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## ARIPPA PERIODIC MEDIA NEWS – 7-3-23

(News clips from the previous month)

### CFB, COAL REFUSE, ENERGY INDUSTRY

[How old coal plants could help fuel a renewable boom](#) - When Pennsylvania's largest coal plant closes Saturday, it will leave behind more than towering smokestacks and mounds of coal waste.

[Gas-fired capacity surges this year, solar poised to boom: FERC report](#) - About 113,700 MW of solar, wind and gas-fired generation is highly likely to start operating by April 2026 but could be offset by about 44,100 MW of power plant retirements, according to the report.

[Conventional generation outages set a record in 2022: NERC](#) - Generation outages surpassed transmission as the leading cause of major load loss events last year, according to analysis from the North American Electric Reliability Corp.

[Northeastern states seek DOE support for transmission collaborative across three regions](#) - Eight Northeastern states on Friday asked the Department of Energy to help fund and support an interregional transmission planning collaboration across three grid operator footprints.

[Power plants remain vulnerable to outages in extreme cold, despite warnings, FERC and NERC find](#) - Despite previous warnings, U.S. power plants remain vulnerable to not working during bitter cold, according to an initial assessment of Winter Storm Elliott prepared by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and the North American Electric Reliability Corp.

[PJM's capacity market is sound, but changes needed to adapt to evolving grid mix, extreme weather: panelists](#) - The PJM Interconnection's capacity market is generally sound but needs improvements to adapt to a changing power supply mix and extreme weather risks, grid operator officials and stakeholders said Thursday at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

[PJM Testifies to Capacity Market Objectives, Outcomes and Reforms at FERC Forum](#) - PJM President and Chief Executive Officer Manu Asthana leads off the first panel of three at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's June 15 PJM Capacity Market Forum.

[More regional transfer capacity is key to mitigating grid reliability risks: ACORE panel](#) - The retirement of thousands of megawatts of dispatchable generation while electricity demand continues to grow is a threat to grid reliability in some parts of the country, but experts say greater transfer capacity between regions and demand management strategies can manage the long-term risk.

[Coal Loses More Ground To Gas In PJM, Nation's Largest Grid Operator](#) - West Virginia is part of a 13-state regional power grid that's been a heavy user of coal, but that's changing.

[In a First, Wind and Solar Generated More Power Than Coal in U.S.](#) - Wind and solar generated more electricity than coal through May, an E&E News review of federal data shows, marking the first time renewables have outpaced the former king of American power over a five-month period.

[Mission critical: To get critical minerals and rare earth metals from coal waste](#) - Critical minerals, including rare earth metals, are vital components of our consumer goods, national defense, and emerging green-energy technologies, but the U.S is heavily dependent on imports for an adequate supply.

[Increased U.S. renewable and natural gas generation likely to reduce summer coal demand](#) - We forecast that the largest increases in U.S. electricity generation this summer (June, July, and August) will come from solar, wind, and natural gas-fired power plants because of new generating capacity coming online, according to our June Short-Term Energy Outlook.

[US POWER TRACKER: PJM prices set to fall this summer on lower gas prices](#) - PJM Interconnection wholesale power prices are expected to be much lower this summer on year based on forward power and natural gas prices, with on-peak power prices at PJM Western Hub projected to average around \$43.60/MWh in 2023, according to S&P Global Commodity Insights power market analysts.

[The largest coal-fired power plant in Pennsylvania will close by July 2023](#) - After 54 years of providing power to Pennsylvania and New York, the Homer City Generating Station in Pennsylvania will close by July 2023, according to the plant's owner.

[PJM Head: Energy Transition Can Be Done, But Grid Reliability Is At Risk](#) - The head of the nation's largest power grid operator said the transition to cleaner energy is doable, but there are challenges.

[U.S. Dept. Of The Interior Announces Availability Of \\$244.7 Million In Bipartisan Infrastructure Funding To PA For Abandoned Mine Reclamation](#) - On June 1, the Department of the Interior announced nearly \$725 million from the federal Bipartisan Infrastructure Law is available to 22 states and the Navajo Nation to create good-paying jobs and catalyze economic opportunity by reclaiming abandoned coal mine lands.

[Improving the U.S. Electric Power Grid: Mitigating Vulnerabilities and Enhancing Operation](#) - The U.S. power grid has many vulnerabilities, but power companies, with additional support from the government, are investing in the system and enhancing its operation through new innovative technology.

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

[Supreme Court axes debt relief, threatens climate regs](#) - The Supreme Court issued a ruling Friday blocking student loan relief and in the process inserted more uncertainty into the Biden administration's ability to tackle climate change.

[MSHA Proposes Lower Limit On Silica Dust Exposure For Coal Miners](#) - Federal mine safety regulators have announced a long-delayed rule that could help reduce cases of black lung disease.

[Industry groups press White House for rules coordinator](#) - Major trade associations representing key industry sectors are urging the White House to bring on a top official to manage regulations across the federal government.

[Lawmakers and regulators want permit reform and environmental justice. How does one shape the other?](#) - Sounding like a dad who's had enough tomfoolery for one day, former Ohio Congressman Tim Ryan issued a warning: "We can't have stupid fights about everything."

[EPA nominee: 200 enforcement jobs 'will be restored'](#) - A top EPA official said the agency is filling dozens of jobs for its enforcement team, which could help supercharge the Biden administration's push to crack down on polluters.

[Biden-Harris Administration Invests \\$77 Million in States and Tribal Nations to Modernize America's Electric Grid](#) - As part of President Biden's Investing in America agenda, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) today announced seven states, three tribal nations and the District of Columbia were selected as the second cohort to receive more than \$77 million in Grid Resilience State and Tribal Formula Grants.

[Reliability 'catastrophe' looms as dispatchable resources retire, FERC commissioner warns](#) - The U.S. electric power system is headed for "potentially catastrophic consequences" as dispatchable generating resources are retiring "far too quickly" and in quantities that "threaten our ability to keep the lights on."

[IRS guidance on renewable tax credit transferability, direct-pay provisions of IRA, garners mixed reviews](#) - The IRS issued new guidance, including proposed regulations, related to the tax credit transferability and direct pay provisions of the Inflation Reduction Act on Wednesday.

[White House picks up the pace on regs](#) - The White House revealed plans for energy and environmental regulations Tuesday, with rules primed to meet a crucial deadline to avoid being overturned by Republican lawmakers if President Joe Biden loses his reelection bid.

[How the debt ceiling bill's permitting deal hurt the outlook for deeper reforms, transmission legislation](#) - The debt ceiling compromise agreed to by Congress and the White House early this month contains long-awaited, if limited, permitting reforms – but may have hurt the outlook for additional promised reform and transmission legislation.

[‘Recipe for chaos’: FERC’s Clements blasts agency decision to approve PJM capacity auction delays](#) - The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission on Friday approved the PJM Interconnection’s plan to delay upcoming capacity auctions so it can incorporate potential market reforms into them.

[Capito demands hearings on EPA plan to shutter coal-and-gas fired plants](#) - U.S. Senator Shelley Moore Capito, R-W.Va., is asking for additional public hearings to be scheduled on a far-reaching federal Environmental Protection Agency plan that would force the closure of additional coal-and gas-fired power plants.

[FERC to oversee settlement talks to resolve PJM Winter Storm Elliott complaints amid \\$1.8B in charges](#) - The agency will try to help settle 13 complaints from Calpine, Energy Harbor, Invenergy, LS Power and other companies seeking to overturn fines against them for not performing during the winter storm.

[3 takeaways from hearing on EPA power plant rule](#) - Republicans and Democrats clashed at a hearing Tuesday that examined EPA’s planned actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions at power plants around the country. It served as yet another example of the political challenges inherent in addressing the climate crisis.

[States fight to save coal plants as EPA cracks down](#) - A new rule proposed last month by EPA could spell the end of coal-fired power plants as they currently exist. But not if some states have their way.

[Experts Warn of Grid Crisis as PA Senators Demand Green Energy](#) - When the U.S. Senate approved the Inflation Reduction Act, Sen. Bob Casey (D-Pa.) celebrated the legislation as “the most ambitious climate bill the Senate has ever passed.”

[House turns to energy, regulations after debt vote](#) - House Republicans will focus on energy and the environment this week after lawmakers successfully diffused an impending debt limit crisis.

[Sen. Manchin: Give NERC and FERC a say in EPA power plant regulations](#) - The seemingly slow expansion of renewable electricity in the United States requires environmental regulators to consider input on reliability and supply before pressuring more fossil-fuel power plants to shut down, a key U.S. lawmaker said this week.

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

[Pennsylvania to begin new fiscal year without budget plan in place](#) - Republicans who control Pennsylvania’s Senate passed spending legislation hours ahead of Saturday’s start of a new fiscal year, but they lacked agreement with the Democratic-controlled House of Representatives to keep state government’s full spending authority intact.

[Senate Overwhelmingly Confirms Richard Negrin As Secretary Of DEP](#) - On June 27, the Senate voted 48 to 1 to confirm Richard Negrin as Secretary of the Department of Environmental Protection.

[Struzzi, House Committee Examine Pennsylvania Energy Policy](#) - Five miles from Pennsylvania’s largest coal-fired electric generating facility, state Rep. Jim Struzzi (R-Indiana) and the House Republican Policy Committee took a closer look Friday at Pennsylvania’s energy policy, both present and future.

[House Democratic Leadership Blocks Environmental Committee Action On Bills Increasing Safety Zones Around Natural Gas Facilities, Cryptocurrency Permit Moratorium](#) - On June 27, Rep. Greg Vitali (D-Delaware), Majority Chair of the House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee, announced to the Committee-- “Five minutes ago I was called by my [Democratic] leadership and asked to not run these bills” to increase safety zones around natural gas facilities and enacting a cryptocurrency permit moratorium.

[House Republicans, Democrats Introduce Legislation To Prevent The Court System From Being Used By Powerful Interests To Silence Citizen Critics](#) - On the same day, groups of Republican and Democratic legislators in the House introduced legislation to do the same thing-- prevent SLAPP (Strategic Lawsuits Against Public Participation) lawsuits aimed at silencing citizen critics and preventing people from exercising their constitutional right to free speech.

[Yaw: Senate ERE Committee Oks Framework for Carbon Capture Sequestration, Bill Directing EQB to Establish Spill Reporting Requirements](#) - The Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee today approved two bills addressing carbon capture sequestration and reporting requirements for accidental spills, according to Chairman Gene Yaw (R-23), sponsor of both measures.

[Yaw Bill Seeks to Create Independent Energy Office in Pennsylvania](#) - Sen. Gene Yaw (R-23) today introduced legislation to establish an Independent Energy Office (IEO) within the Commonwealth.

[Yaw Introduces Bill to Protect Power Grid](#) - Sen. Gene Yaw (R-23) recently announced the introduction of legislation to increase fines and penalties against those who intentionally vandalize or attack critical infrastructure in Pennsylvania.

[Secretive State Climate Talks Stir Discontent With Pennsylvania Governor](#) - Already infuriated by a decision to allow drilling in a town with tainted water, onetime supporters are questioning Josh Shapiro's commitment to environmental issues.

[Citizens Advisory Council Presentations Highlight New Center Of Environmental Excellence At DEP To Improve Permitting Efficiency, Deliver Best In Class Service, Share Results; Environmental Justice; More](#) - Citizens Advisory Council Presentations Highlight New Center Of Environmental Excellence At DEP To Improve Permitting Efficiency, Deliver Best In Class Service, Share Results; Environmental Justice; More

[PUC Vice Chairman: During Winter Storm Elliot We Learned Natural Gas Can Be An Intermittent Generator Of Electricity Just Like Renewables](#) - On June 13, Public Utility Commission Chairman Gladys Brown Dutrieuille told the House Consumer Protection, Technology and Utilities Committee Winter Storm Elliot has again demonstrated extreme weather can have a significant impact on electric grid operations in terms of reliability and resilience.

[Pa Republicans Discuss Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative as Budget Deadline Approaches](#) - Today, Republican state lawmakers spoke out against the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, also known as RGGI.

[PUC Releases Summer Readiness Reports From Electric Utilities - Adequate Capacity And Supply To Meet Summer Energy Needs](#) - On June 12, the Public Utility Commission published the 2023 Summer Readiness Overview reports from the state's electric distribution companies (EDCs) and the region's electric transmission organization PJM Interconnection.

[Pa. coal plants keep closing. Does the state need carbon trading?](#) - Pennsylvania isn't part of a big, regional program to slash carbon emissions, but coal plants are closing anyway — fueling a debate about the energy state's future.

[Pa. Senate approves new state agency name in hopes of a 'culture change'](#) - If state Senate Republicans have their way, the state agency responsible for protecting Pennsylvania's land, air and water may be getting a name change, to the Department of Environmental Services.

[Virginia air board approves withdrawal from regional carbon market](#) - The State Air Pollution Control Board took its final step to withdraw Virginia from a regional carbon market, sending the action to Republican Gov. Glenn Youngkin's office for final action, despite a majority of public commenters continuing to oppose the move.

[Cindy Adams Dunn Confirmed to Serve as Secretary of Department of Conservation and Natural Resources](#) - Today, the Pennsylvania Senate confirmed Cindy Adams Dunn to serve as Secretary of the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR).

[Pa.'s Coal Caucus announces new leadership](#) - The Legislative Coal Caucus announced its co-chairs for the 2023-24 session of Pennsylvania's General Assembly: Sen. Gene Yaw, R-Union/Bradford/Lycoming/Sullivan/Tioga, Sen. Jim Brewster, D-Allegheny, Rep. Frank Burns, D-Cambria, and Rep. Jim Struzzi, R-Indiana.