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## ARIPPA PERIODIC MEDIA NEWS – 9-2-22

(News clips from the previous month)

### CFB, COAL REFUSE, ENERGY INDUSTRY

[Coal industry wants to slow down proposed regulations](#) - Grid operators and coal interests are urging the Environmental Protection Agency to rethink a series of proposed rules to crack down harder on pollutants from coal-fired power plants, a signature environmental move by President Joe Biden's administration that starkly contrasts the industry-friendly approach of former President Donald Trump.

[Could Coal Waste Be Used to Make Sustainable Batteries?](#) - Acid mine drainage has long been a scourge in Appalachia. Recent research suggests that we may be able to simultaneously clean up the pollution and extract the minerals and elements needed to power green technologies.

[Why the energy transition broke the U.S. interconnection system](#) - The same processes that created the U.S. power system may now be preventing its transition to clean generation.

[Owners of coal-fired generating plants seek greater fuel flexibility](#) - The amount of electric power produced from coal has been steadily declining in the United States over the past 10 years, falling to a 46-year low of 773,393 gigawatthours (GWh) in 2020.

[Dimming bitcoin profits shift Stronghold Mining towards the electric grid](#) - When Stronghold Digital Mining Inc. bought two Pennsylvania waste coal power plants and built shiny new data centers with thousands of bitcoin mining machines to sap the electricity, the company expected that crypto mining would be the moneymaker supporting the old power plants, and by extension, the company's remediation of waste coal piles in places like West Deer.

[GreenHat Energy, traders to pay \\$181M to settle PJM market manipulation allegations](#) - GreenHat Energy, two of the trading firm's founders and the estate of another founder will pay \$181 million to settle allegations they manipulated the PJM Interconnection's market, under agreements approved Friday by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

[U.S. will hash out clean energy details with global leaders in Pittsburgh](#) - Next month, international energy ministers, CEOs, investors, activists — John Kerry and Bill Gates types — will convene in Downtown Pittsburgh to talk about how to speed up deployment of clean energy technologies.

[Wind, solar additions slowed in H1 but are expected to jump in next three years: FERC](#) - Renewable energy developers added 5,722 MW of wind in the first half this year, down from 7,157 MW in the same period in 2021, while solar additions fell to 3,895 MW from 5,714 MW in the first six months last year, according to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

[Coal industry rattled by two consecutive legal losses](#) - Back-to-back court rulings restricting new federal coal leasing this month have prompted anxiety among mining companies — and hope from climate advocates — that the reign of the Powder River Basin may be nearing its end.

[PJM power prices jump more than 120% on year in H1 2022 on fuel, emissions costs: IMM](#) - The real-time load-weighted average PJM Interconnection power price in the first six months of 2022 reached \$67.77/Mwh, up 121.3% from \$30.62/MWh in H1 2021, driven mostly by higher fuel and emission costs, PJM's independent market monitor said Aug. 11.

[Why the U.S. is struggling to modernize the electric grid](#) - Blackouts are growing more frequent in the United States. The average American experienced just over eight hours of power outages in 2020, with overall duration of power interruptions in the U.S. more than doubling since 2015, according to the U.S. Department of Energy.

[From abandoned mines to store shelves: OU transforms coal waste into renewable materials](#) - A group of scientists and researchers at Ohio University are turning the legacy of the coal industry on its head by taking waste that could lead to acid mine drainage and transforming it into renewable building materials, Styrofoam alternatives and more.

[U.S. electricity sales to increase 2.5% this year, with average residential prices jumping 6.1%: EIA](#) - The Energy Information Administration expects electricity sales will jump this year, despite sharp increases in retail and wholesale power prices, according to the agency's latest short-term energy outlook issued Tuesday.

[U.S. coal plants delay closures in hurdle for clean energy transition](#) - Travel brochures in Sheboygan, Wisconsin, tout the town's beaches on Lake Michigan as the Malibu of the Midwest. But pages of glossy photos leave out a feature of the landscape: a coal-fired power plant on the shore that will remain open until mid 2025 instead of closing this year as planned.

[Mon Power Reaches Settlement To Keep 2 Coal Plants In Operation](#) - Mon Power has reached a settlement to keep its two West Virginia power plants operating past 2028.

[US generating capacity additions expected to double in 2H to 29.4 GW, led by solar and wind: EIA](#) - Developers and project planners expect to add 29.4 GW of new generating capacity in the U.S. in the second half of 2022, nearly double the 15.1 GW added in the first half of the year, the Energy Information Administration reported last week.

[Energy production declined by record amounts in several states in 2020](#) - In 2020, energy production in the United States fell by record amounts compared with 2019, mostly as a result of decreased economic activity during the COVID-19 pandemic.

[Coal industry 'shocked and disheartened' by Manchin climate deal](#) - The West Virginia Coal Association and several other state-based coal industry groups on Wednesday blasted the tax and climate deal that Sen. Joe Manchin (D-W.Va.) agreed to last week, warning it will "severely threaten American coal" and an estimated 381,000 jobs.

[Dead creek revival: Blacklick has flowed orange for as long as locals can remember. Can a coal-killed waterway live again?](#) - Drainage from mines pollutes thousands of miles of Pennsylvania waterways. Money is flowing to an effort to restore an Indiana County creek, but mining's decline threatens long-term funding.

[US power system, PJM reliability storm clouds loom amid transition: exec](#) - PJM Interconnection could be heading for power system reliability issues as coal-fired power generation continues to retire, little to no new natural gas-fired power plants are likely to be built, and most incremental capacity comes from intermittent renewables, Glen Thomas, president of the PJM Power Providers Group, said in a recent interview.

[Abandoned mines spewing toxic water is the unwanted legacy of coal](#) - A cloudy pool of water marks the spot where, every minute, about 1,200 gallons of toxic mine drainage, contaminated with sulfuric acid and iron, flows out of the ground in the hills above New Philadelphia, in Schuylkill County.

[The future of coal: eight key themes from the Global Coal Forum](#) - Coal investors face a multi-layered and unavoidable challenge: markets distorted by war, trade constraints and the existential threat of the energy transition.

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

[DOE launches \\$10.5B Grid Resilience and Innovative Partnerships Program](#) - The Department of Energy is seeking comments on its plan to provide \$10.5 billion over five years for projects that prevent power outages and improve grid resilience, enhance grid flexibility, and demonstrate new approaches to power sector infrastructure resilience and reliability.

[Environmental groups sue EPA over coal ash regulations](#) - A coalition of environmental groups sued the Environmental Protection Agency on Thursday over its refusal to regulate some older coal ash dumps, claiming they are polluting air and groundwater.

[DOE begins accepting applications for \\$425M in major boost to state clean energy funding](#) - The U.S. Department of Energy on Friday announced a significant expansion to its state energy program and is now accepting applications for \$425 million in formula funding for the development of renewable resources, efficiency improvements, installation of electric vehicle chargers and other clean energy projects.

[DOE to attack CO2 emissions with billions in funding from inflation reduction, infrastructure laws](#) - Bipartisan infrastructure and Inflation Reduction Act, or IRA, investments in carbon dioxide reduction can and must be used along with clean energy to address the climate crisis, the Department of Energy said in announcing its Carbon Negative Shot, or CNS.

[OSMRE invites beta testing of acid mine drainage tool](#) - As part of its efforts to protect communities and the environment from the toxic impacts of reclaimed coal mines, the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement invites industry leaders, environmental groups, states, and Tribes to beta test a newly revised software tool that estimates the cost of treating acid mine drainage (AMD).

[Prospects dim in House for Manchin's federal permitting measure](#) - A federal permitting deal between Senate Majority Leader Charles E. Schumer, D-N.Y., and Sen. Joe Manchin III, D-W.Va., is facing pushback from environmentalists and would be difficult to get through the House, lawmakers said.

[Biden Signs Bill to Transform U.S. Energy, Combat Climate Change](#) - President Biden's signing of the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) should provide further impetus for growth of U.S. renewable energy, coming on the heels of a report from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) that installations of solar and wind power accounted for more than two-thirds of new domestic utility-scale generation in the first six months of this year.

[U.S. DOE Invites Comments On Implementing A Rare Earth & Critical Materials Research, Development, Demonstration & Commercialization Program](#) - On August 9, the U.S. Department of Energy issued a Request for Information on the development and implementation of a \$675 million Critical Materials Research, Development, Demonstration, and Commercialization Program.

[How the climate bill could strengthen EPA regulations](#) - The Senate Democrats' climate bill could help EPA defend new rules based on emerging technologies like carbon capture and storage by making them more cost-effective.

[Capito Votes Against Tax Hikes, Climate Spending Spree in Partisan Spending Package](#) - U.S. Senator Shelley Moore Capito (R-W.Va.) released the below statement today after voting against a reckless tax-and-spending spree package, which Democrats passed on a party-line vote by circumventing regular order.

[Group: EPA's Coordinated Regulatory Assault on Coal Power Could Push Retirements Beyond 86 GW by 2030](#) - The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is readying a regulatory sweep targeting more stringent limits on traditional pollutants that could accelerate coal power plant closures. A coal generation trade group estimates that even without new rules, an estimated 86 GW of coal generation is slated to retire by 2030.

[Manchin deal: Renewables boon or states' rights menace?](#) - A slew of permitting reforms backed by the White House and Senate Energy and Natural Resources Chair Joe Manchin (D-W.Va.) could make it harder for states and tribes to obstruct natural gas pipelines and other energy facilities they don't want, analysts say.

[Inflation Reduction Act would spur 42% US carbon emissions cut by 2030: Princeton-led study](#) - The Inflation Reduction Act would cut annual U.S. greenhouse gas emissions by about 1 billion metric tons by 2030, helping drive down carbon emissions by about 42% from 2005 levels, while also lowering U.S. energy expenditures by at least 4% in 2030, according to preliminary analysis released Thursday by the Princeton University-led REPEAT Project.

[DOE offers \\$26M for projects showing how grid can run on all renewables, storage](#) - The Department of Energy plans to offer \$26 million for up to nine projects that show how the grid can reliably run with only solar, wind and energy storage.

[‘Major Questions’ Impacts Energy Regulation](#) - On the final day of the Supreme Court’s term, the Court ruled in favor of West Virginia and other petitioners challenging the claimed regulatory authority that underlaid the Clean Power Plan (CPP)—the Obama administration rulemaking that would have required states to force generation shifting in the electricity industry.

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

[Youngkin administration to move forward with plan to withdraw from greenhouse gas initiative](#) - The administration of Governor Glenn Youngkin says it is moving forward with plans to remove Virginia from the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative.

[Pa. House committee hears testimony about EMP attacks](#) - Electromagnetic pulse attacks risk widespread regional power grid blackouts, but industry experts told state representatives on Tuesday that the systems are more resilient and their operators are more capable to respond to outages than they were in years prior.

[Advocates say constitutional change targets pollution regs, greenhouse gas reduction plan](#) - Environmental activists and advocates say that part of a proposed constitutional amendment package could roll back environmental protection regulations, pollution reduction efforts, and initiatives aimed at combating climate change in Pennsylvania.

[Pennsylvania Allowances Removed From Sept. 7 Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative Auction](#) - On August 19, the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative announced Pennsylvania is removing its allowances for sale at the next allowance auction on September 7.

[Pa. lawmakers tout increased state, federal funding to fight climate change](#) - State and federal efforts to fight climate change could also create tens of thousands of jobs and lower energy bills in Western Pennsylvania, two Democratic lawmakers said Tuesday.

[Reclaiming rare earth elements could clean up Pennsylvania acid mine drainage](#) - Rare earth elements can be crucial for national security and economic production – and producing them may also provide an environmental boom in certain cases.

[PUC Advises Consumers About Increases in Electric Energy ‘Price to Compare’ for Several Major Utilities on Sept. 1](#) - As many consumers across Pennsylvania continue working to manage higher summer energy bills – driven by increased electric energy costs and hot weather – the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission advises residents and businesses served by several major utilities that electric generation prices for non-shopping customers are expected to rise again on Sept. 1, 2022.

[Explainer: Region’s bid to be a ‘clean hydrogen hub’ relies on fossil fuel and capturing climate-warming carbon](#) - Nature’s simplest element is at the center of a new energy strategy that has won the support of much of the Pittsburgh region’s leadership, while drawing scorn from sustainability advocates who say it would actually entrench the carbon economy.

[Local lawmaker introduces bill to increase penalties of polluters](#) - State Rep. Kristine Howard, D-Chester, said Monday she was pleased to see Sunoco Pipeline LP, a subsidiary of Energy Transfer, convicted of criminal charges related to its conduct during the construction of the Mariner East 2 Pipeline, which crosses through Chester and Delaware counties.

[Pa. eligible for more than \\$244M in U.S. Interior Department mine cleanup funds](#) - The Interior Department asked states Wednesday to apply for \$725 million made available this year to clean up abandoned mine sites as part of the 2021 infrastructure bill.

[State lawmakers, advocates present shared environmental action plan](#) - The 30-page plan identifies policy solutions to several areas of environmental concern, including air quality and pollution, energy, water quality, labor, housing and land use, and democracy.