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ARIPPA PERIODIC MEDIA NEWS – 5-2-22

(News clips from the previous month)

CFB, COAL REFUSE, ENERGY INDUSTRY

[Trout Stocking occurs at Blacklick Creek](#) - The Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC) coordinated with ARIPPA to highlight the significant water quality improvements achieved in the North Branch of Blacklick Creek in Cambria County.

[For the first time, US renewable energy output exceeds nuclear generation, EIA finds](#) - The growing number of large solar and wind energy projects resulted in renewable generation beating out nuclear energy last year, the U.S. Energy Information Administration said on Tuesday.

[MISO prepares for 'worst-case scenarios,' heads into summer with insufficient firm generation](#) - The Midcontinent Independent System Operator is projecting a 5 GW shortfall in firm generation to meet projected load this summer, and it is working with member companies "to prepare for the worst-case scenarios."

[PJM Members Endorse Plans To Revamp and Improve the Generation Interconnection Process](#) - PJM Interconnection members have overwhelmingly endorsed plans to speed up generation interconnection requests, improve project cost certainty, and significantly improve the process by which new and upgraded generation resources are introduced onto the electrical grid in 13 states and the District of Columbia.

[Coal is booming, but a mining company plans for its end](#) - These should be high times for America's coal miners.

[Russia's gas supply cuts in Europe could fuel more US coal-to-gas switching](#) - The US power market may be in for another wave of coal-to-gas switching this summer as potential replacement fuel demand from Western Europe drives global coal prices higher.

[PJM Releases Annual Emission Rates Report](#) - PJM has released its annual Emission Rates Report for generators in its footprint, showing both average and marginal emission rates for carbon dioxide, nitrogen oxides and sulfur dioxide.

[Global coal plant capacity edges up in 2021, hitting climate -report](#) - The global capacity of power plants fired by coal, the fossil fuel that emits the most carbon dioxide when burned, rose nearly 1% last year as the world recovered from the COVID-19 pandemic, according to a research report by a U.S. environmental group.

[Two US Electrical Grid Operators Claim That New Rules For Coal Ash Could Make Electricity Supplies Less Reliable](#) - Two of the nation's grid operators are warning the Environmental Protection Agency that enforcement of coal ash regulations poses risks to the reliability of electrical service over a large part of the country.

[Methane from low-producing US oil, gas sites equal to 88 coal plants: study](#) - A new study by the Environmental Defense Fund found that nearly half of methane pollution released from the US oil and natural gas industry comes from low-producing and mostly older wells responsible for just 6% of the country's oil and gas production.

[Scranton Times Guest Essay: Seize The Rare Opportunity To Resolve Toxic Mine Drainage](#) - Ask anyone in the communities where coal mining once dominated: acid mine drainage is a major problem.

[Battle over carbon capture as tool to fight climate change](#) - Polly Glover realized her son had asthma when he was nine months old. Now 26, he carries an inhaler in his pocket whenever he's out and about in Prairieville, Louisiana, part of Ascension Parish.

[Wind power overtook coal, nuclear for first time on March 29](#) - Wind power was the No. 2 source for power generation in the U.S. for the first time ever on March 29, surpassing coal and nuclear power, the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA) said Thursday.

[Natural gas-fired generation peaked in 2020 amid growing renewable energy production: IEEFA](#) - Natural gas-fired power production likely peaked in 2020 and will gradually be driven lower by higher gas prices and competition from growing amounts of wind and solar capacity, according to the Institute for Energy Economics and Finance, a nonprofit group that supports moving away from fossil fuels.

[Global renewable power prices soar on heavy demand, chaotic supply chain](#) - Prices for wind and solar power in major global markets have climbed nearly 30% in a year as developers have struggled with chaotic supply chains and surging costs for everything from shipping to parts to labor, according to a report published on Wednesday.

[Reliability concerns drive need for energy market design reforms, but regions diverge in FERC proceeding](#) - Different changes can provide the flexibility needed to serve each region's rising variable resources, load and costs, stakeholders say.

[Activists blockade Grant Town coal-fired plant to protest Manchin blocking climate legislation while making millions from coal](#) - Activists say they accomplished their mission of calling attention to what they contend has been U.S. Sen. Joe Manchin, D-W.Va., putting the best interests of the coal industry he profits from before the best interests of underprivileged West Virginians.

[Arrests at WV protest denouncing Manchin coal industry ties](#) - Grassroots groups blocking the entrance to a West Virginia power plant denounced Sen. Joe Manchin's ties to the coal industry, and several arrests were made.

[EU's full ban on Russian coal to be pushed back to mid-August -sources](#) - European Union envoys are set to approve on Thursday a ban on Russian coal that would take full effect from mid-August, a month later than initially planned, two EU sources told Reuters, following pressure from Germany to delay the measure.

[Homer City Coal Plant to Keep All Three Units Operating](#) - The Homer City coal-fired power plant will continue operating, according to multiple news sources in western Pennsylvania, where the plant is located.

[Does the nation's first CO2 cap and trade system work?](#) - Seventeen years after its founding, the nation's first cap-and-trade system for greenhouse gases has become a flashpoint across the eastern United States, with lawmakers in two states vowing to exit the program and environmental advocates calling to reform it.

[Storms batter aging power grid as climate disasters spread](#) - Power outages from severe weather have doubled over the past two decades across the U.S., as a warming climate stirs more destructive storms that cripple broad segments of the nation's aging electrical grid, according to an Associated Press analysis of government data.

[US coal power to fall 45% by decade's end in shift from dirtiest fossil fuel](#) - At least 45% of U.S. coal power is set to disappear by the end of the decade, a figure that will likely rise as more utilities conclude their coal-fired plants no longer make financial sense to operate, according to the Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis.

[Springdale power plant shuts down, demolition work to begin](#) - Cheswick Generating Station in Springdale is shutting down today after more than 50 years of operation.

LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY ISSUES: FEDERAL

[Biden order to boost mining may not have quick payoff](#) - President Joe Biden is turning to a Cold War-era law to boost production of lithium and other minerals used to power electric vehicles, but experts say the move by itself is unlikely to ensure the robust domestic mining Biden seeks as he promotes cleaner energy sources.

[GOP-led states ask Supreme Court to block key Biden climate accounting measure](#) - A group of Republican-led states on Thursday asked the Supreme Court to reinstate a court order blocking a key climate accounting measure put in place by the Biden administration amid a legal dispute with potentially high stakes for climate change regulation.

[Danly calls FERC transmission proposal coercive and discriminatory, highlights roadblock](#) - It's unlikely the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission will be able to show that existing transmission rates are unjust, a finding that would be needed to approve a pending proposed transmission planning and cost allocation rule, according to FERC Commissioner James Danly.

[DOE advances \\$2.3B grid resilience funding program for states, tribes](#) - The Department of Energy is seeking comments on its plan to give states, Native American tribes and U.S. territories \$459 million a year over five years to bolster grid resilience in the face of rising numbers of power outages driven by extreme weather.

[Biden restores stronger environmental review for federal projects](#) - The Biden administration on April 19 restored key regulations in the National Environmental Policy Act, which requires review of federal projects to assess their likely impacts on climate change and nearby communities.

[Manchin Explores Possible Energy, Climate Package With GOP](#) - Democratic Senator Joe Manchin is exploring an energy and climate package aimed at winning enough Republican support to skirt the partisan budget reconciliation process that has held hostage hundreds of billions of dollars in potential spending on related priorities.

[This Earth Day, Biden faces 'headwinds' on climate agenda](#) - One year ago, Joe Biden marked his first Earth Day as president by convening world leaders for a virtual summit on global warming that even Russian President Vladimir Putin and China's Xi Jinping attended.

[FERC proposes expanded state role in effort to spur transmission development](#) - State utility regulators would have a major role in regional transmission planning and determining how to share the costs of new transmission facilities under a Federal Energy Regulatory Commission proposal released Thursday.

[US EPA's plan for interstate smog might force even more early coal retirements](#) - With the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's climate authority over the nation's power sector in legal limbo, the Biden administration unveiled a plan in March for addressing interstate smog pollution that is projected to drive 18 GW in incremental coal-fired power plant retirements by 2030.

[EPA Proposes Tighter Controls on NOx Emissions from Power Plants, Industrial Sources](#) - A sweeping new proposed rule published in the Federal Register by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on April 6 establishes new nitrogen oxide (NOx) emissions budgets that will require fossil fuel-fired power plants in 25 states to participate in an allowance-based ozone season trading program starting in 2023.

[EPA to Step Up Federal Actions in PA for Water Pollution](#) - After the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency reviewed Pennsylvania's updated plan to address pollution reduction goals for the Chesapeake Bay watershed, it found that the plan falls short of those goals largely due to the lack of resources provided by the state.

[Area congressmen promote use of Pennsylvania gas and coal](#) - U.S. Rep. Glenn "GT" Thompson, R-Howard Township, said Thursday he had introduced House Continuing Resolution or H. Con. Res. 85, recognizing Pennsylvania's abundant natural resources as the United States addresses its energy security and lessens its dependence on foreign oil.

[Biden waiving ethanol rule in bid to lower gasoline prices](#) - President Joe Biden is visiting corn-rich Iowa on Tuesday to announce he'll suspend a federal rule preventing the sale of higher ethanol blend gasoline this summer, as his administration tries to tamp down prices at the pump that have spiked during Russia's war with Ukraine.

[Manchin boosts mineral research — and the coal industry](#) - Sen. Joe Manchin has become a leading voice in Congress calling for greater federal spending to bolster domestic supplies of critical minerals used in clean energy technology.

[Senate confirms Jackson as first Black female Supreme Court justice](#) - The Senate made history on Thursday when it confirmed Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson to the Supreme Court, handing President Biden a significant win.

[State treasurers to Biden: Prioritize U.S. energy production](#) - Treasurers and other financial officers from 22 states on Tuesday warned President Joe Biden about the need for U.S. energy independence as gas prices remain near record highs and the Russian war in Ukraine continues, impacting global oil supplies.

[FERC details climate, environmental justice strategy](#) - The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission yesterday laid out its priorities for the next several years in a new long-term strategy, with a heightened focus on addressing climate change and environmental justice as well as improving public participation.

LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY ISSUES: STATE

[Pa. DEP: Shell, Archaea Energy take early steps toward underground carbon storage](#) - Two companies, Shell and Archaea Energy, have met with state environmental regulators to discuss preliminary plans for developing Pennsylvania's first wells to store carbon dioxide.

[Rep. Rapp sponsors legislation on wind, solar energy liabilities](#) - Legislation sponsored by Rep. Kathy Rapp aimed at protecting landowners and high-valued farmlands against long-term liabilities associated with wind and solar energy development was reported out of committee on Tuesday.

[Coal interests sue to block Pennsylvania's carbon policy](#) - Coal-related interests sued on Monday to block the centerpiece of Gov. Tom Wolf's plan to fight climate change, a carbon-pricing policy that will impose a cost for emitting planet-warming carbon dioxide from fossil fuel-fired power plants.

[Billions in surplus have Pennsylvania lawmakers thinking business tax cut](#) - Hundreds of millions of dollars in business profit tax cuts passed the Republican-majority state House on Tuesday, and Democratic Gov. Tom Wolf said he was optimistic a final deal can be struck in the coming months.

[Big greenhouse gas state taking biggest climate step yet](#) - More than two years after he started work on it, Gov. Tom Wolf is set to enact the centerpiece of his plan to fight climate change, making Pennsylvania the first major fossil fuel state to adopt a carbon pricing policy — but it might be a short-lived victory.

[Pennsylvania's climate rule met with applause and court threats upon finalization](#) - The rule to let Pennsylvania join a cap-and-trade program that aims to cut power plant pollution met with praise and condemnation as it crossed the finish line.

[Pennsylvania Coal Companies Acknowledged for Mine Reclamation Enhancements on Earth Day](#) - The Pennsylvania Coal Alliance (PCA) is celebrating Earth Day 2022 by recognizing the efforts of member companies who made a commitment to reclaiming coal mine sites.

[PA GreenGov Initiatives Lower State Government Energy Use By More Than \\$8 Million In 3 Years](#) - On April 15, Gov. Tom Wolf released the Pennsylvania GreenGov Council 2021 Annual Report, marking further progress in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's work to promote sustainability and environmentally-friendly policies.

[Solar power bond requirement passes senate](#) - A divided Senate has approved decommissioning and financial requirements for solar generation projects in Pennsylvania.

[Billions of dollars in federal aid on the way to attack abandoned mine pollution in Pa., elsewhere](#) - The \$1.2 trillion Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act passed by Congress last November is sending an unprecedented \$6.4 billion for abandoned mine lands cleanup to Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia and West Virginia over the next 15 years.

[Senate ERE Committee Approves Mineral Impact Study, Bill to Redirect Funds to Postmining Water Clean-Up](#) - The Senate Environmental Resources and Energy (ERE) Committee took action today on a proposed critical mineral impact study and a bill that redirects funding toward postmining water clean-up, Chairman Gene Yaw (R-23) said.

[Pa. acid mine drainage cleanup set for boost as Bob Casey, bipartisan lawmakers move to tweak infrastructure law](#) - Pennsylvania is on the cusp of receiving an unprecedented amount of federal funding to clean up the dangerous and polluting remnants of past coal mining.