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ARIPPA PERIODIC MEDIA NEWS – 12-1-21

(News clips from the previous month)

CFB, COAL REFUSE, ENVIRONMENT, ENERGY INDUSTRY

[A coal plant fights to stay open. It could enrich Manchin](#) - The power plant that buys coal from Sen. Joe Manchin's company is fighting to stay open by generating electricity for cryptocurrency mining after being on the brink of economic collapse for years.

[New Sensor Aids Rare Earth Extraction from Acid Mine Drainage](#) - Rare earth elements appear in more than 200 consumer products. The race is on to source these elements from abundant and environmentally damaging mining waste.

[Watershed cleanup advocates fear new infrastructure law will limit WV's acid mine drainage treatment potential](#) - Stewards of watersheds throughout Appalachia have a lot of clean up to do.

[Reinventing coal country: Reclaiming America's abandoned mine lands](#) - As innovative models for reclamation unfold, and federal funding nears, there is new hope for the communities that once depended on coal mining.

[PJM kicks off capacity market reform process with focus on reliability metrics](#) - PJM Interconnection and its stakeholders Nov. 29 highlighted potential focus areas that could be undertaken to improve the capacity market amid significant resource mix changes, having identified 10 key work activities from evaluating a forward clean energy market to updating reliability metrics.

[8 states, DC urge FERC to reject EEI, Eversource call to drop competition for transmission projects](#) - Utility regulators, attorneys general and ratepayer advocates from eight states and the District of Columbia are urging the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to reject calls to give incumbent utilities the right of first refusal (ROFR) to build transmission lines in their service territories that offer regional benefits.

[US to release 50 million barrels of oil to ease energy costs](#) - President Joe Biden on Tuesday ordered 50 million barrels of oil released from the nation's strategic reserve to help bring down energy costs, in coordination with other major energy consuming nations, including China, India and the United Kingdom.

[Coal-fired power plants to close after new wastewater rule](#) - Climate change isn't what's driving some U.S. coal-fired power plants to shut down. It's the expense of stricter pollution controls on their wastewater.

[Fifteen States Respond to 'Woke Capitalism,' Threaten to Cut Off Banks That Refuse to Service Coal, Oil Industries](#) - A coalition of financial officers from 15 states sent a letter to the U.S. banking industry on Monday warning they plan to take "collective action" against banks that adopt corporate policies to cut off financing for the coal, oil, and natural gas industries.

[FERC balks at utility proposal to profit from PJM network upgrades](#) - The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission launched a hearing process on Friday to get more comments on a proposal by utilities participating in the PJM Interconnection that they be able to profit on transmission upgrades needed to bring new power facilities online.

[Exelon moving nuclear plants, including Limerick, to spin-off company](#) - The federal Nuclear Regulatory Commission has signed off on a plan by Exelon Corp. to divest itself of its fleet of 23 nuclear power reactors, including the two at the Limerick Generating Station.

[NERC Issues Grim Outlook for Bulk Power System Winter Reliability](#) - The North American Electric Reliability Corp. (NERC) is warning that much of the central U.S.—a region that stretches from the Great Lakes into southern Texas—may face critical power shortages during extreme winter weather conditions.

[FERC warned renewables planning can strand grid assets](#) - The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission should avoid crafting new rules that could result in “stranded” transmission assets and unnecessary new power lines, analysts and grid operators warned the independent agency yesterday.

[What 11 power company execs say about coal, Biden, renewables](#) - Power companies are being battered by rising fuel and supply costs even with winds at their back heading into 2022 as billions of dollars roll out of Washington to spur energy infrastructure projects.

[No Blackouts: Weathering the Perfect Storm](#) - In mid-February, the midsection of America from the Canadian border to the Gulf of Mexico endured one of the worst winter storms on record. For power generation companies like Associated Electric Cooperative, a system that supplies electricity to six transmission and 51 distribution cooperatives with 2.1 million member-consumers in rural Missouri, Iowa and Oklahoma, it was the perfect storm.

[Good COP, bad COP? Takeaways from the new UN climate deal](#) - After two years of preparation and 13 days of tough talks, did negotiators at the U.N. climate meeting in Glasgow save the planet?

[PJM TRACKER: Power prices up nearly 200% as gas price rise pushes up forwards](#) - PJM Interconnection wholesale power prices increased by nearly 200% at some hubs in October on year and between 20% and 30% on month due largely to higher natural gas prices, while forward power prices continued to strengthen over the winter months.

[U.S. EIA Short Term Energy Outlook Sees Continued High Energy Costs Into 2022, Decreases Later; Growth Of Renewables; Carbon Dioxide Still Short Of 2019 Levels](#) - On November 9, the U.S. Energy Information Administration released its November Short Term Energy Outlook which forecasts continued high energy costs going into 2022, but finds decreases into 2022.

[GE Splitting Into Three Companies, Will Spin Off Energy Group](#) - General Electric (GE) has announced plans to split into three separate companies, breaking up into publicly traded groups for its energy, healthcare, and aviation divisions.

[PJM and Members Prepare To Serve Winter Electricity Demand](#) - PJM Interconnection and its members are prepared to meet the forecasted demand for electricity this winter, employing lessons learned from recent extreme weather events while also accounting for recent fuel supply concerns.

[Nation's 3rd-largest utility to shut down half of coal fleet](#) - Southern Co. announced yesterday that it will shutter roughly 55 percent of its coal fleet by the end of the decade as the company shifts to a net-zero electricity mix.

[Vistra sues FERC over decision setting offer caps for PJM capacity market](#) - Vistra sued the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission on Thursday, seeking to overturn the agency's September decision to approve new offer cap rules.

[Unlocking the Transition: Politicians tout renewable energy jobs for ex-fossil fuel workers, but it's not so simple](#) - Experts say renewable energy jobs don't always appeal — or just aren't available — to workers who are losing their jobs to the closure of coal mines and power plants.

LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY ISSUES: FEDERAL

[US Energy Department to rewrite National Coal Council charter](#) - The U.S. Energy Department will not renew the National Coal Council's charter, choosing instead to write a new one and revise its focus, the federal advisory council told S&P Global Market Intelligence on Nov. 23.

[House passes Build Back Better, tees up Senate vote on funding for climate, clean energy and electric vehicles](#) - The U.S. House of Representatives passed the roughly \$1.9 trillion Build Back Better legislation Friday and sent it to the Senate.

[OSHA suspends enforcement of COVID-19 vaccine mandate for businesses](#) - The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) is suspending enforcement of the Biden administration's COVID-19 vaccine mandate for large private businesses after a federal appeals court upheld a stay on it last week.

[Democrats gain FERC majority with Phillips Senate confirmation](#) - The Senate unanimously confirmed Willie Phillips Jr. Tuesday to fill a vacant seat at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, giving Democrats a 3-2 majority at the agency.

[Biden chooses nominee to lead MSHA](#) - President Biden selected Chris Williamson as his nominee to head the Mine Safety & Health Administration (MSHA).

[Biden signs \\$1.2 trillion infrastructure bill with funding for EVs, transmission, hydrogen](#) - President Joe Biden signed on Monday the \$1.2 trillion infrastructure bill, which includes funding for grid projects and climate resilience.

[FERC kicks off 3-year task force examining transmission issues, state-federal divide](#) - The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission on Wednesday convened the first meeting of a new task force on electric transmission development, asking 10 state regulators to discuss potential market reforms, and approaches to siting and public policy.

[FERC orders GreenHat, traders to pay \\$243M for alleged PJM market manipulation](#) - The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission ordered GreenHat Energy and two of the trading firm's founders to pay \$229.6 million in penalties and, along with the estate of a founder, return \$13.1 million in unjust profits for allegedly manipulating a PJM Interconnection market.

[Supreme Court's Unusual Decision to Hear a Coal Case Could Deal President Biden's Climate Plans Another Setback](#) - The coal industry and red states argue that EPA can't make major changes to the energy system without new laws; legal experts say the administration still has options to reduce electricity emissions.

[Roads, transit, internet: What's in the infrastructure bill](#) - The \$1 trillion infrastructure plan that now goes to President Joe Biden to sign into law has money for roads, bridges, ports, rail transit, safe water, the power grid, broadband internet and more.

[FERC's Christie calls for fixing interconnection 'chaos' as first step in transmission reform](#) - As the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission considers sweeping transmission rule changes, Commissioner Mark Christie said fixing the "chaos" of the interconnection process is a top priority for him and an issue that could be tackled early in the reform process.

[Red New Deal? GOP offers a climate plan of its own](#) - Senate Republicans want to fight climate change by burning more fossil fuels.

[Takeaways from Tuesday's elections: Bad omens for Democrats as the cycle leading to midterms begins](#) - The off-year elections for governor in Virginia and New Jersey tend to receive outside attention, and the results are mined for deeper meaning about what they portend for the midterm elections the following year that determine which party controls Congress.

[Biden's Carbon-Capture Plan Hands Lifeline to Coal Plants](#) - Coal-fired power plants would be eligible for billions of dollars in extra tax breaks under President Joe Biden's economic legislation if they install carbon-capture systems, an incentive that environmental groups say may delay the retirement of dozens of facilities.

[In blow to Biden, Joe Manchin will not commit to backing \\$1.75 trillion spending bill](#) - President Joe Biden's domestic agenda suffered a major setback on Monday when Democratic Senator Joe Manchin said he would not commit to supporting a \$1.75 trillion framework on social spending and climate change unveiled last week.

LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY ISSUES: STATE

[Wolf says Pennsylvania not considering extra measures against omicron beyond urging vaccine shots](#) - Gov. Tom Wolf suggested Tuesday that he is not considering additional containment measures as the omicron variant of the coronavirus spreads overseas, but continued to urge people to get vaccinated.

[State report shows strong natural gas production growth in 2021](#) - After a bruising year in 2020, natural gas production and prices in Pennsylvania are on the rise this year.

[PUC tells Pa. residents to expect rising winter energy costs starting Dec. 1](#) - Winter is coming, and the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (PUC) says so will higher prices.

[Pa. proposes rules to limit 'forever chemicals' in drinking water](#) - Pennsylvania regulators are moving for the first time to set enforceable limits on toxic “forever chemicals” in drinking water.

[DEP Advisory Committee Supports Adopting Science-Based Water Quality Criteria For Toxic Manganese To Protect Public Health, Environment And No Change In Point Of Compliance For The Standard](#) - On November 18, DEP’s Water Resources Advisory Committee voted 12 to 2 to support the draft final regulation setting a science-based manganese standard of 0.3mg/L as a Water Quality Criteria for Toxic Substances to protect public health and environment and make the point of compliance for the standard at the point of discharge into a river or stream.

[Take two: House to try again to bring sweeping changes to Pa. election laws](#) - The state House of Representatives is poised to vote this week on legislation aimed at changing the way Pennsylvania runs its elections — although without changes, it appears headed for a gubernatorial veto.

[WPCAMR: New Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Addresses PA’s #1 Water Pollution Problem; Questions About What Projects Can Be Funded](#) - On November 15, the President signed the Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill (BIF). The US House of Representatives passed the BIF on November 5th.

[Infrastructure bill promises 'unprecedented' funding to clean up Pa.'s abandoned mine lands](#) - The scars of historical coal mining are so embedded in the landscape of Pennsylvania that it can be hard to imagine them gone.

[GOP lawmakers push for more say on air quality advisory board](#) - Some Republican state lawmakers are pushing to overhaul how appointments to an air quality advisory board are made.

[James’ Bill on Mining Reclamation Passes House](#) - Rep. Lee James (R-Venango/Butler) announced today his bill, which would add a member of the Coal Refuse Energy and Reclamation industry to the Mining Reclamation and Advisory Board (MRAB), passed the House of Representatives.

[Wolf Administration Highlights Anticipated Funding Through Federal Infrastructure Plan](#) - Governor Tom Wolf today shared an overview of enhancements Pennsylvania anticipates receiving through the passage of President Joe Biden’s bold, historic \$1.2 trillion Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.

[Senate, House Legislation Would Raise \\$350 Million A Year To Clean Up Polluted Water](#) - Legislation introduced recently in the House and Senate would provide \$350 million in dedicated funding annually for watershed restoration projects, help farmers install conservation measures, plant stream buffers, repair and update drinking water and wastewater systems, aquatic life habitat improvements and more.

[Top Pa. House Republican wants to greatly expand lawmakers’ power over the governor, executive branch](#) - The top Republican in the state House wants to give the legislature the ability to block regulations or administrative orders from the executive branch by a majority vote, a proposal that would significantly expand its power and curtail that of the governor.

[Pittsburgh to host global climate and energy meeting next year](#) - Pittsburgh will serve as the host city for a global climate and energy meeting next year, officials announced Thursday.

[Measures to preserve ‘energy choice’ gaining momentum in legislature](#) - Measures claiming to promote “energy choice” in Pennsylvania appear to be gaining momentum in the legislature.