration](#) - Solar could supply more than 40% of the nation's electricity by 2035 - up from 3% today - if Congress adopts policies like tax credits for renewable energy projects and component factories, according to a memo published on Tuesday by the Department of Energy.

[Thermal power plant retirements chip away at coal's customer base](#) - U.S. thermal coal producers watched their domestic customer base shrink in 2020 as utilities continued to announce coal-fired power plant closures and transition to less expensive renewable and natural gas sources.

[PJM Tracker: Warmer weather, higher gas prices boost power prices in July](#) - PJM Interconnection power prices increased by nearly 70% in July on year at some pricing hubs as natural gas prices more than doubled from year-ago levels and power demand increased by 7.2% on month.

[PJM panel endorses fast-start power pricing rules ahead of Sept. 1 implementation](#) - As PJM Interconnection works toward implementing fast-start pricing Sept. 1, stakeholders on Aug. 11 approved rule changes for the implementation and reviewed data that showed the average energy market price increase from fast start has been about \$1.60/MWh over the past three months.

[The Biggest U.S. Electrical Grid Braces for Green Energy](#) - PJM Interconnection's new rules could usher in a massive buildout of offshore wind.

[High natural gas prices lead to increased coal generation, 2021 carbon emissions: EIA](#) - Higher natural gas prices are projected to contribute to an increase in energy sector carbon dioxide emissions as coal consumption rises, the US Energy Information Administration said Aug. 10.

[Events highlight US coal plant exit complications](#) - This year's extreme weather events in the US have highlighted the complications generators and grid operators could face ending coal use.

[Push for green energy could strand more than \\$68B in coal and gas assets, S&P says](#) - An ongoing push to expand renewable energy generation in the U.S. could strand at least \$68 billion in coal and natural gas power plant investments, according to an S&P Global Market Intelligence report released Thursday.

[Talen Energy Corporation Announces Zero-Carbon Bitcoin Mining Joint Venture with TeraWulf Inc.](#) - Joint Venture is developing up to 300 Megawatts of bitcoin mining capacity powered by Talen's zero-carbon Susquehanna digital infrastructure campus at lowest cost in the U.S.

[The US power sector is halfway to net zero emissions, but it gets harder now, analysts say](#) - Renewables led the power sector's recent energy transition, but breakthroughs are needed to decarbonize the transportation, building and industrial sectors.

LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY ISSUES: FEDERAL

[Federal judge strikes down Trump rule governing water pollution](#) - A federal judge on Monday struck down a Trump-era environmental rule that drastically limited federal restrictions against pollution of millions of streams, wetlands and marshes across the country.

[Former Republican FERC chairman joins group promoting carbon tax](#) - Neil Chatterjee, during his tenure as chairman of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, was eager to be among the first Republicans in government to signal support for carbon pricing.

[S&P podcast: Glick 'confident' FERC has the tools to help decarbonize grid](#) - President Joe Biden's 100%-clean-by-2035 target for the power sector is achievable, a federal energy regulator said.

[House passes \\$3.5T Biden blueprint after deal with moderates](#) - Striking a deal with moderates, House Democratic leaders have muscled President Joe Biden's multitrillion-dollar budget blueprint over a key hurdle, ending a risky standoff and putting the party's domestic infrastructure agenda back on track.

[Congress nears historic coal mine cleanup investment](#) - Congress is on the verge of making a historic investment in mining communities through the cleanup of abandoned mines while also cutting the coal industry some slack.

[FERC's Chatterjee questions clean energy standard, says carbon pricing could unify US energy policy](#) - While U.S. utilities have made great strides in reducing carbon emissions in the absence of a unifying federal policy, the lack of national standards has made regulating energy markets a challenge, FERC commissioner Neil Chatterjee said Tuesday during a panel hosted by the nonprofit ConservAmerica.

[Federal Office Of Surface Mining Recognizes Stineman Refuse Pile Reclamation Project Along Path Of The Flood Trail, Cambria County](#) - On August 16, the federal Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement announced the winners of its 2021 Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation Awards.

[After Review, EPA Keeps Three CCR Closure Regulations in Place](#) - In June 2021, EPA posted its decision to uphold three coal combustion residue (CCR) rules from 2018 and 2020, following a review under President Biden's executive order 13990 requiring an evaluation of whether rules are harmful to the public or the environment.

[FERC's Chatterjee laments the politicization of grid resilience in wake of ERCOT, CAISO struggles](#) - Federal Energy Regulatory Commissioner Neil Chatterjee would like to see issues around grid reliability and resilience become less partisan as he prepares to exit the agency.

[Democrats outline plan to cut emissions in half by 2030 without GOP votes](#) - Senate Democrats unveiled plans Monday to pass legislation, without Republican votes, to put the United States on track to meet President Joe Biden's goal of cutting greenhouse gas emissions in half by 2030.

[DC Circuit orders FERC to analyze climate, environmental justice more thoroughly](#) - The U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit on Tuesday found federal regulators did not go far enough in considering environmental justice and climate impacts in their approval of two gas infrastructure projects.

[Democrats Seek \\$500 Billion in Climate Damages From Big Polluting Companies](#) - Under a draft plan Democrats are circulating, the Treasury Department would tax a handful of the biggest emitters of planet-warming pollution to pay for climate change.

[Other Voices: Biden infrastructure plan targets state's coal communities](#) - As I travel throughout America, I am filled with hope as I see businesses open and communities recovering. Thanks to President Joe Biden's leadership in passing the American Rescue Plan and making progress in defeating COVID-19, economic growth is up and unemployment is down.

LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY ISSUES: STATE

[Climate Regulations Reach Critical Turning Point in Pennsylvania](#) - If an independent panel votes down proposed regulations to limit carbon dioxide emissions in Pennsylvania, state lawmakers will have added leverage to prevent Gov. Tom Wolf from joining a multistate initiative to address climate change.

[PUC Chair Gladys Brown Dutrieuille Joins Executive Leadership Board for National Utility Regulators' Association](#) - Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (PUC) Chairman Gladys Brown Dutrieuille has been appointed to a key leadership position with the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC), continuing the Pennsylvania PUC's strong tradition of nationwide leadership in utility matters.

[Pennsylvania closes in, at least temporarily, on top gas producing spot](#) - The Mighty Marcellus might be getting a new shot at No. 1.

[Climate activists set their sights on the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission](#) - Pennsylvania climate activists have set their sights on the state's utility regulator.

[Latest PA Greenhouse Gas Inventory Shows Increase In Emissions For 2nd Consecutive Year; Decrease In Electricity Generation, Transportation Sectors](#) - DEP's Climate Change Advisory Committee is scheduled to meet August 24 to review the latest Greenhouse Gas Emission Inventory for Pennsylvania and hear an overview of DEP's Energy Office Clean Energy Program Plan.

[4 takeaways from new Pa. census data and what it means for redistricting](#) - Pennsylvania became less white and more concentrated in and near cities during the past decade, changes that have major implications for state lawmakers as they prepare to draw new political maps.

[State clean streams fund proposed](#) - Senate Republicans want to spend \$250 million of Pennsylvania's federal stimulus funding to create a Clean Streams Fund.

[Nearly \\$19 billion for bridges, roads and more: Here's what Pa. could get in Senate infrastructure bill](#) - The U.S. Senate has approved a bill directing \$1 trillion toward highways, bridges, expanding broadband and a host of other areas, and the measure could deliver billions of dollars to the Keystone State.

[Court tosses ruling against Pennsylvania COVID-19 measures](#) - A federal appeals court has dismissed a judge's ruling that threw out Gov. Tom Wolf's sweeping COVID-19 restrictions, saying the case is now moot because statewide mitigation measures have expired and Pennsylvania voters have since constrained a governor's emergency powers.

[Ex-coal lobbying group chief named to WV utility regulator](#) - The retired longtime president of the West Virginia Coal Association has been appointed by the governor to a three-member commission that regulates state utilities.