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ARIPPA PERIODIC MEDIA NEWS – 3-1-22

(News clips from the previous month)

CFB, COAL REFUSE, ENERGY INDUSTRY

[Creating a mineral supply chain from mining wastes](#) - America's future prosperity may depend on what we do with some of our waste.

[Global reliance on Russian energy a hurdle to US pressure campaign on Putin](#) - The global reliance on Russian petroleum and natural gas is a major hurdle for President Biden and Western allies as they attempt to dial up economic pressure on Russian President Vladimir Putin.

[UN climate report: 'Atlas of human suffering' worse, bigger](#) - Deadly with extreme weather now, climate change is about to get so much worse. It is likely going to make the world sicker, hungrier, poorer, gloomier and way more dangerous in the next 18 years with an "unavoidable" increase in risks, a new United Nations science report says.

[Pennsylvania led gas-producing states in production in 2021, report says](#) - Pennsylvania led the pack of natural gas-producing states in growth last year.

[Carbon pollution from Pa. power plants is rising — and it's not just a pandemic bounce](#) - After a decade of decline, climate-changing emissions from Pennsylvania's power plants are on the rise.

[Energy agency: Methane emissions higher than countries claim](#) - The International Energy Agency said Wednesday that emissions of planet-warming methane from oil, gas and coal production are significantly higher than governments claim.

[FERC, state task force eye benefits of considering transmission project portfolios, ending 'silos'](#) - At the second meeting of a federal-state transmission task force, there were calls for developing portfolios of transmission projects instead of reviewing projects on a case-by-case basis, which some said could make it easier to advance transmission development.

[Renewable energy growth in the US lags far behind Biden's climate ambitions](#) - Renewable energy growth in the US in 2021 fell far short of what's needed to reach climate goals, according to a new report by trade group American Clean Power.

[IEEFA U.S.: Power sector gas consumption has likely hit its peak](#) - The United States electricity sector has passed another milestone in the energy transition: The amount of gas used for power generation has likely peaked and begun a long-term decline.

[Bitcoin mining as a grid resource? 'It's complicated.'](#) - Up to 10% of a Bitcoin mine's revenues can come from grid services and demand flexibility. Is this new breed of data center making communities more resilient?

[PJM to propose updated maximum energy, reserve product price caps to FERC](#) - Ahead of a Feb. 22 federal regulatory compliance filing, PJM Interconnection and its stakeholders evaluated price-capping options that will increase maximum energy and reserve product prices, during a Feb. 16 task force meeting.

[Advocacy, trade groups urge PJM to reject bid to bar some renewables from pending capacity auction](#) - In separate letters, environmental and clean energy trade groups on Monday urged the PJM Interconnection's board to ignore a request by a trade group for power plant owners that some renewable energy resources be barred from an upcoming capacity auction.

[Generating station considers cutting operations](#) - Operators of Pennsylvania's largest coal-fired electric generating complex, the Homer City Generating Station in Center Township, Indiana County, said Monday they may reduce operations by May 2023, due in part to the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative.

[Pennsylvania sent more electricity to neighboring states than any other state in 2020](#) - Nearly 78 million megawatthours (MWh) of electricity generated in Pennsylvania was delivered to neighboring states in 2020, more than from any other state, according to our State Electricity Profiles.

[On track to eliminate coal by 2035, Duke expands net zero carbon goal to include indirect emissions](#) - Duke Energy will include upstream carbon emissions from energy it purchases, as well as downstream emissions from customers, in its 2050 net-zero carbon goal, according to an announcement made Wednesday.

[Dominion to expand net zero carbon reduction goals to Scope 2 and Scope 3 emissions](#) - Dominion Energy will expand its net zero carbon emission goals to include downstream emissions and emissions related to upstream materials from suppliers, the company announced Friday on its latest quarterly earnings call.

[FirstEnergy settles lawsuits seeking corporate reform](#) - Akron-based First Energy announced it has settled a series of shareholder lawsuits seeking corporate reforms in the wake of a bribery and corruption scandal.

[More than 23 GW of coal capacity to retire in 2028 as plant closures accelerate](#) - U.S. coal-fired generating capacity is set to take a record plunge in 2028 in advance of tough environmental rules, with more than 23 GW scheduled to come offline, dwarfing the previous retirements record set in 2015.

[PJM's Planning Committee Widely Endorses PJM Transition Plan to New Interconnection Process](#) - The Planning Committee overwhelmingly endorsed a proposal Feb. 8 detailing how PJM will transition to a new interconnection process designed to get generation and other projects through the planning pipeline faster and help clear the current backlog.

[EIA projects coal, renewables to generate equal stack shares in 2022](#) - Coal and renewables both are projected to generate 22% of the total power generation stack in 2022, the US Energy Information Administration said in a Feb. 8 report.

[Utilities' carbon-reduction goals will have little impact on U.S. CO2 emissions](#) - Executing several plans announced by U.S. power utilities to reduce carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions would have a minor effect on U.S. energy-related CO2 reductions, according to the analysis we published earlier this week.

[Talen moving toward converting Montour Plant to gas](#) - Talen Energy is clearing trees at the Montour Preserve for a proposed gas line to convert the coal-fired Montour Plant to natural gas.

[Peco parent Exelon completes spinoff of its power generation business](#) - Exelon Corp. on Wednesday completed its separation into two companies: a new generation and marketing business that owns the nation's largest fleet of nuclear power plants, and a Chicago-based utility giant whose operations include Peco, Atlantic City Electric, and Delmarva Power.

[Coal Will Remain Prominent for Decades Despite Growing Renewable Power Capacity](#) - There are a lot of changes taking place in the world's energy supplies. We seem to read announcements almost every day about coal plant retirements, and solar and wind farm installations. Yet, when you look at power projections put out by the experts, coal-fired generation remains prevalent in the mix beyond 2050, even as renewable resources slowly climb in the rankings.

LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY ISSUES: FEDERAL

[Justices wrestle with EPA power to curb carbon emissions](#) - The Supreme Court wrestled Monday with the Environmental Protection Agency's authority to curb greenhouse gas emissions from the nation's power plants, a case that could hamstring the Biden administration's plans to combat climate change.

[Most healthy Americans can take a break from masks, CDC says](#) - Most Americans live in places where healthy people, including students in schools, can safely take a break from wearing masks under new U.S. guidelines released Friday.

[DOE Releases First-Ever Comprehensive Strategy to Secure America's Clean Energy Supply Chain](#) - The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) today released America's first comprehensive plan to ensure security and increase our energy independence.

[Biden administration announces mineral supply chain push](#) - The Biden administration announced on Tuesday actions taken by both the federal government and private industry that it says will bolster the critical mineral supply chain.

[FERC expands criteria for reviewing gas infrastructure proposals, outlines GHG framework](#) - The commission said the change provides more legal certainty, but critics called the decision "reckless" and "legally dubious," arguing it will hurt pipeline development.

[U.S. unveils tool to direct green investment to disadvantaged communities](#) - The White House on Friday launched a beta version of a tool that will be used to determine where to invest billions of federal dollars to bring clean energy and infrastructure to disadvantaged communities, a key step in fulfilling a promise by the Biden administration to prioritize environmental justice.

[Biden administration launches industrial decarbonization initiative, targets \\$9.5B for clean hydrogen](#) - Using funds from last year's infrastructure law, the Biden administration on Tuesday launched initiatives aimed at cutting greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from the industrial sector, which accounts for nearly a quarter of all U.S. GHG emissions.

[Reps. Keller, Comer demand answers on exporting energy to Europe during domestic energy crisis](#) - U.S. Reps. Fred Keller (R-PA) and James Comer (R-KY) led a group of Congressmembers in expressing concern over plans by the President Joe Biden Administration to export energy to Europe during a domestic energy crisis.

[US judge strikes down Biden climate damage cost estimate](#) - A federal judge on Friday blocked the Biden administration's attempt to put greater emphasis on potential damage from greenhouse gas emissions when creating rules for polluting industries.

[Even with spending framework, infrastructure delays loom](#) - Democrats are eager to turn their legislative victory into real projects as they try to protect their narrow majorities in Congress this fall.

[Biden Administration Announces Nearly \\$725 Million to Create Good-Paying Union Jobs, Catalyze Economic Revitalization in Coal Communities](#) - The Department of the Interior today announced nearly \$725 million in Fiscal Year 22 funding is available to 22 states and the Navajo Nation to create good-paying union jobs and catalyze economic opportunity by reclaiming abandoned mine lands (AML) as part of President Biden's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.

[EPA science advisers recommend tighter soot air quality standards in draft document](#) - In a new draft document, the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) science advisers recommended that the agency tighten its air quality standards for soot pollution after the Trump administration declined to make such a move.

[Factbox: Biden administration sees carbon capture as key tool in climate fight](#) - U.S. President Joe Biden wants to achieve net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 to fight climate change, a plan that will require not just steep cuts in carbon output but also wider use of negative emissions technologies that can clear up the emissions that remain.

[DOD, GSA start process in federal shift to all carbon-free power by 2030](#) - The Department of Defense and the General Services Administration issued a request for information Thursday looking for potential purchases of carbon-free electricity in areas with competitive wholesale markets starting in 2023.

[How coal country lawmakers came to love crypto](#) - As the prospects for coal continue to darken, states that were once the lifeblood of America's coal mining industry are now tying their economies to the production of a new type of mining: cryptocurrency. And lawmakers on Capitol Hill are moving to facilitate the trend.

LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY ISSUES: STATE

[Pennsylvania Senate GOP try to knock out Wolf's RGGI plan](#) - Pennsylvania Senate Republicans last week gave a one-two punch to the Wolf administration's plan to have the state join the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI).

[DEP OKs Coal Ash Use For Structural Fill To Build Data Mining Operation At Coal Waste-Fired Scrubgrass Power Plant In Venango County](#) - The Department of Environmental Protection published notice in the February 26 PA Bulletin it has approved the use of coal ash for structural fill to provide a support area for a data mining operation at the coal waste-fired Scrubgrass power plant in Kennerdell, Venango County.

[Pa. Supreme Court rejects bid to use old legislative districts until 2024](#) - Pennsylvania's highest court on Friday rejected a bid by a top state Republican lawmaker to use the existing boundaries of legislative districts in this year's election, instead of new boundaries redrawn as part of a once-a-decade adjustment for demographic shifts.

[Supreme Court asked to intervene in congressional maps case](#) - A group suing over Pennsylvania's new map of congressional districts asked the U.S. Supreme Court on Monday to reconsider whether they are entitled to an emergency order to halt the plan.

[Congressional map picked by Pennsylvania Supreme Court unlikely to dramatically alter partisan balance](#) - The Pennsylvania Supreme Court has selected a new congressional map that closely resembles the current one, a ruling unlikely to dramatically change the partisan makeup of the state's delegation.

[Construction wraps on problem-plagued Mariner East pipeline](#) - Work is finished on a multibillion-dollar pipeline system that connects the vast Marcellus Shale gas field in western Pennsylvania to an export terminal near Philadelphia, according to its corporate owner, which faces criminal charges that it fouled waterways and residential water supplies during pipeline construction.

[Struzzi amends RGGI proposal to cover carbon reduction alternatives](#) - State Rep. Jim Struzzi, R-Indiana, still hopes for legislation to pass the General Assembly that would require Gov. Tom Wolf to get legislative approval for Pennsylvania's involvement in the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative.

[Pennsylvania has the most abandoned coal mines in the U.S., how \\$245 million will help?](#) - Pennsylvania has the largest inventory of abandoned coal mines in the nation.

[State Rep. Pam Snyder To Retire At End Of Current Term](#) - State Rep. Pam Snyder is set to retire at the end of her current term, her office announced.

[Wolf reflects on legacy, unveils \\$43.7B spending plan in last budget address](#) - In the twilight of his final term, Gov. Tom Wolf on Tuesday gave his last budget address to members of the General Assembly, looking to cement his legacy as a governor devoted to boosting funding for education while also trying to reach a few long-sought policy goals that have eluded him throughout his seven years in office.

[Gov. Wolf's Environmental Budget Builds On Bipartisan Support For \\$450 Million Conservation Allocation From Federal ARP Funds; Increases DEP Staff To Manage Historic Federal Bipartisan Infrastructure Funding](#) - On February 8, Gov. Wolf proposed a \$43.7 billion General Fund budget that retains the \$2.865 billion balance in the Rainy Day Fund and includes the previously announced \$450 million allocation of federal American Rescue Plan funds for local environmental cleanup, conservation and recreation projects that has bipartisan support in the Senate and House.

[Environmental Hearing Board Strengthens DEP's Clean Streams Law Complaint Investigation Process](#) - A longtime practice by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection came to end recently with a precedent-setting case that will make it easier for individuals and businesses to prompt a DEP investigation.

[As Wolf Pushes Forward on RGGI; Shapiro's Stance Still Wobbly](#) - Pennsylvania's governor has gone to court to get the ball rolling again with the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI), but a state legislator says it is nothing more than a legal stunt.