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ARIPPA PERIODIC MEDIA NEWS – 4-1-22

(News clips from the previous month)

CFB, COAL REFUSE, ENERGY INDUSTRY

[PJM Outlines for EPA the Need to Coordinate Outages Resulting From Coal Combustion Rule](#) - PJM, as the independent system operator and planning authority for the grid spanning 13 states and the District of Columbia, last week asked the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to coordinate the timing of proposed coal plant outages as generators plan upgrades or retirements in response to the EPA's new Coal Combustion Residual Rule.

[Energy agency: 'Radical action' needed to hit climate goals](#) - The world must take "radical action" by investing \$5.7 trillion in private and public money each year through 2030 to shift away from fossil fuels and ensure the planetary warming they cause doesn't pass dangerous thresholds, the International Renewable Energy Agency says.

[Ukraine war drives US, EU deal to undercut Russian energy](#) - With stunning speed, Russia's war in Ukraine is driving Western Europe into the outstretched arms of the United States again, especially apparent when President Joe Biden offered a major expansion of natural gas shipments to his European Union counterpart Friday.

[Ukraine war could extend bump in US coal use, but utilities remain confident in decarbonization path](#) - The U.S. power sector's success since 2005 in reducing carbon dioxide emissions (CO₂) was slowed in 2021 as market factors now being reproduced by the war in Ukraine forced more use of coal.

['I think we have a wake-up call right now'](#) — FERC's Phillips touts transmission's reliability benefits - Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Commissioner Willie Phillips highlighted the reliability and resilience benefits of interregional transmission projects Thursday at the American Council on Renewable Energy's Policy Forum in his first public speaking engagement since joining the commission.

[US coal sector takes steps toward greener future](#) - U.S. coal miners are experimenting with greener business projects as long-term demand for the carbon-intensive fuel collapses around them.

[Coal plant owners seek to shut 3.2 GW in PJM in face of economic, regulatory and market pressures](#) - Power plant owners started the process of potentially retiring 3,228 MW of coal-fired generation in the PJM Interconnection's footprint this month, according to the grid operator's generator deactivation list. Another 1,024 MW of coal shut down last year.

[U.S. company devises method to use coal waste to power crypto](#) - The vast amounts of electricity needed to mine bitcoin has ignited a debate about whether the energy behind the operation is worth the potential environmental costs.

[Nearly 27% of US coal mined in 2021 went to plants set to retire this decade](#) - U.S. coal producers are running out of customers and the situation is likely to get worse.

[EIA projects that renewable generation will supply 44% of U.S. electricity by 2050](#) - In our Annual Energy Outlook 2022 (AEO2022) Reference case, which reflects current laws and regulations, we project that the share of U.S. power generation from renewables will increase from 21% in 2021 to 44% in 2050.

[DOE Invests \\$2.2 Million to Develop High-Strength Building Materials, Providing New, Clean Uses for Coal Waste](#) - Today, the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE's) Office of Fossil Energy and Carbon Management (FECM) announced \$2.2 million in funding for a project that will produce high-strength, lightweight building materials made from domestic coal waste.

[Recycling coal - E-CAPP looks at coal waste for strategic minerals supply](#) - A team of Virginia energy officials, mining/energy industry companies and colleges is looking at how recycling coal waste can provide needed minerals and metals for high-tech products.

[Coal Use Rises, Prices Soar as War Impacts Energy Markets](#) - The war in Ukraine is having a global impact on energy prices, not only driving the cost of oil higher, but also sending coal prices to record levels as demand for the fuel grows during a period of diminished supply.

[Why utilities didn't join the Supreme Court case against EPA](#) - Power companies aren't supporting the Republican-led fight in the Supreme Court against EPA's climate authority.

[PJM rejects generator trade group request to bar some renewables from capacity auction](#) - The PJM Interconnection's board on Friday rejected a request it bar some renewable energy resources from the grid operator's upcoming capacity auction.

[In Virginia, abandoned coal mines are transformed into solar farms](#) - Six old mining sites owned by the Nature Conservancy will be some of the first utility-scale solar farms in the region — and the nonprofit group hopes the model can be replicated nationwide.

[What the Russia crisis means for U.S. electricity mix](#) - Gasoline prices have spiked in the aftermath of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, but the effects of the conflict are also spilling into the U.S. electricity sector, with implications for greenhouse gas emissions and energy policy.

[Market Transitions: The MOPR Merry-Go-Round](#) - The PJM Interconnection's Minimum Offer Price Rule (MOPR) was introduced in 2006 as a floor to bar new generators from artificially depressing capacity auction clearing prices through below-cost bids.

[Repowering Provides New Purpose for Existing Plants](#) - The benefits of repowering—cost savings from upgraded performance, and utilizing existing infrastructure—make it an important part of the energy landscape.

LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY ISSUES: FEDERAL

[Biden releases 1 million barrels per day from oil reserve to control gas prices](#) - President Joe Biden is ordering the release of 1 million barrels of oil per day from the nation's strategic petroleum reserve for six months, the White House said Thursday, in a bid to control energy prices that have spiked as the U.S. and allies imposed steep sanctions on Russia over its invasion of Ukraine.

[Dems press case for windfall profit tax on energy companies](#) - Democrats are ramping up their efforts to tax the profits of energy companies, part of a larger strategy to blame high gas prices on oil companies for alleged gouging after Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

[Casey, Cartwright Introduce Bipartisan Bill To Fund Abandoned Mine Treatment O&M Costs](#) - On March 30, U.S. Senators Bob Casey (D-PA) and Mike Braun (R-IN) introduced the Safeguarding Treatment for the Restoration of Ecosystems from Abandoned Mines (STREAM) Act (S. 3957) with U.S. Representatives Matt Cartwright (D-PA-8) and David McKinley (R-WV-1).

[Senate climate hawks announce 500-day energy independence plan](#) - Senate Democrats who are part of the chamber's Climate Change Task Force are calling for a multistep strategy to achieve energy independence by transitioning to renewable energy over the next 500 days.

[Biden unveils \\$5.8 trillion budget proposal with tax hikes, spending boosts](#) - President Biden on Monday unveiled ambitious proposals to reduce the nation's deficit over the next decade with tax hikes targeting the wealthy, while outlining boosts for military and domestic programs as part of a \$5.8 trillion plan to fund the government for fiscal 2023.

[SEC's Landmark Climate Disclosure Rule Weighing on Power Sector](#) - Investor-owned electric companies are thoroughly reviewing the Securities and Exchange Commission's (SEC's) broad new proposed rule that requires registrants to disclose climate-related risks and governance, and plan to remain engaged with the regulatory agency as the rulemaking continues.

[Manchin outlines energy policy objectives](#) - Sen. Joe Manchin (D-W.Va.), a key swing vote in the Senate, on Wednesday laid out some energy policies he supports.

[Senate bill directs FERC to bolster interregional transmission planning, require GHG reporting](#) - The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission would have to bolster interregional transmission planning and require greenhouse gas emissions reporting by utilities under a bill introduced Thursday by Sen. Edward Markey, D-Mass., and three other Democratic senators.

[Appeals court revives Biden climate damage cost estimate](#) - A federal appeals court has revived a Biden administration effort to account for potential damage from greenhouse gas emissions when creating rules for polluting industries.

[GOP launches probe of FERC commissioner's renewable ties](#) - Republican lawmakers are investigating a potential conflict of interest for Federal Energy Regulatory Commission member Allison Clements, adding to recent congressional pressure on the agency.

[EPA plan would limit downwind pollution from power plants](#) - The Environmental Protection Agency is proposing a plan that would restrict smokestack emissions from power plants and other industrial sources that burden downwind areas with smog-causing pollution they can't control.

[EPA plans sweeping regulatory strategy for power plants covering air, water and land pollution](#) - The Environmental Protection Agency is preparing to issue a series of proposals covering air, water and waste pollution from power generators, especially coal-fired power plants, EPA Administrator Michael Regan said Thursday.

LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY ISSUES: STATE

[RGGI gets House vote, Senate airing](#) - The debate rages on over Pennsylvania's possible entry into the Northeast Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, with the economic impact of RGGI being discussed in a Senate committee hearing room, while on the House floor another attempt to get legislative control of the RGGI process was being approved by a largely party-line vote.

[Pa. GOP senators file for injunction to block Gov. Wolf's carbon-cutting plan for power plants](#) - A Pennsylvania court is considering a petition by state Senate Republican leaders to block the Wolf administration from putting fees and a declining cap on carbon dioxide emissions from the state's coal- and gas-fired power plants.

[Independent Analysis Concludes RGGI Carbon Tax Could Increase Pennsylvania Electricity Costs 3.8x More Than Wolf's Projections](#) - Impartial analysis from the Independent Fiscal Office (IFO) projects the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) could nearly quadruple new electricity costs for consumers, Sens. Gene Yaw (R-23) and John Yudichak (I-14) said today.

[Harrisburg is set for a makeover amid retirement wave and a busy primary season](#) - Between new maps and an engaged, angry electorate, the 253-member Pennsylvania General Assembly could look dramatically different at this time next year.

[Pennsylvania congressional district map lawsuit ends quietly](#) - The remnants of a federal lawsuit by Republicans challenging Pennsylvania's new congressional districts were dropped Tuesday, three weeks after the U.S. Supreme Court declined to intervene and stop the plan.

[Pennsylvania Republican lawmakers advance energy bills amid concern over prices, Russia-Ukraine war](#) - With the Russia-Ukraine war and soaring gasoline prices as the backdrop, a Republican-led House committee on Monday advanced a slew of energy-related proposals in the face of Democratic opposition.

[DEP looks to add 40 staff to oversee water programs](#) - Lawmakers in Harrisburg have wrapped up budget hearings and are now working on a spending plan for the next fiscal year.

[Independent Fiscal Office update casts doubt on Wolf's rosy budget outlook](#) - An update from the Independent Fiscal Office will give Republicans more reason to criticize Democratic Gov. Tom Wolf's proposed budget.

[Capital Area Lawmakers Introduce Bill to Prohibit Use of ESG as a Credit Score, Diamond Says](#) - American financial giants are using social justice scores to determine eligibility to important monetary tools with the purpose of compelling certain behavior by businesses or be crushed by competitors. Reps. Russ Diamond (R-Lebanon), Greg Rothman (R-Cumberland) and Perry Stambaugh (R-Perry/Cumberland) have introduced legislation to prohibit this abhorrent practice.

[Pennsylvania is revising its environmental justice policy. Here's what's changing](#) - It's your last chance to comment on the state's policy for engagement with residents of poor communities and communities of color that face disproportionate environmental hazards.

[Pennsylvania No. 1 electricity exporter among 50 states](#) - Pennsylvania exported more megawatt hours of electricity than any other state in the union and is the largest electricity exporter of any in the region, according to a report Monday by the Independent Fiscal Office.

[Senators Mastriano and Hutchinson propose the "PA Energy Independence Act"](#) - Harrisburg- Senator Doug Mastriano (PA-33) and Senator Scott Hutchinson (PA-21) announced today that they will soon introduce legislation to stabilize energy costs for Pennsylvanians, protect against economic and international volatility in the long term, and utilize Pennsylvania's unique natural resources to finally cement the commonwealth as a premier energy powerhouse.

[Applications Now Being Accepted For 2022 ARIPPA Mine Reclamation Grants](#) - The Anthracite Region Independence Power Producers Association (ARIPPA) and the Western PA and Eastern PA Coalitions for Abandoned Mine Reclamation are again accepting applications for mine reclamation grants.

[Casey, Cartwright announce more funding for abandoned mine land reclamation](#) - U.S. Sen. Bob Casey and U.S. Rep. Matt Cartwright have announced that Pennsylvania will receive more than \$26 million in funding for abandoned mine land (AML) reclamation efforts in fiscal year 2022.

[Wolf, GOP spar over Pa. gas exports, Russian imports](#) - With war raging in Ukraine, Democratic Gov. Tom Wolf and Pennsylvania Republicans are in a war of words over how Pennsylvania and the United States fit into the international energy market.

[Gov. Justice appoints new Public Energy Authority member, prompts renewed concern board is tilted in favor of industry over environment](#) - The West Virginia Public Energy Authority has a new member.

[West Virginia Legislature Passes Measure to Cut Off Banks That Refuse to Service Coal, Oil Industries](#) - The West Virginia legislature recently passed a bill that would allow the state treasurer to restrict the state's business with financial institutions that adopt corporate policies to cut off financing for the coal, oil, and natural gas industries.

[Senate to consider industry-approved bill increasing coal mine permit fees to boost funding for mine regulators](#) - The state Senate is scheduled to consider a bill that would increase fees associated with surface coal mine permits to boost funding for surface mining regulators.

[GOP pushes to strip safety measures from West Virginia mining law](#) - West Virginia Republicans forged ahead Tuesday with an overhaul of mine safety regulation that would strip the state of its ability to cite coal companies for unsafe working conditions.