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ARIPPA PERIODIC MEDIA NEWS – 12-1-22

(News clips from the previous month)

CFB, COAL REFUSE, ENERGY INDUSTRY

[How one Pennsylvania company is using waste coal to mine Bitcoin](#) - Twenty miles northeast of Pittsburgh, in Russellton, Pennsylvania, is a waste coal pile, although “pile” isn’t really accurate. It’s actually huge mountains of black rock stacked as tall as houses that sit nearby—the site is in the middle of a residential area. There’re no trees or vegetation on the site, except for patches of grass here and there.

[Possible rail strike could send shockwaves through energy industry](#) - A strike by U.S. railroad workers could have dramatic impacts on energy delivery, with industry groups warning of logistical snarls and price increases for consumers.

[Penn State Center For Critical Minerals Develops New Process To Extract Rare Earth Oxides From Abandoned Mine Drainages, Sludges](#) - Critical minerals, including rare earth elements, are used to power devices like smartphones and computers and are essential to our nation’s economy and national security.

[High Costs, Low Reliability Imperil US Grid, Regulator Warns](#) - The sweeping push to replace fossil fuel plants with clean energy is forcing US power grids to the brink of a twin crisis, making electricity unaffordable while raising the specter of more frequent blackouts, a member of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission said.

[Coal emissions on pace for record-setting 2022](#) - Global emissions associated with coal burning are on track to hit a new record in 2022, underscoring the challenge of phasing out the world’s most carbon-intensive fuel.

[UN climate deal: Calamity cash, but no new emissions cuts](#) - For the first time, the nations of the world decided to help pay for the damage an overheating world is inflicting on poor countries, but they finished marathon climate talks on Sunday without further addressing the root cause of those disasters — the burning of fossil fuels.

[NERC Warns of Tight Generation Resources, Fuel Supply Issues This Winter](#) - Power shortfalls could be rife over the next three months across a large portion of the North American bulk power system (BPS), particularly during extreme and prolonged cold conditions, the North American Electric Reliability Corp. (NERC) has warned.

[Company announces plans to extract rare earth metals from coal impoundments](#) - Gov. Jim Justice announced a \$60 million investment in Wyoming County by a company seeking to extract rare earth metals, the kind widely used in electronics, from coal impoundments.

[FERC, state regulators consider independent monitors as way to boost transmission oversight ‘gap’](#) - Federal and state utility regulators on Tuesday considered options for beefing up oversight of a growing number of transmission projects falling into a regulatory gap, including by establishing independent transmission monitors, or ITMs.

[US can reach 100% clean power by 2035, DOE finds, but tough reliability and land use questions lie ahead](#) - New aggressive planning is needed to identify the long-duration storage technologies and find the land to grow enough resources to reach Biden net zero emissions goals, a DOE national lab reports.

[State regulators urge PJM to adopt ‘circuit breaker’ to prevent extreme prices in emergencies](#) - The PJM Interconnection should adopt a “circuit breaker” to prevent emergency grid conditions from causing energy prices to skyrocket, which could lead to bankruptcies among market participants, retail customers and municipalities along with a loss of investor confidence in the grid operator’s markets, according to the Organization of PJM States Inc.

[Republicans tout benefits of fossil fuels at climate talks](#) - Members of a Republican Congressional delegation took the stage at this year's U.N. climate talks Friday to tout the benefits of fossil fuels — a bold move at a meeting that's all about curbing carbon emissions for the good of humanity.

[U.S. PJM power prices rose sharply in Jan.-Sept. -report](#) - Energy prices for PJM Interconnection, the largest U.S. power grid operator, increased significantly in the first nine months of 2022 from the year-ago period, according a report released on Thursday.

[Fossil fuel, renewable trade groups explore potential paths to energy bipartisanship in a divided Congress](#) - Which party will control Congress in January remains an open question on the second day following the midterm election, but experts say there are some areas for potential bipartisan energy policy in a divided government scenario.

[Government electricity price forecast ticks higher, as consumer advocate warns there is little relief in sight](#) - Average U.S. residential electricity prices will reach almost 15 cents/kWh in 2022 and 15.33 cents/kWh in 2023, according to the latest forecast from the U.S. Energy Information Administration.

[U.S. Coal Plant Closures Continue, While China Rapidly Builds More](#) - A wave of retirements for U.S. coal-fired power plants continues, with the Energy Information Administration (EIA) reporting almost a quarter of the nation's remaining facilities could be shuttered by the end of 2029.

[New optimism for extracting minerals from coal waste as federal dollars flow in](#) - The Biden administration is pouring cash into extracting crucial minerals from coal waste as corporate and academic optimism for the technology grows.

[Clean energy deployments tumble 22% in Q3 to 3-year low as delayed projects rise to 36 GW: report](#) - Clean energy developers brought just 3.4 GW of new capacity online in the third quarter of this year, the least in three years, according to a new report from American Clean Power, which advocates for energy transition policies.

[PJM capacity market flaws reduced latest auction revenue by \\$706M, or nearly 25%: market monitor](#) - Flaws in the PJM Interconnection's capacity market suppressed revenue in the grid operator's most recent auction by \$705.1 million, or nearly 25%, according to a report released Friday by the PJM independent market monitor.

[Xcel plans to phase out all coal plants in 8-state service area by end of 2030](#) - Xcel Energy announced today (Mon) it plans to no longer use coal to generate electricity anywhere in the eight states it serves after the end of 2030.

LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY ISSUES: FEDERAL

[DOE girds for House Republican oversight](#) - The Department of Energy, critical to deploying President Joe Biden's clean energy and climate goals, will likely be facing a two-year onslaught of subpoenas, hourslong hearings and letters demanding information now that Republicans have won control of the House.

[Little appetite for Manchin permitting bill in congressional lame-duck session](#) - Among the items on Congress' lengthy to-do list by the end of the year is U.S. Sen. Joe Manchin's proposal to speed up the federal government's permitting process that certifies energy projects do not harm the environment.

[Biden administration seeks more power outage data from utility companies](#) - The White House and the Department of Energy have launched a new initiative to collect more granular data about power outages from U.S. utility companies.

[EPA floats sharply increased social cost of carbon](#) - EPA has proposed a new estimate for the social cost of carbon emissions, nearly quadrupling an interim figure that has already drawn legal challenges from a host of Republican-led states.

[US Midterms 2022: GOP House majority to probe energy laws, elevate fossil fuels](#) - Republicans managed to narrowly retake control of the U.S. House of Representatives in the midterm elections, a power shift that could place speedbumps in front of Democrats' climate ambitions.

[House Republicans prepare big energy package for 2023](#) - House Republican leaders said Thursday the party is preparing an energy and environment package that could emerge in January as one of the first pieces of major legislation passed by the GOP-controlled chamber.

[White House announces \\$13 billion in grid resilience funds](#) - The Biden administration on Friday morning announced \$13 billion in funds to modernize the U.S. power grid using allocations from the bipartisan infrastructure law.

[FERC meeting: Grid rules, a boost for gas and Manchin](#) - The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission moved Thursday to boost the reliability of the power system by addressing regulatory gaps that could strain the grid as renewable projects proliferate.

[Pelosi won't seek leadership role, plans to stay in Congress](#) - House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said Thursday that she will not seek a leadership position in the new Congress, a pivotal realignment making way for a new generation of leaders after Democrats lost control of the House to Republicans in the midterm elections.

[Manchin FERC shake-up may stymie Biden's clean energy plans](#) - The prospect of Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Chair Richard Glick losing his job by year's end could derail policies critical for President Joe Biden's clean energy and climate agenda.

[US to climate summit: American big steps won't be repealed](#) - U.S. President Joe Biden is coming to international climate talks in Egypt this week with a message that historic American action to fight climate change won't shift into reverse, as happened twice before when Democrats lost power.

[Manchin-Biden coal clash highlights Democratic divisions at a perilous moment](#) - Joe Manchin clashed Saturday with President Joe Biden over the politics of coal — a poorly timed breach between a pair of Democratic heavyweights just three days before voters head to the polls.

[White House releases net-zero road map](#) - The White House announced a new initiative this morning to help reach net-zero emissions and promised to direct research and billions in federal dollars toward 37 “game-changing” energy technologies.

[Biden-Harris Administration Announces More than \\$4.27 Million for Community Air Pollution Monitoring Projects in Pennsylvania](#) - The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has selected 11 projects to receive more than \$4.27 million in funding for monitoring air quality in communities across Pennsylvania.

[How will DOE loan out \\$250B to make dirty energy systems clean?](#) - The Inflation Reduction Act contains \$369 billion in tax credits, grants and incentives meant to drive investment in new clean energy technology over the next decade, a fact that has been widely reported. But it also gives the Department of Energy's Loan Programs Office the power to spur not just the building of new clean energy resources, but also the transformation of old or dirty energy infrastructure into new or modernized clean assets, and the revitalization of the communities where that old infrastructure now sits.

LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY ISSUES: STATE

[Special election scheduled for late Pennsylvania rep's seat](#) - A special election will be held to replace a Pennsylvania state lawmaker who died several weeks before voters elected him to another term, marking the first of several special elections to come in a nearly evenly split state House of Representatives.

[Pennsylvania emissions rule for conventional oil and gas sites moves ahead](#) - Environmental regulators on Wednesday approved an emergency measure to curb emissions at oil and gas sites.

[Pennsylvania House Democrats will lose their majority for at least a few weeks. Here's why.](#) - Democrats won control of the Pennsylvania state House on Nov. 8, but their majority is going to disappear for at least a few weeks in the new year.

[Pa. House Republicans refuse minority status after reorganization meet](#) - Rep. Bryan Cutler, the once and future leader of the Pennsylvania House Republican caucus, stopped well-short of claiming a majority for his caucus in the next legislative session after internal leadership elections Tuesday.

[DEP Withdraws Final Manganese Water Quality Standard Regulation Ending Rulemaking; Existing Standard Remains In Place](#)

- On November 18, the Department of Environmental Protection formally notified the Independent Regulatory Review Commission it was withdrawing the final regulation changing the water quality standard for manganese, ending the rulemaking process.

[Pa. Chesapeake Bay cleanup plan falls short for third time, EPA says](#) - Pennsylvania is still falling short in its efforts to reduce pollution flowing to the Chesapeake Bay, in spite of budgeting millions in new money for clean-up.

[DEP Provides Notice Of Using Coal Ash As Fill For Solar Energy Facility At Scrubgrass Generating Company, Venango County](#) -

The Department of Environmental Protection published notice in the November 19 PA Bulletin it has received a request from Scrubgrass Generating Company to place coal ash on the site as structural fill to provide support for the installation of solar energy panels in Scrubgrass Township, Venango County.

[Gov-elect Shapiro opens transition, to stay AG until January](#) - Pennsylvania Gov.-elect Josh Shapiro gave his first Capitol news conference Wednesday as he begins the transition to his new job, pledging to work constructively with lawmakers and saying he will remain as attorney general until he is sworn in as governor in January.

[Tom Wolf's Pa. climate program awaits court decision after GOP, industry challenge](#) - The future of Gov. Tom Wolf's signature climate program is in the hands of Commonwealth Court.

[Sen. Kim Ward becomes first female presiding officer in Pa. General Assembly's history](#) - An important part of Gov.-elect Josh Shapiro's transition just took place at the Pennsylvania State Capitol: He knows who the leaders of the loyal opposition are.

[Wolf Administration Discusses Carbon Capture Efforts, Announces \\$6 Million Investment in New Carbon Capture Research Facility](#) -

Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) Secretary Cindy Adams Dunn today outlined plans for a forthcoming \$6 million CCUS research and storage facility to house the department's collection of subsurface core samples and drill cuttings from all over Pennsylvania.

[Wolf Administration Highlights Next Step Taken to Achieve Hydrogen Hub Ambitions](#) -

The Wolf Administration announced today the next steps taken by the commonwealth to achieve Governor Tom Wolf's goal to ensure Pennsylvania secures at least one spot as one of the nation's Regional Clean Hydrogen Hubs to lead industrial sector decarbonization, with a focus on heavy manufacturing.

[James' Bill on Mining Reclamation Signed into Law](#) - Rep. Lee James (R-Venango/Butler) announced his bill, which would add a member of the Coal Refuse Energy and Reclamation industry to the Mining Reclamation and Advisory Board (MRAB), was signed into law by Gov. Tom Wolf as Act 105 of 2022.

[Wolf signs 66 bills; includes fentanyl strips, autonomous cars, switch blades](#) - Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Wolf signed a flurry of bills Thursday, including energy tax credits, decriminalization of fentanyl test strips and help for autonomous vehicles, as the two-year legislative session winds down.

[Pennsylvania to receive \\$26.6 million to clean and redevelop abandoned mine lands](#) - Pennsylvania is one of six states slated to receive federal grant funds for revitalizing abandoned mine land.

[Pennsylvania Awarded \\$244.9 Million In Federal Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Funding For Abandoned Mine Reclamation](#) -

The federal Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement has awarded Pennsylvania \$244.9 million from federal Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funding to support abandoned mine reclamation in the Commonwealth.

[Pennsylvania's shale gas impact fees set to break record this year](#) - Revenue from Pennsylvania's shale gas impact fee collection is on track to yield a record \$275 million this year, largely on the back of high natural gas prices and a slight uptick in the number of new wells drilled.