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## ARIPPA PERIODIC MEDIA NEWS – 10-1-21

(News clips from the previous month)

### CFB, COAL REFUSE, ENVIRONMENT, ENERGY INDUSTRY

[PJM's 'focused' MOPR takes effect, boosting renewables and nuclear as FERC commissioners deadlock](#) - The PJM Interconnection's proposal to relax its minimum offer price rule (MOPR) took effect Wednesday after the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's four members deadlocked on the plan.

[PennEast Pipeline Canceled After Years of Regulatory, Legal Delays](#) - Seven years after it was announced, the PennEast Pipeline has been canceled following repeated regulatory and legal setbacks that have increasingly complicated other natural gas infrastructure projects across the country.

[Europe's Energy Crisis Is Coming for the Rest of the World, Too](#) - Millions of people around the globe will feel the impact of soaring natural gas prices this winter.

[Column: Worldwide energy shortage shows up in surging coal, gas and oil prices: Kemp](#) - Record gas and electricity prices in Europe, record coal prices in China, multiyear-high gas prices in the United States and oil prices well above their real long-term average are all manifestations of the same global energy shortage.

[Natural gas, wind, coal contributed to Texas outages, report finds](#) - While some politicians sought to blame renewable energy for deadly power disruptions in February, a new report from two key agencies shows that natural gas was also a major factor.

[How much do energy industry jobs pay? A look at the data](#) - As the U.S. economy recovers from the COVID-induced recession, the emphasis is shifting away from the simplified metric of the number of jobs, toward a focus on high-quality, high-paying jobs.

[1,000 corporations vs. utility execs: Who is right on 100% clean power?](#) - A new blueprint from a billionaire-led coalition that includes some of the nation's largest corporations is backing ambitious clean energy policies being pushed by President Biden, even as utility executives are expressing doubts about them.

[New technology needed to meet utility decarbonization goals, EEI, others warn](#) - Industry leaders and executives at the National Clean Energy Week conference warned Tuesday that completely decarbonizing the U.S. electric grid will require continued advances in crucial areas like long-duration energy storage.

[Utilities face greatest threat as climate risks intensify](#) - Climate change is pushing power, gas and water companies to the frontlines of an intensifying battle against natural disasters that is set to increasingly hit the profits of businesses around the world.

[Cleanup of abandoned mines, including those in Pa., could get financial boost](#) - Thousands of abandoned coal mines in the U.S. have been polluting rivers and streams for decades, in some cases harming fish and contaminating drinking water. Now efforts to finally clean up the sites could soon get a big boost.

[Advancing the energy transition requires an honest discussion of costs, outages and land, analysts say](#) - The urgently needed move to net zero emissions may not be cheap or easy, engineers and operators say.

[US companies tap coal, waste for rare earth metals](#) - Energy and environmental companies are advancing projects that can tap into valuable rare earth materials locked up in coal and coal waste, a potential boon for power generators, mine operators and mining communities that is supported by the U.S. government.

[Landmark Illinois climate bill resolves standoff over Exelon nuclear plants](#) - Exelon Generation said Monday it is preparing to refuel its Byron and Dresden nuclear plants after the Illinois Senate passed legislation that will provide \$700 million in subsidies for the struggling units, which the power giant was poised to close.

[CO2 Allowances Sold for \\$9.30 in 53rd RGGI Auction](#) - The eleven participating states in the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI), the nation's first market-based regulatory effort to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) pollution, today announced the results of their 53rd auction of carbon dioxide (CO2) allowances.

[Biggest coal-based carbon capture project in the world underway in ND](#) - Senator John Hoeven joined energy leaders in Beulah on Thursday to announce a big step for the coal industry in North Dakota. The carbon capture project has big implications for North Dakota's energy future.

[Report: Solar could power 40% of US electricity by 2035](#) - Solar energy has the potential to supply up to 40% of the nation's electricity within 15 years — a 10-fold increase over current solar output, but one that would require massive changes in U.S. policy and billions of dollars in federal investment to modernize the nation's electric grid, a new federal report says.

[Regional Climate Pact Faces Pressure to Curb Inequity, Emissions](#) - An 11-state cap-and-trade program is under growing pressure to slash even more carbon emissions to ensure communities bearing the brunt of pollution and climate impacts benefit from cleaner air as well as the billions of dollars that the program raises.

[Carbon removal technology reaches early milestone](#) - The world's largest facility dedicated to removing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere is set to come online tomorrow in Iceland, a major milestone for the nascent direct air capture industry.

[Types of Coal and Fuel Blending Tips for Coal Power Plants](#) - There are a handful of reasons why coal-fired power plant managers may want to blend fuel, but often the driving factor is economics. While the cost of the delivered coal is an important aspect, there could be adverse side effects that negate the savings, if the blending process is not done right.

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

[Biden signs bill to avert partial government shutdown](#) - With only hours to spare, President Joe Biden on Thursday evening signed legislation that would avoid a partial federal shutdown and keep the government funded through Dec. 3.

[Splintered Democrats delay vote over \\$1 trillion infrastructure plan backed by Biden](#) - Speaker Nancy Pelosi canceled a vote late Thursday on President Joe Biden's infrastructure bill, leaving a key part of his signature domestic agenda in limbo amid deep Democratic infighting.

[Utilities push to weaken Biden's signature climate plan](#) - Some of America's largest utilities are pushing to eliminate the penalties in President Biden's signature climate policy.

[Democrats' clean electricity plan to require 85 GW of renewable energy additions a year: S&P](#) - The U.S. must install 85 GW of renewable energy each year through 2035 to achieve the emissions reductions targeted in the current Clean Electricity Performance Program legislation, according to an analysis released Tuesday by S&P Global Market Intelligence.

[US Department of Labor announces \\$10.5M in state grant funding to support mine safety, health throughout the nation](#) - The U.S. Department of Labor's Mine Safety and Health Administration has awarded \$10,537,000 in grant funding to support safety and health training, and other programs.

[FERC's Danly: Democrats' clean electricity plan an 'H-bomb' that would 'end the markets'](#) - U.S. Senators on Tuesday questioned members of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission on a wide range of policy and legislative issues — including electric transmission, gas infrastructure and energy market design — with Republicans often using their platform to cast doubt on Democrats' clean energy and decarbonization plans being considered by Congress.

[Federal Mine Reclamation Fee Expires Sept. 30 - Congress Considers The Future Of Mine Reclamation Program](#) - First, we appreciate the outpouring of support over the past few months for the reauthorization of the federal Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act (SMCRA).

[Democrats Prep Carbon Tax Option to Pay for Spending Bill](#) - Senate Democrats are developing a carbon-tax proposal that could potentially be used to offset some of the costs of a sweeping social-spending bill as well as direct cash payments to households, according to a key lawmaker.

[To reach clean energy goals, Democrats offer to help utilities retire coal plants faster](#) - Democrats in Congress are looking to help utilities pay off outstanding debt on coal-fired power plants to help them retire faster to meet aggressive greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets.

[Republicans to Fight Clean Power Program With 'Byrd' Budget Rule](#) - Republicans intend to challenge a key climate-change program in the Democrats' \$3.5 trillion tax-and-spending package with the same maneuver that helped knock out immigration reform.

[At U.N., Biden calls for unity in addressing pandemic and climate change](#) - President Biden defended the messy end to the war in Afghanistan and made a case Tuesday that the world can come together to confront global threats such as climate change and the coronavirus, as he sought to address allies' increasing qualms about American leadership.

[Joe Biden and other world leaders push climate action and vow methane cuts](#) - President Joe Biden tried on Friday to hammer out the world's next steps against rapidly worsening climate change with a small group of other global leaders and announced a new U.S.-European pledge to cut climate-wrecking methane leaks.

[Dems' clean electricity plan could leave out big utilities](#) - The nation's largest public power utility may be exempt from a \$150 billion clean electricity plan under consideration in Congress, stoking concerns that the sweeping energy proposal contains significant loopholes and would hit the sector unevenly.

['We're obviously in the middle of a dramatic transformation,' FERC's Glick says amid market reform talks](#) - Grid operators and utilities are considering what reforms wholesale energy and ancillary services markets may need in order to effectively manage intermittent resources and maintain reliability, according to a September white paper presented by staff of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

[Biden taps DC regulator Phillips to fill FERC's 5th seat; 'a gift to corporate utilities,' says critic](#) - President Joe Biden on Thursday announced plans to nominate Willie Phillips Jr., currently chairman of the District of Columbia Public Service Commission (PSC), to fill the vacant seat at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

[Biden new COVID vaccine mandate: 'We're in a tough stretch'](#) - In his most forceful pandemic actions and words, President Joe Biden ordered sweeping new federal vaccine requirements for as many as 100 million Americans — private-sector employees as well as health care workers and federal contractors — in an all-out effort to curb the surging COVID-19 delta variant.

[Former GOP energy regulator regrets partisan past](#) - A former Republican energy regulator who sparred with then-President Trump said he now regrets how partisan he was during the start of his tenure on the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC).

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

[Pennsylvania eyes \\$500M from feds for environmental program](#) - A state Senate committee in Pennsylvania approved legislation Tuesday to use federal coronavirus relief aid to revive a long-running program designed to help clean up waterways, fix up parks and preserve open space.

[PA DEP Bureau of Abandoned Mine Reclamation and EPCAMR Highlight Legacy Abandoned Mine Lands & AMD with Inside Climate News Reporter](#) - Air, Land, Water Highlighted on Tour provided in NEPA while Congress Considers the Future of Funds that support Reclamation of Abandoned Mine Lands.

[To avoid Wolf's veto, Pa. GOP proposes giving voters final say on stricter ID rules, other election changes](#) - Republicans in the state House are advancing a proposal that would give Pennsylvania voters the opportunity to significantly change how elections are run here while bypassing Democratic Gov. Tom Wolf and his veto pen.

[Pa. community's fight against electric lines shows tensions coming with push toward a clean energy future](#) - Transource, landowners compromised — then regulators spiked the project.

[Wolf calls for action on climate change](#) - Gov. Tom Wolf called on all sectors of Pennsylvania life to join him in acting on climate change.

[Nuclear Is the Bastion of Pennsylvania's Newest Climate Action Plan](#) - Pennsylvania, a major power producer that relied on fossil fuels for 66% of its net power generation in June, plans to maintain its nuclear generation at current levels until it can ramp up other carbon-free supplies to 100% by 2050, the state's Sept. 22–released 2021 Climate Action Plan suggests.

[Reminder: Overtime Eligibility Not Expanding Next Week](#) - Employers planning for a long-anticipated expansion to overtime eligibility next week are being reminded that the proposal was in fact rescinded this past June.

[Pa. health leaders ready covid boosters for 65 and older population](#) - Pennsylvania health officials on Tuesday pledged that covid-19 vaccine providers would be ready when federal guidance on potential booster shots comes down, something that is expected to come Thursday.

[Report: Pa. keeps place as top electricity exporter, sends record amount of power in 2020](#) - Pennsylvania exported a record amount of electricity last year.

[Coal Waste Reclamation Wins National Award](#) - The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection's Bureau of Abandoned Mine Reclamation received a national award for its cleanup work regarding approximately 27 acres of coal refuse piles in South Fork Borough in Cambria County, which posed multiple environmental threats to the area.

[RGGI debate continues after committees pass resolutions](#) - The 3-2 decision of the Independent Regulatory Review Commission to uphold the state Environmental Quality Board's proposal for Pennsylvania's inclusion in the Northeast Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative and its carbon dioxide budget trading program received a party-line rebuke Tuesday from the state Senate Environmental Resources & Energy Committee.

[Pennsylvania's carbon plan clears last regulatory hurdle](#) - The centerpiece of Gov. Tom Wolf's plan to fight climate change passed its last regulatory hurdle Wednesday, in a hard-fought bid to make Pennsylvania the first major fossil fuel state to adopt a carbon pricing policy.

[DEP awards \\$255,000 contract to reclaim Northumberland County coal mine fire site](#) - The state Department of Environmental Resources has awarded a \$255,094 contract to reclaim the site of an underground coal mine fire in Northumberland County.

[Allegheny County Council unanimously approves paid sick leave bill but emphatically rejects mask rule proposal](#) - Allegheny County Council unanimously passed a paid sick leave bill Tuesday but voted against a controversial proposal that would require strict mask guidelines at indoor and large outdoor events.

[AEP subsidiaries ask WV ratepayers to pick up multimillion-dollar cost burden for plant upgrades denied by KY, VA](#) - American Electric Power's subsidiaries serving West Virginia have proposed making its customers pay millions of dollars more for federally required upgrades at three in-state coal-fired power plants after utility regulators in two other states denied those upgrades following findings that they were uneconomic.