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ARIPPA PERIODIC MEDIA NEWS – 6-2-22

(News clips from the previous month)

CFB, COAL REFUSE, ENERGY INDUSTRY

[‘More, more, more’: Biden’s clean grid hinges on power lines](#) - With its signature climate legislation roadblocked in Congress, the Biden administration is seeking an unprecedented expansion of high-voltage electric lines to open new paths to wind and solar energy.

[FERC to monitor gas, power markets for manipulation as forward summer electricity prices jump up to 233%](#) - With wholesale electricity prices set to soar this summer, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission will closely monitor the natural gas and power markets for possible market manipulation, according to FERC Chairman Richard Glick.

[FERC commissioners respond to elevated power outage risks across two-thirds of US](#) - Two commissioners pointed to the renewable energy shift as a key culprit in the “reliability crisis” while others called out extreme weather and drought.

[NERC Warns of Mounting Reliability Risks, Urges Preparation for Challenging Summer](#) - An unprecedented array of risks—ranging from capacity shortfalls, extreme weather, extended drought, supply chain issues, cybersecurity, solar PV tripping, fuel constraints, to wildfires—could imperil the reliability of nearly every North American bulk power system (BPS) region west of the Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO) this summer, the North American Electric Reliability Corp. (NERC) warned in a newly released summer assessment.

[PJM sees need for thermal power plants to protect against blackout risks amid rising electrification](#) - Combining about 33 GW of electrification load with a 70% carbon-free generating fleet sharply shifts the risks of blackouts to the winter from the summer, reinforcing the need for enough fossil-fueled and nuclear power plants to meet demand, the PJM Interconnection said in a report Tuesday.

[In coal country, a new chance to clean up a toxic legacy](#) - Waste from abandoned and bankrupt mines has contaminated more than 12,000 miles of waterways. Now states are looking at how to extract critical elements from those waters to try to offset the high cost of cleanup.

[Last coal-fired power plant in Delaware gets a reprieve](#) - Regional grid manager PJM has recommended that the last coal-fired unit at the Indian River Power Plant near Millsboro remain open into 2026.

[Analysis-U.S. Coal Companies Struggle to Cash in on Europe Crunch](#) - U.S. coal producers are seeking to boost exports to cash in on soaring prices since Russia's invasion of Ukraine but face big headwinds including shipping bottlenecks, labor shortages, and a dismal long-term outlook discouraging investments in new mines.

[Power prices jumped 51% in PJM, 85% in New England in Q1 due to rising gas prices](#) - Electricity prices jumped 51%, to \$80.28/MWh, in the first quarter of 2022 from \$53.30/MWh in that period a year ago in the PJM Interconnection wholesale market, partly driven by an increase in natural gas prices, the grid operator’s market monitor said in a report released Thursday.

[U.S. energy-related CO2 emissions rose 6% in 2021](#) - In 2021, U.S. energy-related carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions increased by 296 million metric tons (MMmt), or 6%, compared with 2020 levels.

[PJM releases road map for creating 'grid of the future' to handle coming renewables, storage wave](#) - The PJM Interconnection has developed a roadmap for handling the various changes affecting its system, including the retirement of fossil-fueled generation, growth in renewable energy and storage, and the electrification of the transportation and building sectors.

[PJM Prepared To Meet Summer Electricity Demand](#) - PJM Interconnection, the nation's largest electric grid operator, has released its summer forecast for electricity demand and says it has enough supply to meet summer electricity needs for the 65 million people it serves in 13 states and the District of Columbia.

[Federal judge gives initial approval to FirstEnergy paying \\$180 million to settle House Bill 6 lawsuit](#) - A federal judge has granted preliminary approval to a proposed \$180 million settlement between FirstEnergy shareholders and a group of company executives who ran the Akron-based utility during the House Bill 6 scandal.

[Nuclear plant owner Talen Energy Supply files for bankruptcy](#) - Talen Energy Supply, the owner of the Susquehanna nuclear power plant in Salem Twp., has filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy.

[FERC, state regulators eye options for clearing up interconnection 'quagmire,' allocating upgrade costs](#) - Federal and state utility regulators on Friday explored options for reducing the nationwide interconnection queue backlog, with general consensus that studying interconnection requests in clusters could help speed the process.

[California says it needs more power to keep the lights on](#) - California energy officials on Friday issued a sober forecast for the state's electrical grid, saying it lacks sufficient capacity to keep the lights on this summer and beyond if heatwaves, wildfires or other extreme events take their toll.

[Angus Beef Herd Transforms Mining Landscape](#) - When Matt Belding set out to build a beef grazing operation in the heart of coal country, the rocky, barren landscape proved to be unforgiving.

[Major grid dilemma: Treat fossil fuels like renewables?](#) - Last year, the nation's largest grid operator scaled back the use of a controversial grid rule that wind and solar developers claimed unfairly favored fossil fuels.

[ERCOT, MISO Warn of Potential Power Supply Shortfalls](#) - The Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT) and the Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO) over the past week separately expressed concerns about power supply uncertainties in the face of upcoming warmer-than-normal temperatures.

[Carbon capture takes center stage, but is its promise an illusion?](#) - With his climate agenda stalled in Congress, President Joe Biden has managed to win billions in federal spending for one pillar of his platform that is gaining increased attention globally: carbon capture.

[Power plants running low on coal ahead of summer peak, industry tells regulators](#) - Representatives from the coal industry testified in Washington Wednesday about rail service issues that could put a strain on the nation's power grid.

LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY ISSUES: FEDERAL

[Justices won't block Biden policy on 'social cost of carbon'](#) - The Supreme Court on Thursday allowed the Biden administration to use a higher estimate, challenged by Republican-led states, for calculating damages to people and the environment from greenhouse gas emissions.

[Climate-related disclosure annually costs companies \\$677,000 on average](#) - Companies annually pay on average \$677,000 for reporting on the risks from climate change, according to results of a study released as the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) pushes forward with a proposal to require detailed climate-related disclosures.

[Senate fight escalates over FERC chair. What will Manchin do?](#) - The head of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission has teed up an ambitious policy agenda for the next several years, with implications for renewable energy, carbon emissions and pipelines.

[Interior unveils guidance for getting coal mine cleanup money](#) - The Biden administration has unveiled guidance for states and some Indigenous communities seeking to tap \$725 million in grant funding to clean up abandoned coal mine sites.

[EPA air nominee faces high-stakes confirmation hearing](#) - As Joe Goffman prepares for a pivotal Senate hearing this week on his bid to head EPA's air office, some traditional alliances have scrambled in his favor, courtesy of both the politics of climate change and relationships forged over decades in the trenches of federal environmental policymaking.

[Manchin, Murkowski Press Administration On Failure To Implement Critical Mineral Mandates](#) - U.S. Senators Joe Manchin (D-WV), Chairman of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, and Lisa Murkowski (R-AK), a senior member of the committee, expressed their concerns regarding the Biden Administration's delayed implementation of the critical mineral provisions contained in the Energy Act of 2020 and the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.

[White House vows to speed up environmental review for federal projects](#) - Biden administration officials said Wednesday they will tweak the federal review process for environmental permits in an effort to speed up infrastructure construction for energy and other projects.

[DOE plans to buy capacity on proposed power lines in first step for \\$2.5B transmission funding program](#) - The Department of Energy plans to launch a solicitation this year to buy capacity on proposed transmission lines, a move designed to help projects move forward by giving them increased financial certainty, according to a request for information released Tuesday.

[Mooney ousts GOP colleague McKinley, who drew Trump's wrath](#) - Rep. Alex X. Mooney, boosted by support from former President Donald Trump, defeated Rep. David B. McKinley on Tuesday in the Republican primary in West Virginia's redrawn 2nd District.

[Biden Admin's Anti-Mining Policies at Odds With Green Energy Goals, Experts Say](#) - President Joe Biden has made two commitments on green energy. One is to dramatically increase the use of green tech like electric vehicles (EVs), windmills and solar power. The other is to build that new tech here in America.

[Biden to crack down on polluters in poor, minority areas](#) - Following through on a campaign promise, the Biden administration on Thursday announced a wide-ranging enforcement strategy aimed at holding industrial polluters accountable for damage done to poor and minority communities.

[U.S. Energy Department to commit \\$2.25 bln to carbon storage program](#) - The U.S. Department of Energy intends to commit \$2.25 billion for projects to store carbon dioxide underground and help fight climate change, it said on Thursday.

[FERC chair backs 'transmission monitor' for grid build-out](#) - The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission should consider establishing an independent monitor to help oversee the build-out of the power grid and protect consumers, FERC Chair Richard Glick said yesterday.

[Dems grimace at Manchin's bipartisan energy detour](#) - Republicans want to break the majority's resolve to pass another party-line bill. But the West Virginia centrist is still talking across the aisle.

LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY ISSUES: STATE

[Pa.'s environmental justice policy gets revamped — and scrutinized](#) - The state Department of Environmental Protection's first update to its environmental justice policy in nearly 20 years is drawing rebukes from industry and Republican legislators while prompting environmental and citizens' groups to call for stronger protections for communities disproportionately burdened by environmental hazards.

[High-profile GOP primary losses could make passing Pa.'s next budget painful](#) - The primary defeat of one of Harrisburg's top budget negotiators and the potential loss of another could embolden a contingent of conservative state House Republicans to derail the annual process.

[Gov. Wolf Announces DEP Secretary Patrick McDonnell to Depart Wolf Administration, Names Ramez Ziadeh as New Acting Secretary](#) - Governor Tom Wolf announced that Department of Environmental Protection Secretary Patrick McDonnell will leave his position on July 2 after 25 years of service with the commonwealth. The governor also announced his intention to name Ramez Ziadeh to serve as Acting Secretary.

[Treasurer Garrity Supports Lawsuit Opposing RGGI](#) - Treasurer Stacy Garrity today announced her support for a lawsuit seeking to prevent Pennsylvania from being forced into the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI).

[Eleven incumbent lawmakers' re-election hopes likely dashed in Tuesday's primary](#) - Nearly a dozen incumbent lawmakers lost their re-election bids in Tuesday's primary election including one, possibly two, long-time Republicans who hold top caucus leadership posts.

[Casey Announces Over \\$26 Million for Abandoned Mine Land Revitalization in PA](#) - Today, U.S. Senator Bob Casey (D-PA) is announcing that Pennsylvania will receive \$26.63 million from the Abandoned Mine Land Economic Revitalization (AMLER) Program from the U.S. Department of the Interior.

[Gov. Wolf Announces Aggressive Push to Secure Clean Hydrogen Hub in Pennsylvania](#) - Governor Tom Wolf today announced that Pennsylvania is working with energy, organized labor, and environmental stakeholders to support a path forward for industrial sector decarbonization with an emphasis on the deployment of clean hydrogen and carbon capture, utilization, and storage technologies and to ensure that US Department of Energy invests in Pennsylvania for a Regional Clean Hydrogen Hub funded under the 2021 Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL).

[Casey, DEP highlight importance of Infrastructure Act and abandoned mine reclamation](#) - Northumberland County residents deserve projects that reclaim abandoned mines and stimulate the local economy, according to U.S. Sen. Bob Casey on Friday.

[Pennsylvania electric generation costs increasing up to 45% on June 1](#) - Pennsylvania regulators are warning consumers that most utilities will be increasing their prices for electric generation on June 1.

[Court battle over Pennsylvania climate rule set to begin](#) - The battle over the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative is now in the courts.

[CBF Blog: Acid Mine Drainage - The Legacy Of Coal Mining A Key Source Of Harm To Pennsylvania's Headwaters](#) - As it ambles southward out of Cambria County toward Altoona, the headwaters of Kittanning Run are like other coldwater fisheries in Pennsylvania. The stream is clear and supports diverse aquatic life.

[Governor election will decide Pennsylvania's membership in RGGI](#) - Action in the General Assembly was not enough to stop the publication of regulations to enter Pennsylvania into the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, but legal action could stop it in the future.

[Lisa Daniels Now Serving As DEP's Acting Deputy For Water Programs Overseeing Chesapeake Bay, Other Water-Related Initiatives](#) - Lisa Daniels has been named Acting Deputy for Water Programs at the Department of Environmental Protection.

[Gov. Wolf: April 2022 Revenues Highest Ever Collected, Money in Bank will Cover Historic Investments in Pennsylvanians](#) - Today, Governor Tom Wolf announced that Pennsylvania's strong fiscal standing continues to improve month after month, paving the way for investments that will lower costs for Pennsylvanians. Pennsylvania collected \$6.5 billion in General Fund revenue in April, which was \$1.8 billion, or 38.7 percent, over estimate, and the most tax revenue ever collected in a single month. Fiscal year-to-date General Fund collections total \$40.7 billion, which is \$4.5 billion, or 12.4 percent, above estimate.