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ARIPPA PERIODIC MEDIA NEWS – 2-1-22

(News clips from the previous month)

CFB, COAL REFUSE, ENERGY INDUSTRY

[Reclaiming abandoned coal mining lands in Luzerne County](#) - One of the nation's top environmental officials was in Northeastern Pennsylvania on Monday, to talk about cleaning up what's called 'legacy pollution.'

[Extremists have developed 'credible, specific plans' to attack the US power grid, DHS says in new warning](#) - Domestic terrorists have developed "credible, specific plans" to attack the U.S. power grid and view it as a "particularly attractive target given its interdependency with other infrastructure sectors," according to a security briefing issued Monday by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and first reported by The Daily Beast.

[PJM seeks reserve market rehearing from FERC, proposes capacity auction schedule](#) - PJM Interconnection has asked the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission for a rehearing in its reserve market proceeding because a recent FERC order departs, without adequate explanation, from prior findings that resource procurement costs to alleviate power supply shortages should be reflected in transparent market prices.

[As the electric sector becomes 'tip of the spear' of decarbonization, resiliency remains key, trade group leaders say](#) - Roughly a year after record low temperatures led to devastating blackouts in Texas, there's been a clear realization in the U.S. and global electric sector that resiliency and affordability are a key part of the clean energy transition, according to experts at the United States Energy Association's (USEA) 2022 State of the Energy Industry Forum on Thursday.

[EIA expects U.S. energy-related carbon dioxide emissions to increase in 2022 and 2023](#) - In our latest Short-Term Energy Outlook, we forecast that U.S. energy-related carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions will increase in both 2022 and 2023 but remain below 2019 levels.

[Power companies back EPA climate authority at Supreme Court](#) - Public and private power companies yesterday called for the Supreme Court to uphold EPA's authority to broadly regulate how they produce electricity for the nation.

[Renewables' Share of U.S. Power Will Keep Upward Trajectory](#) - Renewable energy's share of U.S. power generation continues to rise, and the percentage of electricity produced by burning natural gas and coal continues to fall, according to the latest "Short-Term Energy Outlook," or STEO, from the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA).

[Government clean-coal projects flopped, federal watchdog finds](#) - A decade ago, when the U.S. was climbing out of the Great Recession, the government dedicated more than a billion dollars to developing carbon-capture technologies aimed at making high-emissions energy facilities — coal plants, in particular — less polluting.

[2022 Outlook: Top US power sector trends to watch](#) - At the start of the Biden administration's second year, government agencies are beginning to implement the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, the bipartisan infrastructure package Congress passed last year.

[Regional Climate Pact's Future Is Now a Tale of Two Governors](#) - A regional climate pact among Northeast states faces increasing uncertainty as two of its most recent additions are already mulling whether to get out.

[Coal will account for 85% of U.S. electric generating capacity retirements in 2022](#) - Operators have scheduled 14.9 gigawatts (GW) of electric generating capacity to retire in the United States during 2022, according to our latest inventory of electric generators.

[Energy-related carbon emissions fell in 2020, EIA says](#) - Carbon dioxide emissions in 2020 were the lowest in nearly 40 years, according to a 2021 year-end report by the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA).

[Power Sector Risks Loom Large Over the Energy Transition](#) - The fog of uncertainty that hangs over the global power industry is getting larger and denser as generating companies and utilities navigate ever more complex challenges.

[Optimism Is Warranted in the Power Industry in 2022 and Beyond](#) - While some sectors of the power industry are struggling to stay relevant, there are many more segments that are thriving. As new technologies are developed and perfected, there is more reason than ever for people in the power industry to be optimistic about the future.

[Disorderly Transitions: Eight Enduring Global Power Sector Trends](#) - The world faces a glaring ambition gap for electricity supply, concerns about system flexibility, risky progress and development, and an electricity demand shakeup. Several other overarching trends are affecting the world's power sector as the transition unfolds.

LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY ISSUES: FEDERAL

[EPA restores rule to limit power-plant mercury emissions](#) - In yet another reversal of a Trump-era action, the Environmental Protection Agency said Monday it will resume enforcement of a rule that limits power plant emissions of mercury and other hazardous pollutants.

[Biden issues an infrastructure 'roadmap' to help spend \\$1T](#) - President Joe Biden urged U.S. governors on Monday to ramp up their construction plans as his administration rolled out a guidebook for accessing the nearly \$1 trillion made available by the bipartisan infrastructure deal.

[Analysis: 'Build Back Better' limbo looms over Biden's climate leadership](#) - Failure to push Joe Biden's signature climate legislation through Congress could jeopardize Washington's influence in the fight against global warming and open the door for China and other nations to backslide, lawmakers and activists say.

[DOE leverages new and existing authorities to spur transmission development key to energy transition](#) - The transmission deployment program melds existing authority with the infrastructure bill to bolster project planning, permitting and financing, according to experts.

[FERC prioritizing update to transmission rules to meet energy transition, climate challenges: Clements](#) - The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission is continuing to bring its rules and regulations in line with the energy transition, with transmission reform a top priority, FERC Commissioner Allison Clements said Tuesday during a webinar hosted by Resources for the Future.

[Cartwright, Casey, Haaland cite funding to clean up abandoned mine lands](#) - Standing in the shadow of a huge culm back Monday morning, U.S. Secretary of Interior Deb Haaland said it will take a collaborative approach with local, state and Tribal leaders to help ensure communities have healthy lands and waters in their neighborhoods.

[Supreme Court takes EPA case that could narrow Clean Water Act](#) - The Supreme Court will take up a challenge to the Clean Water Act that could narrow the law's reach in ways long sought by businesses and home builders.

[How Biden could close coal plants without CO2 regulations](#) - EPA is preparing to Supreme Court-proof President Biden's ambitions for a carbon-free power grid by looking beyond direct greenhouse gas regulation and relying on the knock-on effect of stricter air, waste and water rules.

[FERC orders PJM to scrap 'adder' mechanism seen bolstering capacity prices](#) - The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission on Thursday ordered the PJM Interconnection to stop using an "adder" in a capacity market methodology that critics contend increases prices and leads the grid operator to buy more capacity than needed.

[EPA Invites Proposals On Research Into Drivers & Environmental Impacts Of Energy Transitions In Underserved Communities](#) - The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is inviting proposals for research into the drivers and environmental impacts of energy transitions in underserved communities. The deadline for proposals is April 28.

[Senate Dems' filibuster ambitions fall short](#) - Senate Democrats failed in a Wednesday night bid to weaken the filibuster to pass elections and voting reform thanks to opposition from centrists Joe Manchin and Kyrsten Sinema.

[EPA tackles coal-to-crypto industry trend](#) - EPA last week took steps to rein in the environmental footprint of bitcoin miners.

[Interior Department Extends Abandoned Mine Land Program through 2034](#) - The Department of the Interior announced today that the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE) is extending the Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fund program through 2034 and making other changes to the program, as directed by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.

[Lummis blocks Biden's EPA picks in bid to defend coal plants](#) - Wyoming Republican Sen. Cynthia Lummis has stalled confirmation of President Biden's pick for EPA enforcement chief over concerns about the agency's handling of coal power plants in her state. Lummis also has placed holds on Biden's remaining EPA picks, her office confirmed to E&E News.

[Biden decarbonization goals could triple reliance on electric grid: EPRI](#) - Meeting President Joe Biden's greenhouse gas reduction goals will require a "massive transformation" of the electric sector and could triple the United States' reliance on its power grid, according to Daniel Brooks, the Electric Power Research Institute's (EPRI) vice president of integrated grid and energy systems.

[White House rolls out new efforts to boost US renewable energy, transmission](#) - After nearly a year in office, the Biden administration announced new steps to expand clean energy and transmission deployment as it seeks to decarbonize the US economy.

[EPA action on coal ash contamination could force plant closures](#) - The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced new actions to hold coal-burning power plants accountable for groundwater contamination.

[Chesapeake Bay states are unlikely to reach EPA's 2025 cleanup deadline at current pace, report finds](#) - Maryland, Pennsylvania and Virginia are unlikely to reach their joint Chesapeake Bay pollution limits set by the Environmental Protection Agency in time for a 2025 deadline, according to a report released Wednesday by the Chesapeake Bay Foundation.

[What to watch at DOE, FERC, Interior in 2022](#) - One year after President Biden took office, federal agencies are facing pressure to carry out his administration's energy and climate policies while navigating political calculations ahead of critical midterm elections.

[Energy, environment issues to watch in every spending bill](#) - Environmental lobbyists and most energy interest groups are focused on the climate and social spending package being negotiated in the Senate. But ongoing talks over a massive fiscal 2022 spending bill will also have a major impact on carrying out President Biden's energy and environmental agenda.

LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY ISSUES: STATE

[Bitcoin operation ignites debate around the waste from coal mining in Pennsylvania](#) - A once-dormant power plant is humming with activity outside Pittsburgh as thousands of miners work 24 hours a day.

[Pennsylvania high court may step in to House districts case](#) - Pennsylvania's highest court signaled Monday that it may get involved in the process of redrawing Pennsylvania's congressional districts boundaries, as the state runs up against the primary schedule to adjust the boundaries to account for a decade of demographic shifts.

[Court weighs Pennsylvania congressional map proposals with national implications](#) - Teams representing Gov. Tom Wolf, state Republican lawmakers, and other groups of Pennsylvanians spent much of Thursday and Friday explaining to a judge why their proposed congressional map is the best, widely agreeing on the basics but differing on how to weigh factors like partisan fairness.

[Pennsylvania's mail voting law ruled unconstitutional, but remains in place as Wolf appeals](#) - An appellate court ruled Friday that Pennsylvania's mail voting law — passed in 2019 with bipartisan support — is unconstitutional, but it will remain in place as Gov. Tom Wolf's administration pursues an appeal to the state Supreme Court.

[Ned Rauch-Mannino: Making Pa. critical minerals proving ground](#) - The increasing importance of critical mineral supply chain resiliency is driving global discovery, innovation and economic development.

[Gov. Wolf Announces \\$25 Million Investment in Economic Recovery for Abandoned Mine Lands](#) - Governor Tom Wolf today announced funding for environmental restoration projects focused on economic development or community revitalization at abandoned mine land (AML) locations across Pennsylvania.

[In final year, Wolf touts multi-billion surplus; but projections depict gloomy fiscal future](#) - With at least \$8.5 billion surplus in Pennsylvania's coffers, and more piling up every month, this year's coming budget fight is looking a little less perilous than usual.

[Pennsylvania redistricting panel enters final stretch to complete House, Senate maps](#) - The panel charged with drawing Pennsylvania's new legislative districts must now weigh over 6,000 comments from a month-long public feedback period before voting on final versions of the maps.

[State finds almost 2,500 more miles of polluted streams in report update](#) - The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection documented 2,418 more miles of polluted and impaired streams across Pennsylvania in a 2022 report than it did in a similar report in 2020.

[DEP Outlines 2022 Priorities: Make Up Deficit In Oil & Gas Funding; Get Resources Needed To Invest New Federal Mine Reclamation, Oil & Gas Well Plugging Funds](#) - On January 18, DEP Executive Deputy Ramez Ziadeh outlined the agency's 2022 priorities to DEP Citizens Advisory Council, including finding a stable source of revenue to increase funding for the Oil and Gas Program and getting the resources needed to invest the unprecedented federal funding coming to Pennsylvania for mine reclamation and oil and gas well plugging.

[Wolf vetoes measure to block RGGI entrance](#) - Gov. Tom Wolf is rejecting a measure that would keep the state from joining an effort to cut greenhouse gas emissions.

[Wolf: Vaccine is strategy to fight COVID-19, not shutdowns](#) - Its pandemic authority weakened, the Wolf administration said Tuesday it has no plans to pursue another COVID-19 emergency declaration, or attempt to impose new statewide restrictions or vaccine mandates, in response to the highly contagious omicron variant that is spreading quickly and overloading Pennsylvania's hospitals.

[GOP seeks more control over legislative redistricting](#) - State House Republicans who just lost a key vote on new preliminary legislative district maps moved Monday to regain more control of the process by advancing a GOP friendly constitutional amendment that would utterly revamp Pennsylvania's redistricting process.

[Pa. expects billions from the infrastructure law for coal mine cleanups. Will it help polluted waterways?](#) - Pennsylvania is littered with abandoned coal mines that can be dangerous and cause water pollution.

[Wolf admin used state grant funding as leverage during debate on carbon fee](#) - Gov. Tom Wolf has often said he's "not a politician." But before a vote on a key climate policy last month, his administration reached for a classic piece of Harrisburg leverage — state funding for local projects — to get Democratic lawmakers in line.