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## ARIPPA PERIODIC MEDIA NEWS – 8-2-22

(News clips from the previous month)

### CFB, COAL REFUSE, ENERGY INDUSTRY

[Global coal demand to match record high this year, IEA says](#) - Global coal demand is set to rise slightly this year to match a record high reached nearly a decade ago, the International Energy Agency (IEA) said on Thursday, as gas prices have soared.

[Renewables industry marks slowest quarter since 2019 with installations down 55%](#) - Developers installed 3,188 MW of utility-scale clean power in the second quarter, 55% less than the same period last year, according to a new report from the American Clean Power Association.

[Quecreek miners, rescuers reunite to commemorate 20th anniversary of historic event](#) - Twenty years ago, coal miner John Unger was trapped underground with eight colleagues when floodwaters blocked their way out of the Quecreek Mine near Somerset.

[States to FERC: Here's how to fix transmission problems](#) - The U.S. needs more high-voltage power lines to send energy across far-flung regions of the country and help keep the lights on during extreme weather events, state officials said this week.

['Batteries aren't going to do it': NERC's Moura calls for gas investment to maintain reliability](#) - Key metrics tracking blackout duration and amounts of unserved energy demand spiked dramatically in 2021, the North American Electric Reliability Corp. said Wednesday in its 2022 State of Reliability report.

[GE's Energy Business Will Have a New Name—Vernova](#) - General Electric (GE) is again announcing changes to its corporate structure, with the company on July 18 saying its energy and other businesses will operate under new brand names.

[Utility executives reveal ' yawning gap ' in climate action](#) - A new survey of U.S. utility leaders found that nearly 9 in 10 said reducing greenhouse gas emissions from power plants was a high or moderate priority, while only 38 percent of their companies were executing a strategy to do anything about it.

[AEP given 5 minutes to decide where power would be shut off during June's storms](#) - AEP officials told state regulators Wednesday they had just minutes to decide which 150,000 Franklin County customers would lose power last month.

[Chesapeake Bay Commission Executive Director Ann Pesiri Swanson To Retire; Commission Members Recognize Her Achievements](#) - On July 14, the Chair of the tri-state Chesapeake Bay Commission, Maryland Senator Sarah Elfreth, joined by Vice-Chairs Pennsylvania Senator Scott Martin and Virginia Senator Lynwood Lewis, announced they have – with much gratitude and reluctance – accepted the retirement of Ann Pesiri Swanson, from her position as the Commission's Executive Director, a job she has held since 1988.

[Texas narrowly avoids rolling blackouts after 2nd conservation plea by ERCOT this week](#) - The grid operator for most of Texas asked customers on Wednesday to reduce electricity consumption for the second time in a week, citing lower wind and fossil fuel generation than anticipated, and spiking demand amid a sweltering heat wave.

[Carbon capture projects, regional CO2 pipeline design to get \\$2.6B in DOE funding proposal](#) - The Department of Energy plans to offer \$2.54 billion to help finance six carbon capture and storage, or CCS, demonstration projects at coal- and gas-fired power plants as well as at industrial facilities, according to a notice of intent issued Wednesday.

[Worst of Global Energy Crisis May Still Be Ahead, IEA Says](#) - A global squeeze on energy supply that's triggered crippling shortages and sent power and fuel prices surging may get worse, according to the head of the International Energy Agency.

[Summer Blackout Fears Fuel 300% Jump in Gauge of US Power-Plant Profit](#) - US power plants are poised to reap their best summertime profits in nearly two decades thanks to soaring electricity prices that are outpacing the high costs of natural gas and coal.

[Plant Bowen Will Showcase Largest Coal Ash Beneficial Use Project in the U.S.](#) - Georgia Power will harvest 9 million tons of coal ash landfilled at its 3.4-GW Plant Bowen station in Bartow County, Georgia, and beneficially use it in concrete for major regional construction projects.

[New York must balance climate mandates with declining reserve margins to ensure reliability: ISO](#) - The state is planning to phase out fossil fuel generation, but its grid operator has warned that a declining resource base complicates those efforts, while consumers worry about rising costs.

[Upheaval in utility regulation emerging nationally as Hawaii proves a performance-based approach](#) - Many states are working on regulatory reforms focused on utility performance, but some compromise approaches may be self-defeating, performance-based regulation, or PBR, consultants said.

[DOE Grants California's Request to Revise Civil Nuclear Credit Program Eligibility, Extends Deadline](#) - The Department of Energy (DOE) has revised eligibility criteria for the first-award cycle of its \$6 billion Civil Nuclear Credit (CNC) program and extended its application period to Sept. 6, 2022.

[Fossil fuel sources accounted for 79% of U.S. consumption of primary energy in 2021](#) - Fossil fuels—petroleum, natural gas, and coal—accounted for 79% of the 97 quadrillion British thermal units (quads) of primary energy consumption in the United States during 2021.

[Risks and Opportunities: It's an Interesting Time to Be in the Power Industry](#) - War rages in Europe. Natural gas prices are through the roof. Drought threatens hydro production. Weather extremes are becoming commonplace. Supply chains are strained. Demand for electricity is headed skyward. Yet, power companies are meeting the challenges. What an exciting time to be alive!

#### **LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY ISSUES: FEDERAL**

[Cartwright: STREAM Act package can be used to clean up NEPA's waterways](#) - U.S. Rep. Matt Cartwright said restoring acid mine drainage sites creates jobs, brings back recreational opportunities, boosts our economies, and makes our communities safer, stronger and more attractive to new investments without costing taxpayers an additional penny.

[FERC proposes expanded 'duty of candor' obligation to increase market integrity, but pushback expected](#) - The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission on Thursday proposed a broad "duty of candor" obligation that would require people who communicate with the agency, regional transmission organizations and other FERC-related entities to be truthful and not misleading.

[Exclusive: Biden EPA to tackle coal industry carbon with rules on other pollutants](#) - The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency plans to use new limits on traditional pollutants like ozone and coal ash to help encourage the retirement of the nation's remaining coal-fired power plants, after the Supreme Court limited the agency's ability to impose sweeping climate regulations, according to EPA chief Michael Regan.

[How Manchin-Schumer would change energy, from oil to solar](#) - The surprise climate deal struck between Democratic Sens. Joe Manchin (W.Va.) and Chuck Schumer (N.Y.) this week could transform the U.S. energy sector, slashing emissions and delivering historic investments in clean technologies — although it meets many demands of GOP lawmakers and conservative Democrats on fossil fuels.

[What's in, and out, of Democrats' inflation-fighting package](#) - What started as a \$4 trillion effort during President Joe Biden's first months in office to rebuild America's public infrastructure and family support systems has ended up a much slimmer, but not unsubstantial, compromise package of inflation-fighting health care, climate change and deficit reduction strategies that appears headed toward quick votes in Congress.

[Biden-Harris Administration Releases Final Guidance on Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Abandoned Mine Land Grant Program](#) - The Biden-Harris administration today released final guidance for eligible states and the Navajo Nation on how to apply for the first \$725 million in funding available for reclaiming abandoned mine lands (AMLs).

[Biden announces modest climate actions; pledges more to come](#) - President Joe Biden on Wednesday announced modest new steps to combat climate change and promised more robust action to come, saying, "This is an emergency and I will look at it that way."

[Sen. Warren leads lawmakers calling for DOE, EPA to track 'disturbing' Bitcoin, Ethereum energy use](#) - The U.S. Department of Energy and the Environmental Protection Agency should require crypto mining companies to report their energy use and associated carbon emissions, a group of six lawmakers led by Sen. Elizabeth Warren, D-Mass., said in a Friday letter to the agencies.

[Casey, colleagues introduce bill to improve Black Lung Benefits Program](#) - This week, U.S. Senators Bob Casey (D-Scranton), Joe Manchin (D-WV), Sherrod Brown (D-OH), Tim Kaine (D-VA) and Mark Warner (D-VA) introduced the Black Lung Benefits Improvement Act.

[House Republicans press EPA chief about alleged grid reliability threats from power plant regulations](#) - House Energy and Commerce Committee Republicans on Tuesday asked EPA Administrator Regan to describe the steps the agency could take to address any grid emergencies this summer.

[Threat of Summer Blackouts Looms Over FERC Chair's Renomination](#) - More than two decades ago, Rich Glick contended with blackouts in California amid a severe drought, power plant outages, and market manipulation that squeezed electric utilities and became a political headache for him and his Energy Department colleagues.

[Supreme Court's EPA decision will have little effect on utility move away from coal-fired plants: analysts](#) - The Supreme Court's finding last week that the Environmental Protection Agency cannot use "generation shifting" as envisioned in the Obama administration's Clean Power Plan will have little effect on utility plans to shift away from coal-fired power plants to renewables, according to analysts.

[DOE opens application window for \\$2.3B grid resilience grant program for states, tribes](#) - The Department of Energy on Wednesday started taking applications from states, Native American tribes and U.S. territories to receive federal funding for projects to bolster grid resilience in the face of increasing power outages driven by extreme weather.

[Could Supreme Court ruling thwart FERC's clean energy plans?](#) - The landmark Supreme Court decision last week restricting EPA's regulation of climate-warming emissions could spill over to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, which is seen as critical for advancing clean energy.

[EPA announces selection of 30 members to serve on Environmental Financial Advisory Board](#) - Today, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Michael S. Regan announced the appointment of 30 members, including both new and returning members, to the Environmental Financial Advisory Board (EFAB).

[EPA retains tools to cut power sector GHG emissions despite Supreme Court curbing its authority: attorneys](#) - The Environmental Protection Agency still has pathways for reducing greenhouse gas emissions from the power sector following the Supreme Court's ruling on Thursday that took away one possible avenue, according to legal experts.

[DOE launches \\$500 million effort to turn mines into clean energy hubs](#) - A \$500 million program funded by the bipartisan infrastructure package aims to transform current and former mines into clean energy hubs.

## **LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY ISSUES: STATE**

[Judge Reinstates Order Blocking Pa. From Climate Group](#) - A Pennsylvania judge on Monday reinstated his earlier preliminary injunction against outgoing Gov. Tom Wolf's (D) planned entry into an 11-state pact to address greenhouse gas emissions.

[DEP Partnering With 15 Engineering Firms To Design Mine Reclamation Projects To Be Funded By Federal Bipartisan Infrastructure Law](#) - On July 19, Joe Adams, Acting DEP Executive Deputy Secretary For Programs, told the DEP Citizens Advisory Council the agency is entering into agreements with 15 engineering firms to design mine land reclamation and mine drainage treatment projects to be funded by the new federal Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.

[DEP Submits Final Pennsylvania Chesapeake Bay Watershed Plan To EPA With New State Funds Supporting Partners' Progress](#) - On July 19, the Department of Environmental Protection announced it has submitted the final state Phase 3 Chesapeake Bay Watershed Implementation Plan to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

[Pennsylvania's legal wrangling over RGGI creating PJM market uncertainty](#) - Legal actions impacting the integration of Pennsylvania into the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative have affected the ability of fossil-fueled power generators to include RGGI costs in their cost-based offers in the PJM Interconnection energy market, creating uncertainty within the industry, PJM's market monitor said July 14.

[Yaw: Senate Republicans Join Fight to Protect Pennsylvania's Energy Competition, Reliability](#) - The Senate Republican Caucus filed a brief in federal court recently to protect Pennsylvania's energy competition and reliability from regulatory overreach, Sen. Gene Yaw (R-23) said.

[Gov. Wolf vetoes bid to block all-electric building codes](#) - Citing the need to fight climate change, Pennsylvania's Democratic Gov. Tom Wolf on Monday vetoed Republican-penned legislation to stop municipalities from adopting building codes that prohibit natural gas hookups.

[Pennsylvania wraps up budget deal](#) - Gov. Tom Wolf and lawmakers wrapped up a budget package this week — nearly two weeks late — approving billions of dollars in new spending, tax breaks for businesses and substantial new sums for public schools to cap the eighth and final budget for the Democratic governor.

[State budget will give environmental efforts a funding boost, advocates, lawmakers say](#) - State lawmakers and environmental advocates are celebrating the 2022-23 fiscal year budget Gov. Tom Wolf signed into law last week, saying it makes "historic" investments in environmental clean-up and protection efforts across the commonwealth.

[Final State Budget Includes Nearly \\$700 Million In Funding To Support Local And State Environmental, Recreation Infrastructure Projects!](#) - On July 8, the Senate and House, in a bipartisan vote, approved the final FY 2022-23 state budget which includes nearly \$700 million in funding to support on-farm conservation, water and sewer projects, mine reclamation and state park, forest and recreational infrastructure projects.

[Here's how Pennsylvania plans to spend its billions in federal stimulus money](#) - Pennsylvania lawmakers have agreed on a plan to use \$2.2 billion in remaining federal stimulus money from the pandemic on housing, conservation, and child care programs.

[Gov. Wolf puts signature on 31 new bills](#) - It was a day when Gov. Tom Wolf made good use of the pen at his desk.

[In light of EPA court ruling, new focus on states' power](#) - The U.S. Supreme Court limited the power of the federal government to regulate greenhouse gas emissions from existing power plants. But its ruling didn't touch the power of the states.