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ARIPPA PERIODIC MEDIA NEWS – 11-1-21

(News clips from the previous month)

CFB, COAL REFUSE, ENVIRONMENT, ENERGY INDUSTRY

[Stronghold Digital Mining begins public trading the same week that Bitcoin sets a new record](#) - Riding a wave of cryptocurrency excitement, especially this week, the coal waste-burning crypto-mining firm Stronghold Digital Mining started its new life as a publicly traded company on Wednesday.

[Stronghold Digital Mining, Pennsylvania's waste coal to crypto company, files for \\$90M IPO](#) - Stronghold Digital Mining, a company that turns Pennsylvania waste coal into cryptocurrency at a power plant in Venango County, has priced its initial public offering and expects to begin trading on the Nasdaq next week.

[Bitcoin-mining power plant raises ire of environmentalists](#) - An obstacle to large-scale bitcoin mining is finding enough cheap energy to run the huge, power-gobbling computer arrays that create and transact cryptocurrency.

[Coal waste piles might be a bright spot in W.Va. economic future](#) - A product needed to produce a high number of electronic gadgets we use every day is in short supply and high demand.

[Coal is making a comeback. Supplies are so scarce that Pa.'s and N.J.'s electric grid operator is worried.](#) - Coal, a pariah fuel for climate activists, has made a quiet comeback this year in the post-lockdown economic resurgence.

[PJM, market monitor urge FERC to reject SOO Green proposal, saying it will upend the capacity market](#) - The PJM Interconnection and its independent market monitor urged the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to dismiss a complaint by the developers of the \$2.5 billion SOO Green interstate transmission project, saying the developers are trying to upend the grid operator's capacity rules for generating resources outside its footprint.

[Meeting state offshore wind, renewable goals requires up to \\$3.2B in transmission, PJM says](#) - It will cost \$2.2 billion to \$3.2 billion to build enough transmission in the PJM Interconnection to meet states' offshore wind and renewable portfolio standard goals through 2035, according to a study by the grid operator.

[Coal-fired electricity rebounds in 2021, but resurgence could be short-lived](#) - Electricity generated by coal-fired plants is expected to rise by 22% in 2021, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA), a bounce back that comes amid what has been a long and steep decline.

[Renewables will account for most global generation increases, but coal use remains high](#) - In the Reference case of our International Energy Outlook 2021 (IEO2021), where we assume current laws and regulations continue into the future, we project that renewable resources—particularly solar and wind—will be the largest contributor to the growth in electricity generation through 2050.

[Boosting transmission between East, West grids will lower costs: NREL](#) - Adding transmission capacity between the Eastern and Western interconnections would reduce costs by allowing wind, solar and natural gas-fired generation to flow more freely across broad regions, according to a recently published study by the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL).

[How the IEA Embraced its Role as an Energy Oracle in the Climate Transition](#) - The International Energy Agency, in its latest Energy Outlook, has developed a plan for the world to move away from new fossil-fuel production.

[PJM market monitor calls for penalties on generators to spur grid flexibility](#) - PJM Interconnection's independent market monitor called for penalties for generators that fail to provide grid flexibility when required at a Federal Energy Regulatory Commission technical conference on Tuesday.

[Global Energy Crisis Threatens to Hit U.S. Electricity Grids This Winter](#) - The energy crisis that's led to electricity shortages and blackouts in Europe and Asia may be heading for the U.S.

[Struggling coal towns must transform as energy landscape shifts](#) - The town of Wayne, W.Va., near the Kentucky border, knows something about transitioning coal workers to clean energy jobs.

[PJM, Exelon, Calpine, others urge FERC to revise decision on capacity offer caps](#) - PJM Interconnection and generators like Exelon, Calpine and Vistra, separately asked the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Monday to reconsider its recent approval of offer cap rules they said unfairly limit power plant owners' ability to make capacity market bids that fully reflect their financial risks.

[RGGI seeks applications for last quarterly CO2 allowance auction of 2021](#) - The final Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative auction of 2021 will take place Dec. 1 with 23,121,518 quarterly CO2 allowances for sale, according to the notice for the 54th quarterly CO2 allowance auction.

[Pipeline developer charged over systematic contamination](#) - The corporate developer of a multi-billion-dollar pipeline system that takes natural gas liquids from the Marcellus Shale gas field to an export terminal near Philadelphia was charged criminally on Tuesday after a grand jury concluded that it flouted Pennsylvania environmental laws and fouled waterways and residential water supplies across hundreds of miles.

[Seward Generating Station Applies to DEP for *Decreased* Sulfur Dioxide Emission Limits](#) - The Seward Generating station in Indiana County is purportedly the world's largest waste-coal burning power plant, so when its operator recently applied to the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection for a "re-evaluation" of its sulfur dioxide emissions, GASP decided to investigate to ensure such a "re-evaluation" does not result in an increase in permitted emissions.

[Global Energy Crisis Is the First of Many in the Clean-Power Era](#) - The next several decades could see more periods of energy-driven inflation, fuel shortages and lost economic growth as electricity supplies are left vulnerable to shocks.

[Energy Transition Outlook](#) - As the energy sector transforms and innovates into a decarbonized, digitalized industry, it is crucial that talent pools are available with the right balance of skills and experience to deliver the projects and operations needed for a brighter tomorrow.

[Getting to Net-Zero GHG Emissions Will Take More Than Closing Coal Plants](#) - The UK will host the 26th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26) in Glasgow, Scotland, next month.

LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY ISSUES: FEDERAL

[EPA to reconsider the National Ambient Air Quality Standards for ozone](#) - The Environmental Protection Agency announced it will reconsider the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for ozone.

[Biden pushes G20 energy producing countries to boost production](#) - U.S. President Joe Biden on Saturday urged major G20 energy producing countries with spare capacity to boost production to ensure a stronger global economic recovery as part of a broad effort to pressure OPEC and its partners to increase oil supply.

[Biden's proposed reconciliation framework drops clean electricity program, methane fee](#) - President Biden on Thursday revealed a revised reconciliation framework to House progressives that includes more than \$500 billion in climate provisions but excludes several major progressive agenda items.

[States, public need bigger role in transmission development, FERC's Glick says](#) - Giving states and the public a bigger role in planning and reviewing transmission projects will make it easier to build the infrastructure needed to meet clean energy and grid reliability goals, according to Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Chairman Richard Glick.

[Biden unveils \\$1.75 trillion spending plan, but divisions delay economic agenda](#) - President Biden on Thursday unveiled a new \$1.75 trillion package to overhaul the country's health-care, education, climate and tax laws, muscling through a slew of policy disagreements and internecine political feuds that had stalled his economic agenda for months.

[FERC's Glick urges power plant owners to line up fuel supplies as gas prices soar](#) - Increasing liquefied natural gas (LNG) exports are contributing to rising U.S. natural gas prices by decreasing domestic supply, which could have a major effect on New England's energy markets this winter, according to FERC staff.

[DOE Envisions Future Grid's Transformation into a 'Network'](#) - The grid must accommodate more inverter-based generation and adequately handle the bi-directional flow of electricity, but it must also apply alternative grid configurations and coordinate planning and operations across multiple participants and jurisdictions.

[FERC Tackles Modernization of U.S. Power Markets](#) - The seven major organized electricity markets scattered across the U.S. account for roughly two-thirds of all power generated in the country.

[FERC nominee Phillips uses 3-legged stool analogy in outlining regulatory approach to senators](#) - A Senate confirmation hearing Tuesday for Federal Energy Regulatory Commission nominee Willie Phillips Jr. moved the agency a step closer to regaining five sitting commissioners.

[Glick fleshes out plans for new FERC grid rules](#) - New rules affecting the electric power system issued by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission should apply everywhere, including in parts of the country that lack organized power markets, FERC Chair Richard Glick said yesterday.

[Democrats narrow scope of IRS proposal amid GOP attacks](#) - Democrats on Tuesday narrowed the scope of a proposal to increase the amount of information the IRS receives about bank accounts, amid a massive lobbying effort against the proposal from banks and Republicans that threatens to jeopardize its prospects.

[U.S. Rep. Mike Doyle is retiring from Congress after more than a quarter-century in office](#) - Mike Doyle, who has represented western Pennsylvania in Congress for more than a quarter-century and became the dean of Pennsylvania's Congressional delegation, announced Monday that he will not run again for re-election.

[House sends debt limit hike to Biden, staving off default](#) - The House has approved a short-term increase to the nation's debt limit, ensuring the federal government can continue fully paying its bills into December and temporarily averting an unprecedented default that would have decimated the economy.

[FERC's Glick names former ratepayer advocate to lead Office of Public Participation](#) - FERC Chairman Richard Glick on Tuesday named Elin Katz as director of the commission's Office of Public Participation.

[EPA Announces Appointment of Adam Ortiz as Regional Administrator for EPA Region 3](#) - Today, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Michael S. Regan announced that President Biden will appoint Adam Ortiz to become EPA's Regional Administrator for Region 3.

[EPA power plant rules could be part of bigger initiative](#) - When EPA proposes its power plant rules for carbon dioxide they might be part of a larger package.

[CEQ Proposes to Restore Impactful NEPA Provisions](#) - The federal government's Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) on Oct. 7 issued a proposed rulemaking to rescind several Trump-era regulatory amendments that limit the scope of environmental reviews completed by federal agencies under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

[Capito, Manchin Announce \\$7m for Advanced Coal Waste Processing Research](#) - U.S. Senators Shelley Moore Capito (R-W.Va.) and Joe Manchin (D-W.Va.), members of the Senate Appropriations Committee, announced \$7 million from the U.S. Department of Energy to expand and develop new and safe uses for coal-wastes, including \$1 million awarded to Touchstone Research Laboratory in Triadelphia, West Virginia to develop coal waste into feedstock for high-value synthetic graphite.

LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY ISSUES: STATE

[Nearing the end of his term, Wolf issues executive order to bolster environmental efforts](#) - Looking to bolster his administration's efforts to address environmental justice, Gov. Tom Wolf has issued an executive order to create a series of roles geared toward combating climate change and supporting communities harmed by pollution.

[Senate moves to block key part of Wolf's climate plan](#) - The state Senate is trying to block Pennsylvania's path to join an emissions-reduction program with other eastern states.

[Josh Shapiro breaks with Pa. Gov. Tom Wolf on climate change plan](#) - Josh Shapiro, the Democratic candidate for governor, is breaking with Gov. Tom Wolf on the centerpiece of Wolf's plan to fight climate change amid the strong and sustained pushback it has received from building trades unions that have long backed the party's candidates for governor.

[GOP leaders question legality of RGGI regulation, ask AG to intervene](#) - Much like carbon emissions, the RGGI saga isn't going away anytime soon.

[Rep. Webster Resolution To Study Use Of Abandoned Underground Mines As Geothermal Energy Source](#) - On October 18, Rep. Joe Webster (D-Montgomery) announced plans to introduce a resolution directing the Joint State Government Commission to conduct a study on the feasibility of using abandoned underground mines as geothermal energy sources.

[Senate committee advances Yaw measure to ensure Pennsylvania homes, businesses have access to diverse energy options](#) - Legislation ensuring that state residents have options when it comes to fuel availability was approved today by the Senate Local Government Committee, according to prime sponsor state Sen. Gene Yaw (R-23).

[Commissioner John F. Coleman Jr. Elected PUC Vice Chairman](#) - The Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (PUC) today announced the election of Commissioner John F. Coleman Jr. to serve as the next Vice Chairman of the PUC, serving in that position through 2022.