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ARIPPA PERIODIC MEDIA NEWS – 7-5-22

(News clips from the previous month)

CFB, COAL REFUSE, ENERGY INDUSTRY

[US power capacity markets in flux amid energy transition toward renewables](#) - Power grid operators, market participants and stakeholders in the eastern US are in the process of updating capacity market designs to account for the growing share of renewable energy entering these markets.

[PJM clarifies events surrounding recent Ohio load shedding, power price spikes](#) - PJM Interconnection June 29 clarified the events that led to multiple recent load shed declarations in Ohio and the operations it took to maintain power system control amid hot weather and power line failures that resulted in power price spikes.

[Summer is here. Can the grid keep the lights on?](#) - As a heat wave grips large parts of the country and sets heat records coinciding with the start of summer, the U.S. electricity grid has held up.

[NMA: Voters support action to preserve coal fleet and ramp up domestic coal production](#) - Polling released by the National Mining Association (NMA) shows, in the face of rising warnings over rolling blackouts, nearly eight in 10 voters – including a majority of Democrats, Republicans and Independents – want the US government to take action to prevent premature closings of functioning power plants until replacement generating capacity is built and online.

[Green energy policies will push prices higher this summer, FERC commissioners warn](#) - Federal and state policies designed to rapidly decarbonize the U.S. economy will lead already-high energy prices to surge further this summer, according to current and former federal energy officials.

[PJM capacity prices fall 32% with more nuclear, solar capacity clearing in the latest auction](#) - Capacity prices across most of the PJM Interconnection fell 32% to a 10-year low of \$34.13/MW-day from \$50/MW-day in the previous auction, possibly reflecting recent rule changes, the grid operator said Tuesday.

[Salena Zito: Half-built Pa. solar farm shows renewables aren't ready for prime time](#) - The pitch to the people of Cambria County when the Maple Hill Solar Farm was first announced two years ago was that the \$200 million project would create 150 megawatts of electricity while eliminating 150,000 tons of carbon emissions that fossil fuel plants would have emitted — and that it would employ 250 workers at peak construction.

[Companies weigh in on proposed SEC climate disclosure rule](#) - The Securities and Exchange Commission moved closer Friday to a final rule that would dramatically alter what public companies tell shareholders about climate change — both the risks it poses to their operations and their own contributions to the problem.

[EIA expects significant increases in wholesale electricity prices this summer](#) - In our latest Short-Term Energy Outlook (STEO), we expect prices this summer in wholesale electricity markets will significantly increase over last summer's prices.

[PJM proposes 'first-ready, first-served' interconnection review process, steps to clear backlog](#) - The PJM Interconnection is proposing to overhaul its interconnection study process by moving to a “first-ready, first-served” approach that reviews proposals and assigns upgrade costs in clusters, according to a Tuesday filing at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

[MISO faces growing capacity shortfalls in northern, central regions, annual survey finds](#) - Starting next summer, the Midcontinent Independent System Operator faces a possible 2.6-GW capacity shortfall, which could grow to 10.9 GW in 2027, according to an annual survey jointly released Friday by the grid operator and the Organization of MISO States.

[EIA expects U.S. natural gas prices to remain high through 2022](#) - In our June 2022 Short-Term Energy Outlook (STEO), we forecast that U.S. natural gas spot prices will increase again this month and then remain high through the rest of 2022.

[PJM Annual Report Reflects Strategic Progress in 2021](#) - PJM Interconnection's 2021 Annual Report is now available on PJM.com.

[Mine cleanup advocates welcome WV senators' support to fight acid mine drainage, eye other mine impact bills](#) - Momentum is building for federal legislation aimed at strengthening abandoned coal mine reclamation provisions that advocates say would go a long way toward cleaning up Appalachia.

[Remember When: Soon-to-be-demolished smokestack opened in 1970 at generating station in Springdale](#) - On July 2, 1967, the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission approved the construction of a new power generating plant for Duquesne Light Co.

[New York redevelopment company buys Bruce Mansfield Power Plant in Beaver County](#) - A New York redevelopment company has bought the Bruce Mansfield Power Plant in Beaver County in hopes to revitalize the area and create new jobs.

[US Power Tracker: PJM May electricity, gas prices jump nearly 200% on year](#) - PJM Interconnection wholesale power prices in May jumped as much as 40% from April and surged 188% from a year ago as natural gas prices climbed about 21% from April with higher power demand.

[CO 2 Allowances Sold for \\$13.90 in 56th RGGI Auction](#) - The eleven participating states in the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI), the nation's first market-based regulatory effort to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) pollution, today announced the results of their 56th auction of carbon dioxide (CO 2) allowances.

[The world may be careening toward a 1970s-style energy crisis – or worse](#) - The world is grappling with gravity-defying energy price spikes on everything from gasoline and natural gas to coal. Some fear this may just be the beginning.

[A summer of blackouts? Wheezing power grid leaves states at risk.](#) - The nation's power grid is under stress like never before, with regulators warning that the kind of rolling outages that are now familiar to California and Texas could be far more widespread as hot summer weather arrives.

['Project Reclaim' industrial site in Russell County has ribbon cutting](#) - A project that obtained funding through the Abandoned Mine Land Economic Revitalization Program had its ribbon cutting in Russell County on Wednesday.

[Optimizing Power Plant Load Flexibility](#) - The operating profiles of traditional generators has changed to manage the variability of renewable resources.

LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY ISSUES: FEDERAL

[Supreme Court Limits EPA Authority to Regulate Power Plant Emissions](#) - The U.S. Supreme Court has curbed the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) options for limiting emissions of greenhouse gases (GHG) from power plants, an important environmental decision that could impact the federal government's authority to enforce other regulations.

[EPA regional ozone proposal threatens electric reliability: RTOs, state utility regulators](#) - The Environmental Protection Agency's proposal to tighten its regional ozone transport rule could speed up the pace of power plant retirements and threaten grid reliability, according to major grid operators, at least a dozen state utility commissions, rural and public power utilities, and a group of Republican attorneys general.

[Appalachian Voices: Biden Administration Announces Programs Included In The Justice40 Initiative From 4 Agencies To Help Disadvantaged Communities](#) - On June 24, the Biden Administration announced the first list of federal programs that are part of its Justice40 initiative, representing more than 200 programs and billions of dollars in federal spending.

[FERC proposes 'first-ready, first-served' interconnection rules to help spur new generation, storage](#) - The federal agency also proposed extreme weather grid reliability requirements and reports from transmission providers on extreme weather assessments.

[Leaked list: EPA eyes closure plans for 160 coal ash ponds](#) - EPA is investigating closure plans for more than 160 unlined lagoons filled with sludge left over from burning coal that could possibly leach toxic pollutants into groundwater, according to a document obtained by E&E News.

[Can a DOE-backed project help save the grid?](#) - As the nation braces for a summer of drought, heat waves and hurricanes, a group of U.S. utility planners and scientists has begun investigating how power grids should be strengthened for a future of extreme weather that they believe will only get worse.

[Mine cleanup program still lacks Biden appointee](#) - The Biden administration is preparing to dole out mine cleanup money to states and tribes under the recent bipartisan infrastructure law, but the president hasn't appointed anyone to formally oversee the program.

[MSHA Will Move To Limit Coal Miners' Exposure To Silica Dust](#) - The Mine Safety and Health Administration is implementing a new silica enforcement initiative.

[Dems bullish on climate deal as they await Manchin, Schumer](#) - Democrats are increasingly optimistic about the prospects of a revived reconciliation package, with negotiations almost entirely consolidated between Sen. Joe Manchin and Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer.

[Biden invokes Defense Production Act to boost domestic manufacturing in clean energy, grid sectors](#) - The U.S. Department of Energy aims to build up domestic production of solar panels, electric transformers, heat pumps, insulation and hydrogen-related equipment under the Defense Production Act, or DPA, determinations issued Monday by the White House.

[EPA moves to give states, tribes more power to protect water](#) - The Biden administration on Thursday proposed undoing a Trump-era rule that limited the power of states and Native American tribes to block energy projects like natural gas pipelines based on their potential to pollute rivers and streams.

[FERC expands environmental justice, equity considerations in agency decision-making, EJ counsel says](#) - The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission is working to more thoroughly consider how its decisions affect people who have historically borne the brunt of pollution and energy infrastructure, Montina Cole, FERC senior counsel for environmental justice and equity, said Wednesday.

[House Republicans unveil energy, climate strategy](#) - House Republicans are launching a new energy and climate strategy as the party seeks to win over voters ahead of the midterm elections, though green groups have immediately criticized the plans as insufficient.

[DOE launches grid interconnection initiative to cut 'gridlock' hampering clean energy progress](#) - In an effort to spur clean energy development, the U.S. Department of Energy is launching a program to improve the grid interconnection process through a partnership with utilities, grid operators, state and tribal governments, clean energy developers, energy justice organizations and other stakeholders.

LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY ISSUES: STATE

[Pennsylvania to begin fiscal year without a budget](#) - Pennsylvania's new fiscal year will begin without a state budget in place, as Gov. Tom Wolf's administration and top Republican lawmakers haltingly worked through Thursday's deadline to hammer out a roughly \$42 billion spending plan whose details were still largely being kept secret.

[What the Supreme Court's EPA ruling means for emissions in Pittsburgh and the state](#) - The U.S. Supreme Court ruled in a 6-3 vote Thursday that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency doesn't have broad power to regulate carbon emissions at power plants across the country.

[Officials say Western Pa. can lead way in clean energy industry](#) - The Pittsburgh region has a long history of energy production, from its former proliferation of coal mines to a more recent boom in natural gas, and it may be looking to add to that energy profile by transitioning to renewable and clean energy technology.

[PUC Chair Gladys Brown Dutrieuille Elected President Of Mid-Atlantic Conference Of Regulatory Utilities Commissioners](#) - On June 22, Public Utility Commission Chairman Gladys Brown Dutrieuille has been elected the new President of the Mid-Atlantic Conference of Regulatory Utilities Commissioners (MACRUC) – an organization that includes utility regulators from Delaware, the District of Columbia, Kentucky, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Virginia and West Virginia.

[Pennsylvania, East Coast governors team up with Biden for offshore wind power](#) - The White House is launching a formal partnership with 11 East Coast governors to boost the growing offshore wind industry, a key element of President Joe Biden's plan for climate change.

[Watershed jurisdictions help lower nutrient and sediment pollution entering the Bay](#) - Each year, the seven jurisdictions that make up the Chesapeake Bay watershed (Delaware, the District of Columbia, Maryland, New York, Pennsylvania, Virginia and West Virginia) report to the Chesapeake Bay Program the many conservation practices that they have installed across farmlands, cities and wastewater treatment plants to help reduce pollution flowing into their local waterways.

[House Republicans Pass Bill Giving IRRC Veto Over Final Regulations; Stacking The IRRC](#) - On June 22, House Republicans passed House Bill 2649 (Grove-R-York) by a vote of party line 110 to 89 that would amend the Regulatory Review Act to add two more legislative appointments by the Senate and House Majority Leaders to the five member Independent Regulatory Review Commission giving a majority of appointments to the Senate and House.

[Rapp's solar, wind teardown bill passes house](#) - Legislation sponsored by Rep. Kathy Rapp to require solar and wind energy decommissioning plans has been passed by the House of Representatives.

[Martin elected chair of Chesapeake Bay Commission's Pa. delegation](#) - State Sen. Scott Martin will chair the Pennsylvania delegation of the Chesapeake Bay Commission, a tri-state legislative advisory group that evaluates and acts on the bay's environmental needs.

[Pennsylvania drops a major source of methane from new rule to limit emissions](#) - Pennsylvania's environmental regulator is moving forward with a pared-down version of its rule to curb harmful emissions from existing oil and gas sites as it faces a federal deadline.

[Business leaders press views on RGGI 'tax' in court brief](#) - Pennsylvania's business community has once again made clear its opinion that the controversial Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) is an energy tax that is being illegally foisted upon the state without the required approval of the General Assembly.

[Pennsylvania natural gas hits highest price in last decade, report says](#) - Pennsylvania natural gas prices have spiked to their highest level in the last decade.

[Gov. Wolf: Record Revenues Will Cover Historic Education Investment with Billions Left Over](#) - Today, Governor Tom Wolf announced that Pennsylvania has collected a record \$43.9 billion in revenues for the 2021-22 fiscal year. Gov. Wolf wants to use this revenue to make major investments in improving life and lowering costs for Pennsylvanians.