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ARIPPA PERIODIC MEDIA NEWS – 10-3-22

(News clips from the previous month)

CFB, COAL REFUSE, ENERGY INDUSTRY

[Amid a massive American clean energy shift, grid operators play catch-up](#) - For the better part of the past century, the American electric power system evolved around large, mostly fossil fuel power plants delivering electricity to residences, businesses and industry through a network of transmission and distribution wires that collectively came to be called the electric grid.

[Coal Waste Storage Safety gets a Boost](#) - New technologies are in development for coal waste storage facilities that will detect and prevent potential failures like leakage of hazardous materials into the environment.

[Coal rush! Energy crisis fires global hunt for polluting fuel](#) - The sleepy Tanzanian port of Mtwara mainly dealt in cashew nuts until late last year. Now it bustles with vessels loading up with coal, as Russia's invasion of Ukraine drives a worldwide race for the polluting fuel.

[PJM Interconnection Appoints Carl F. Coscia as Vice President and Chief Risk Officer](#) - PJM Interconnection today announced that it has appointed Carl F. Coscia, Ph.D., as Vice President and Chief Risk Officer. He will begin at PJM Sept. 28, 2022.

[FirstEnergy CEO Steven Strah abruptly retires as HB6-related management review ends](#) - FirstEnergy CEO Steven Strah is unexpectedly retiring effective Friday, the company announced Thursday.

[Power outages are on the rise, led by Texas, Michigan and California. Here's what's to blame](#) - Power outages in the US are climbing, researchers reported Wednesday, as extreme weather gets worse due to the climate crisis, the demand for electricity climbs and the country's energy infrastructure gets older and more vulnerable.

[Carbon intensity of U.S. power generation continues to fall but varies widely by state](#) - From 2016 to 2020, the carbon intensity of U.S. power generation fell 18%, driven by a shift in the U.S. electricity generation mix away from coal and toward natural gas and renewables.

[Could the Nation's Coal Plant Sites Help Drive a Clean Energy Transition?](#) - The nation's coal power plant sites that helped build the U.S. economy during the country's electrification could play a huge role once again in helping the nation transition to clean energy.

[Retail electricity prices continue rapid rise; US homes could pay more than 15 cents/kWh next year: EIA](#) - The federal government expects the price of electricity will continue to rise into 2023, and consumer advocates warn that customer arrears are rising as well.

[Both GOP and Dems see vindication in Calif. grid misery](#) - Congressional Republicans see this week's grid troubles in California as vindication for their energy policies. And so do Democrats.

[RGGI carbon dioxide emissions price reached new quarterly record in June 2022](#) - The 56th Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) quarterly auction, held June 1, 2022, resulted in a record-high clearing price of \$13.90 per ton for CO2 emissions allowances, surpassing the previous quarter's clearing price (\$13.50 per ton) by 3% and the June 2021 clearing price (\$7.97 per ton) by 74%.

[US power sector emissions rose 7% in 2021 amid economic recovery, reversing pandemic-led drop: Ceres](#) - The United States is working to halve greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 and develop a carbon-neutral power sector by 2035, but new data from Ceres shows the country shifted in the wrong direction last year as global economies recovered from the Covid-19 pandemic.

[U.S. power use to reach record high in 2022 as economy grows -EIA](#) - U.S. power consumption will rise to a record high in 2022 due to rising economic activity and hotter summer weather, the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA) said in its Short-Term Energy Outlook (STEO) on Wednesday.

[Coal advocates warn NERC is underestimating plant retirements by about 68 GW, threatening reliability](#) - The North American Electric Reliability Corp. has greatly underestimated the amount of coal-fired generation that will retire from 2022 to 2030, potentially threatening the reliability of the nation's electric grid, according to America's Power, a group that advocates for the coal industry.

LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY ISSUES: FEDERAL

[Senate passes stopgap bill to avert shutdown, aid Ukraine](#) - The Senate passed a short-term spending bill on Thursday that would avert a partial government shutdown when the current fiscal year ends at midnight Friday and provide another infusion of military and economic aid to Ukraine as it seeks to repel Russia's brutal invasion.

[Westerman, Graves Introduce Legislation Promoting Access to American Energy](#) - Today, House Committee on Natural Resources Ranking Member Bruce Westerman (R-Ark.) and House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure Ranking Member Sam Graves (R-Mo.) introduced the Transparency and Production of (TAP) American Energy Act.

[With Manchin bill stalled, will FERC ever site power lines?](#) - Sen. Joe Manchin this week pulled back a permitting proposal that would have authorized the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to permit certain long-distance power lines — a major change for the independent agency.

[With Manchin's bill aside, other permitting proposals await](#) - Despite the apparent death of Sen. Joe Manchin III's permit overhaul legislation before it even got a vote, there are ingredients from both parties that could be blended into a bill to change how large construction projects such as power lines and highways are greenlighted in America

[EPA Launches New National Office Dedicated to Advancing Environmental Justice and Civil Rights](#) - Today, EPA announced that it is establishing a new national office charged with advancing environmental justice and civil rights. The creation of the new Office of Environmental Justice and External Civil Rights delivers on President Biden's commitment to elevate these critical issues to the highest levels of the government and solidifies the agency's commitment to delivering justice and equity for all.

[FERC meeting: Manchin bill, gas woes and cyber 'candy'](#) - The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission is ready to implement new authority outlined in Sen. Joe Manchin's permitting bill, but it would be "foolish" for the agency to do so without state input, FERC Chair Richard Glick said yesterday.

[Manchin permitting-reform bill allows DOE to designate 'national interest' transmission projects](#) - Sen. Joe Manchin, D-W.Va., on Wednesday released permitting reform legislation that allows the Department of Energy to designate proposed transmission projects to be in the national interest and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to approve them if they meet certain conditions.

[OSMRE funds efforts to extract critical minerals from mine wastes](#) - As part of the Biden-Harris administration's efforts to address legacy pollution and promote the sustainable and responsible domestic development of critical minerals, the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement is funding eight projects to share \$1.6 million through its Applied Science Program, including four projects that will study methods to improve the recovery of rare earth elements (REEs) from coal mining waste.

[FERC's murky leadership future could derail U.S. climate goals](#) - FERC Chair Richard Glick may be out of a job by the end of the year — and the agency's ambitious climate agenda could go out the door with him.

[DOE's Shah ready to promote new \\$250B energy reinvestment loan program](#) - The U.S. Department of Energy, newly equipped with \$250 billion to lend to projects that repurpose or convert existing energy infrastructure, is now figuring out how to advertise the program to the communities that need it the most.

[EPA ramps up outreach on power plant carbon rules](#) - EPA is asking outside experts to weigh in on how it can write protective and legally sturdy rules to tackle power plant carbon pollution.

[Climate law: What to watch at Interior, FERC and DOE](#) - The Department of Energy, Interior Department and Federal Energy Regulatory Commission are grappling with how to implement the landmark climate law and carry out President Joe Biden's priorities for shifting the country towards low-carbon energy.

[D.C. Circuit weighs dispute that could limit PURPA's reach](#) - A federal appeals court on Wednesday appeared divided on whether a utility should be required to purchase power from a Montana solar project under a law designed to boost the amount of renewable energy on the electric grid.

[Climate law has a hidden benefit for coal miners: permanent funding for Black Lung](#) - Passage of the Inflation Reduction Act, the Democrats' large climate and health care bill, included one provision aimed at helping miners afflicted by black lung disease.

LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY ISSUES: STATE

[Coal refuse paying dividends in NEPA, panel told in Hazleton](#) - Developments in the coal refuse industry are paying dividends in Northeastern Pennsylvania.

[Senator Yudichak and Senate Community, Economic and Recreational Development Committee Hold Hearing on Environmental and Economic Impacts of the Anthracite Industry in Northeastern Pennsylvania and Pennsylvania's Coal Refuse Energy and Reclamation Tax Credit](#) - Chaired by State Senator John Yudichak (I-Luzerne/Carbon), the Senate Community, Economic & Recreational Development Committee held a hearing today at Hazleton City Hall on the environmental and economic impacts of the anthracite industry in northeastern Pennsylvania and Pennsylvania's Coal Refuse Energy and Reclamation Tax Credit.

[Hearing held on anthracite industry's environmental/economic impacts on NEPA](#) - State Sen. John Yudichak on Tuesday said the work done by private coal refuse companies and nonprofit environmental organizations, like the Earth Conservancy, have given new life to the economy of Northeastern Pennsylvania.

[State officials discuss the demand for coal from NEPA](#) - The future of the coal industry in Northeastern Pennsylvania was the focus of a state hearing Tuesday in Hazleton. For generations, coal was king in NEPA.

[Economic growth in northeast Pennsylvania comes with coal mine cleanup](#) - A rush of federal money will boost Pennsylvania's ability to address abandoned mining land, but the commonwealth will not be able to rely on federal dollars for most of the funding.

[State lawmakers examine activities involving burning coal refuse and mine reclamation](#) - The state House Democratic Policy Committee met with officials and experts Monday to examine issues involving mine reclamation and electricity production from coal refuse.

[Committee tours mine reclamation sites, learns about difficulties](#) - The House Democratic Policy Committee toured parts of northeast Pennsylvania Monday, listening to experts and asking questions about the process of transforming polluted and hazardous areas into resources used by businesses.

[Committee tours reclaimed mine sites](#) - The House Democratic Policy Committee toured different parts of Northeast Pennsylvania on Monday as they listened to experts and educated themselves on the process of turning polluted, hazardous areas into resources for businesses.

[4 things to know about Gov. Youngkin's plan to pull Virginia from RGGI](#) - Gov. Glenn Youngkin is trying to withdraw Virginia from the program by regulation, which is a move Democrats and other groups say goes against the state law.

[With election day looming, Gov. Wolf and Republicans agree to fill three seats on depleted Pa. utility commission](#) - Gov. Tom Wolf and Pennsylvania Senate Republicans have set aside a longstanding dispute that has depleted the membership of the Public Utility Commission, setting the stage for three nominations to the commission, including the reappointment of a Republican whose term is set to run out soon.

[Looming election jolts Harrisburg into action as Pa. lawmakers pass a flurry of bills, cash in on fundraisers](#) - Horse-trading, nose-holding, and a whole lot of cash. The Pennsylvania Capitol this week jolted into action with just six more voting days before the pivotal midterm election, advancing a slew of bills with one common theme while lawmakers raced from fundraiser to fundraiser seeking to bolster their campaign coffers.

[Gov. Wolf Touts PA's Leadership in Clean Energy Transition at Global Forum in Pittsburgh](#) - Governor Tom Wolf today told the first-ever Global Clean Energy Action Forum (GCEAF) about Pennsylvania's significant progress in the transition to clean energy and vowed that the commonwealth will continue to be a leader in energy innovation.

[Review of rules governing state policies ordered by Pa. House committee](#) - House Republicans, as part of what they say is an effort to "ensure government is done right," are asking for a review of what translates to thousands of rules governing state programs and policies to determine if they continue to remain relevant.

[Susquehanna River Basin Commission Revises Enforcement, Penalty Policies](#) - On September 20, the Susquehanna River Basin Commission announced it has finalized the Policy and Guidance Statement for the Settlement of Civil Penalties/Enforcement Actions and the SRBC Civil Penalty Matrix.

[Yaw: Carbon Capture, Utilization and Storage Shows Promise in Pennsylvania](#) - Sen. Gene Yaw (R-23) said an informational briefing today about Pennsylvania's potential as a carbon capture, utilization and storage hub left him feeling optimistic about the potential of this technology.

[Pa. board votes down rule to limit manganese in streams to protect public health](#) - An effort to put stricter limits on the amount of manganese that can be released in wastewater from Pennsylvania mines and other industries was rejected Thursday by a state regulatory review board.

[Former State Rep. Jeff Pyle dies; legacy lives on with community college branch in Ford City](#) - Former State Rep. Jeff Pyle, 57, died on Wednesday in Ford City after a long battle with cancer.

[Former Pa. environment secretary to lead green lobbying group](#) - A former top environment official in the Wolf Administration is taking charge of a statewide environmental lobbying group.

[Pennsylvania Climate Plan Faces Uncertain Future after Election](#) - If Pennsylvania courts don't kill the state's participation in a regional cap-and-trade program, the November gubernatorial election could do it in.

[House Republicans Introduce Bill To Prohibit Financial Institutions From Protecting Their Investments From The Risks Of Climate Change, Discriminatory Practices, Poor Business Ethics](#) - On September 7, House Republicans introduced House Bill 2799 (Diamond-R-Lebanon) prohibiting financial institutions from using environmental, social and governance (ESG) scores to help evaluate financial investments (sponsor summary).

['Landmark' climate law turns up the power on Pa. solar, wind, hydropower energy projects](#) - Green energy is bracing for growth. The climate law signed by President Joe Biden in August is poised to drive a surge of investment in renewable energy as it extends and expands tax credits that have proven crucial to establishing clean energy on the grid.

[Pennsylvania high court maintains RGGI stay](#) - The Pennsylvania Supreme Court yesterday opted against overruling a lower court's decision to temporarily block the state from participating in the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI).