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ARIPPA PERIODIC MEDIA NEWS – 3-1-23

(News clips from the previous month)

CFB, COAL REFUSE, ENERGY INDUSTRY

[PJM Capacity Auction Procures Adequate Resources](#) - PJM's capacity auction has secured adequate resources to meet demand for the 2024/2025 Delivery Year, with prices down in the RTO and up in areas with local constraints that indicate tightening conditions in certain areas.

[PJM launches fast-track capacity market reform process in face of shrinking reserve margins](#) - The PJM Interconnection on Friday started a fast-track stakeholder process to bolster its capacity market following widespread power plant outages during Winter Storm Elliott and a report showing the grid operator could face narrow reserve margins in 2028.

[PJM Details Resource Retirements, Replacements and Risks](#) - The third phase of PJM's ongoing study of impacts associated with the energy transition, published Friday, explores the pace of resource retirements and replacements through 2030 and highlights potential reliability risks to meeting growing electricity demand.

[US 2022 power plant emissions fell on switch from coal to gas -EPA](#) - U.S. power plant emissions of pollutants that harm human health and warm the planet fell last year as the industry continued a switch from coal to natural gas, the Environmental Protection Agency said on Friday.

[New Report Finds Coal Essential to Grid Reliability and Resilience During Winter Storm Elliott](#) - A new report, "Operation of the U.S. Power Generation Fleet During Winter Storm Elliott," analyzes the performance of traditional power sources and renewable energy during the December 2022 storm that brought record-setting low temperatures and high electricity demand to most of the country.

[IEA's Birol warns of tighter energy supply next winter](#) - International Energy Agency (IEA) head Fatih Birol has warned of possible energy shortages next winter as relatively little new liquefied natural gas (LNG) is coming to the market while China's consumption is set to rise this year.

[Facing attacks, feds and states grapple with protecting the grid](#) - A federal task force wrestled with the costs and benefits of better shielding the nation's tens of thousands of electric substations from a growing number of attacks, like a neo-Nazi plot the FBI says it foiled earlier this month in Maryland, another that knocked out power to thousands in North Carolina in December and more in the Pacific Northwest.

[DC Circuit upholds FERC decision on Broadview solar-battery PURPA project in blow to NorthWestern, EEI](#) - In a blow to NorthWestern Energy and the Edison Electric Institute, a federal appeals court has upheld a Federal Energy Regulatory Commission decision that a 160-MW solar-battery project in Montana is a "qualifying facility," or QF, under the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act, or PURPA.

[Across the country, a big backlash to new renewables is mounting](#) - New renewable energy development has drawn heated opposition that has birthed, in many cases, bans, moratoriums and other restrictions across U.S.

[Russian-linked malware was close to putting U.S. electric, gas facilities 'offline' last year](#) - Hackers linked to Russia got very close to being able to take a dozen U.S. electric and gas facilities offline in the first weeks of the war in Ukraine, the head of a top cybersecurity company warned Tuesday.

[PJM EIS To Produce Energy Certificates Hourly](#) - PJM Environmental Information Services, Inc. will provide hourly, time-stamped certificates for PJM generation starting in March 2023, answering the growing demand for procuring and tracking carbon-free energy around the clock.

[Severe storms already batter the grid. What happens in 2032?](#) - New England's grid operator is investigating the most likely threats to power generation from future winter storms and heat waves, as climate change fuels more severe weather.

[U.S. coal power refuses to die. What that means for climate.](#) - The Biden administration is preparing for a spring offensive against coal plant pollution.

[Coal and natural gas plants will account for 98% of U.S. capacity retirements in 2023](#) - In 2023, operators plan to retire 15.6 gigawatts (GW) of electric-generating capacity in the United States, mostly natural gas-fired (6.2 GW) and coal-fired (8.9 GW) power plants, according to our Preliminary Monthly Electric Generator Inventory.

[Solar will provide 54% of new US generating capacity in 2023, with 29.1 GW added, EIA projects](#) - Solar projects that were delayed in 2022 are expected to come online this year, giving the industry a record-breaking capacity boost.

[Before State Of The Union, Americans Focused on a Secure Economy, Diverse Fuels to Power Our Nation and Strong Domestic Supply Chains](#) - As President Joe Biden prepares to address the nation with his take on the State of the Union, new polling conducted by Maru Public Opinion for the National Mining Association (NMA) shows American priorities are aligned with those of the mining industry.

[Chances of coal being phased out? Just 1 in 20 by 2050](#) - Coal power plants are a major contributor to climate disruption — but current policies give just a 1 in 20 chance of phasing them out by 2050.

[Study Finds Steeply Rising Interconnection Costs In PJM](#) - The costs to connect a power project to the grid in the PJM Interconnection region have risen steeply, according to a new report by Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory.

[Employees rally to save power plant and their jobs](#) - Employees of the Pleasants Power Station are making their best pitch to save the plant and their jobs.

[2022 Set a Global Record for Coal Generation](#) - The recent shake-up in natural gas markets and their ensuing impact on energy security, and geopolitical tension, dramatically altered the trajectory of global coal-fired generation, sending it soaring to record levels in 2022.

LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY ISSUES: FEDERAL

[House Republicans accelerate march toward big energy package](#) - House Republicans are taking action on numerous bills that will make for part of their sweeping energy and permitting reform package, which they hope to put on the floor for a vote by the end of March.

[DOE to offer \\$2.5B for carbon capture projects at power plants, industrial sites](#) - The Department of Energy will provide \$2.52 billion in funding for two carbon capture programs, with additional funding possible later, the agency said Thursday.

[FERC approves PJM's mid-auction capacity rule change over protests from NRG, Vistra, other generators](#) - The PJM Interconnection will be able to change a capacity market parameter that led to anomalous, high capacity prices in one part of its footprint in its recently-held auction under a Federal Energy Regulatory Commission decision issued Tuesday.

[EPA reverses Trump-era decision on power plant mercury standards, paving way for stricter limits](#) - The Environmental Protection Agency on Friday reaffirmed the scientific, economic and legal underpinnings of its 2012 Mercury and Air Toxics Standards for power plants, a step needed for any tightening of the standards.

[FERC approves power plant rules to fight extreme weather](#) - The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission approved new rules Thursday to help protect the electricity system during severe winter weather, but grid experts said more action is needed to prevent deadly power outages like those that occurred during Winter Storm Uri.

[U.S. EPA sets soot pollution rule, energy companies warn of costs](#) - The U.S. environmental regulator said on Tuesday it sent the White House its final plan to slash interstate smog and soot pollution from the power sector, but big energy companies warned that the measure on track to be finalized next month would cost them billions of dollars.

[EPA outlines \\$27B in clean energy grants as Biden administration remains open to national green bank](#) - The Biden administration on Tuesday sketched out plans to make almost \$27 billion available for clean energy and climate projects through a Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund authorized by the Inflation Reduction Act, with a focus on minority and low-income groups.

[Biden's oil comments spark debate over energy production](#) - President Joe Biden sparked a firestorm in energy circles when he said in Tuesday's State of the Union address that the United States will need oil "for at least another decade."

[Biden takes victory lap on climate bill in State of the Union](#) - President Biden touted the historic climate investments in the Inflation Reduction Act, the environmental and infrastructure spending he signed into law last year, in his second State of the Union address Tuesday night.

[Republican Majority Begins Oversight Agenda Highlighting Demand for American Energy, Minerals](#) - Today, the House Committee on Natural Resources held its first hearing of the 118th Congress, titled "Unleashing America's Energy and Mineral Potential."

[Biden administration acknowledges it can force Bitcoin mines to disclose pollution](#) - Federal agencies have the authority to force crypto mining companies to divulge how much energy they use and greenhouse gas emissions they create, according to letters between the agencies and Democratic lawmakers shared exclusively with The Verge.

[House Republicans target SEC climate risk rule](#) - Republicans controlling House oversight of the Securities and Exchange Commission are targeting the agency's proposal requiring companies to disclose in detail risks from climate change, saying the rule poses a threat to U.S. capital markets.

[Biden energy agenda exposes regulatory gap](#) - Energy companies are racing to build new energy infrastructure that could have a major influence on emissions and the Biden administration's agenda, but there's a catch: Regulators can't keep up.

[Manchin pushes DOE to invest in coal that earned him millions](#) - Sen. Joe Manchin pressured a top Energy Department official on Thursday to expand markets for coal waste, a high-polluting energy source that has earned Manchin's family millions of dollars.

[Manchin, Westerman plot new push for permitting reform](#) - Capitol Hill's permitting reform effort got new life Wednesday as two top Senate and House lawmakers held an initial summit on reviving the overhaul bid. This time, the House could take the lead.

[People to watch at DOE, Interior, FERC](#) - The Biden administration's clean energy goals may hinge on actions this year at the Department of Energy, the Department of Interior and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY ISSUES: STATE

[Joanna McClinton elected first female speaker of the Pa. House as Mark Rozzi steps down](#) - Democrat Joanna McClinton was elected the first female speaker of the Pennsylvania House on Tuesday after Mark Rozzi stepped down following two tumultuous months presiding over the lower chamber.

[Yaw will reintroduce energy choice bill, discusses solar bonding](#) - State Senator Gene Yaw (R-23) visited the Towanda area on Thursday and discussed his proposed legislation concerning energy topics.

[How the Ohio train derailment impacted Pa.'s air and water quality](#) - Social media sites have been full of hyperbole and misinformation since a Norfolk Southern train carrying hazardous chemicals derailed in East Palestine, Ohio, early this month.

[GOP lawmaker plans to introduce bill to 'eliminate' RGGI regulation](#) - Nearly a year after Pennsylvania formally joined the multi-state carbon-reduction compact known as the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI), one lawmaker is planning to introduce legislation to eliminate the regulation and prevent others like it.

[State DEP assessing solar projects on old mine land](#) - An assessment of using old mine lands to host solar energy projects in Pennsylvania is being conducted by the state Department of Environmental Protection.

[Environmental Hearing Board Chief Judge & Chairman Thomas W. Renwand Retires After 27 Years Of Service; Steven Beckman Named Chief Judge; Sarah Clark Added To Board](#) - After a prestigious 27-year career with the Environmental Hearing Board, Chief Judge and Chairman, Thomas W. Renwand retired on February 3, 2023.

[What waterways are considered 'navigable' in Pennsylvania?](#) - For centuries, navigable waters were identified as waterways used for commerce, such as floating logs or transporting furs.

[Promoting energy, protecting environment not mutually exclusive](#) - In a press release, sent out after a recent meeting with Gov. Josh Shapiro's nominees to oversee the state's Department of Environmental Protection and Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, State Sen. Gene Yaw said he left feeling optimistic.

[DEP Opens Next Round Of Federally-Funded Abandoned Mine Reclamation Grants For Locally-Sponsored Projects March 6](#) - The Department of Environmental Protection will begin accepting applications for abandoned mine reclamation and mine drainage treatment project grants on March 6. The deadline for applications is April 28.

[Pa. water plan urges more resources to protect against flooding, pollution](#) - Pennsylvania's water sources face threats from agricultural pollution, abandoned mine land and oil and gas development.

[Pa. asks court to reject case claiming state climate rule does more harm than good](#) - Attorneys for the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection urged a state court on Wednesday to toss out a case in its early stages that is seeking to dismantle a state climate rule by alleging it will not be effective enough.

[Yaw wants Legislature 'out of way' of energy regulatory matters](#) - The possibility that Pennsylvania risked rolling blackouts over Christmas when it has among the nation's richest energy portfolios has state Sen. Gene Yaw, R-Loyalsock Township, agitated to say the least.

[Senator looks at future of power after close call with rolling blackouts](#) - The possibility of rolling blackouts — which allegedly neared fruition across Pennsylvania at Christmastime — could be connected to using less reliable and “green” forms of energy such as solar and wind power, according to a state lawmaker.

[Penn State's Center For Critical Minerals To Receive \\$2.1 Million Grant To Build Pilot Plant To Recover Rare Earth Elements, Other Critical Minerals From Acid Mine Drainage](#) - On February 3, Penn State's Center for Critical Minerals announced it will receive \$2.1 million in federal funding to design, build and test a modular pilot-scale research and development unit intended to recover vital rare earth elements and other critical minerals from Pennsylvania acid mine drainage and other environmental sources.

[In Pennsylvania, a New Administration Fuels Hopes for Tougher Rules on Energy, Environment](#) - After 12 years of Republican control in the state, the election of Gov. Josh Shapiro represents a sea change.

[General Assembly deal sets Dominion profits for two years while overhauling regulatory system](#) - The decision came down to the wire, but on Saturday afternoon Gov. Glenn Youngkin's office and the General Assembly reached a deal on sweeping legislation to adjust Dominion Energy's profit margin and reform the state's system of electric utility regulation.

[Dominion asks to reinstate surcharge for RGGI, boosting bills](#) - Dominion Energy wants to reinstate a large surcharge it suspended last year to cover its costs of complying with the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative's caps on carbon dioxide emissions.