



2015 Chestnut Street, Camp Hill, PA 17011 Phone: (717) 763-7635, Fax: (717) 763-7455, Email: [office@arippa.org](mailto:office@arippa.org)

## ARIPPA PERIODIC MEDIA NEWS – 8-1-23

(News clips from the previous month)

### CFB, COAL REFUSE, ENERGY INDUSTRY

[Bay Journal: Legacy Sediment Behind Old Mill Dams Could Help Heal Abandoned Mine Land](#) - Fertile sediment bottled up behind old mill dams in Pennsylvania is a relentless source of nutrient and sediment pollution in local waterways that flow toward the Chesapeake Bay.

[Scorching heat stresses US power grids, prices soar](#) - U.S. power prices rose to their highest in months in a couple of markets as homes and businesses cranked up their air conditioners to escape a brutal heatwave blanketing much of the country this week, stressing electric grids.

[‘A tripling of electrical output’: Tesla’s Musk urges power sector to anticipate higher demand](#) - Utilities and other power system stakeholders should recalibrate their expectations for electricity demand in a decarbonized future, Tesla CEO Elon Musk told attendees at a summit held by Pacific Gas & Electric Tuesday, adding that “whatever your demand predictions are for electricity, I suspect they are too low... I recommend anticipating much higher demand.”

[FERC approves transfer of Pleasants Power to new owners](#) - Federal regulators have approved the transfer of the Pleasants Power Plant near St. Marys to new owners with plans to produce hydrogen at the former coal-fired plant.

[Winter is coming and the U.S. grid remains vulnerable to power plant failures](#) - From winter storms to sweltering summer heat, there’s a consensus among experts that increasing extreme weather, a shifting electric generation mix, delays in getting new power generation projects connected and the difficulties in getting new transmission lines and other infrastructure built all pose an increasing risk to the grid.

[Hot Weather: How to Maintain Power Plant Readiness and Reliable Operation](#) - Extreme temperature and weather events have become more prevalent in the past decade. In fact, July 2023 is shaping up to be “the hottest single month on Earth on record, and possibly in more than 100,000 years,” according to an article published by *The Washington Post*.

[Emissions Rules Could Target More Gas-Fired Power Plants](#) - Much of the discussion after the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) earlier this year issued new emissions standards for power generation units focused on the impact for coal-fired power plants.

[NYC could face up to 446 MW power deficit in 2025, due to electrification and peaker retirements: ISO](#) - Completion of the Champlain Hudson Power Express transmission line, which will bring power to New York City from Quebec, is expected to improve reliability margins beginning in 2026.

[Gas-fired generation accounted for 70% of unplanned outages in Winter Storm Elliott: PJM](#) - The PJM Interconnection offered 30 recommendations to improve winter-time operations, including possibly setting capacity values for gas-fired power plants at levels that match their performance.

[Registration Open! PA Statewide Abandoned Mine Reclamation Conference Oct. 24-26 In Altoona](#) - Registration is now open for the 2023 PA Statewide Abandoned Mine Reclamation Conference to be held October 24 to 26 at the Altoona Grand Hotel in Blair County.

[Federal judge dismisses Madigan-related bribery charge against ComEd](#) - The dismissal means ComEd no longer faces criminal charges and avoids conviction, while others have faced prison time as a result of the investigation that targeted former state House Speaker Michael Madigan.

[Transmission development pace ‘severely’ limits renewable energy, carbon reduction potential: report](#) - Failing to speed up transmission expansion cuts possible greenhouse gas emissions reductions in half by 2035, the Princeton University-led REPEAT Project found.

[Global renewables adoption ‘in line with ambitious net-zero scenarios’: RMI report](#) - The think tank projects global success in meeting a 2050 net-zero goal, but not in limiting warming to 1.5 C.

[US grid congestion costs jumped 56% to \\$20.8B in 2022: report](#) - Costs to consumers from congestion on the U.S. power grid jumped 56% in 2022 to an estimated \$20.8 billion from \$13.3 billion the year before, partly driven by fuel price volatility, according to a report released Thursday by consulting firm Grid Strategies.

[Natural gas can rival coal's climate-warming potential when leaks are counted](#) - Natural gas has long been considered a more climate-friendly alternative to coal, as gas-fired power plants generally release less carbon dioxide into the atmosphere than their coal-fired counterparts. But a new study finds that when the full impact of the industry is taken into account, natural gas could contribute as much as coal to climate change.

[The Energy Transition Is Underway. Fossil Fuel Workers Could Be Left Behind.](#) - The Biden administration is trying to increase renewable energy investments in distressed regions, but some are skeptical those measures would be enough to make up for job losses.

[Transition to New Interconnection Process Begins July 10](#) - The transition to PJM’s new interconnection process begins July 10, setting the stage for more than 260,000 MW of mostly renewable projects to be studied over the next three years.

[Country’s Largest Grid Operator Must Process and Connect Backlogged Clean Energy Projects, a New Report Says](#) - PJM could benefit numerous states with thousands of jobs and billions in investment by implementing recent reforms, including priority for proposals ready to proceed and a “fast lane” for smaller deals.

[U.S. Coal Consumption Falls 25% In 1st Quarter As Production Stays Flat](#) - U.S. coal consumption declined about 25 percent during January to March of 2023 from the first three months of 2022.

[Clean Energy Transition Continues Despite Reliability, Supply Chain, and Financial Uncertainty](#) - Although there is a risk of energy shortfalls in parts of the U.S. if extreme summer temperatures materialize, there is no stopping the clean energy transition that is sweeping the nation. Energy storage capacity is poised to skyrocket with government backing and equity-intensive financing.

[Company seeks former mine lands for reforestation](#) - Owners of formerly-mined lands now have a chance to transform their properties into young, healthy forests.

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

[White House proposes environmental review reforms, in part to speed clean energy projects](#) - The proposal sets deadlines for environmental reviews, opens pathways for speedier permitting and requires agencies to consider environmental justice.

[FERC approves ‘historic’ rule to address renewables backlog](#) - The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission approved a major new rule Thursday to accelerate the connection of energy projects to the power grid, a move that could ease widespread delays stifling renewable energy.

[Barrasso ties possible transmission reforms to ‘premature’ power plant retirements](#) - Sen. Joe Manchin, D-W.Va., continues to seek bipartisan permitting reforms, but a possible sticking point emerged at a Senate hearing Wednesday.

[‘Fragile compromises’: Biden energy fights heat up in court](#) - Federal courts will spend the last half of the year weighing the fate of some of the Biden administration’s biggest climate and energy goals.

[‘Battle plan’: How the far right would dismantle climate programs](#) - A coalition of conservative groups has assembled a plan to systematically target most of the federal government’s work on climate and clean energy.

[Permitting Plan B: Democrats lean on FERC, DOE](#) - As prospects remain murky for bipartisan permitting reform in Congress, top Senate Democrats are turning to new strategies.

[After decades of delays and broken promises, coal miners hail rule to slow rise of black lung](#) - A half-century ago, the nation’s top health experts urged the federal agency in charge of mine safety to adopt strict rules protecting miners from poisonous rock dust.

[FERC Chevron doctrine fight arrives at Supreme Court](#) - A brewing Supreme Court battle over a renewable energy law is raising questions about the regulatory power of federal agencies.

[House panel discusses grid threats: China, Russia, inverter-based resources, physical attacks](#) - House subcommittee held a hearing Tuesday on growing threats to the U.S. electric grid, including sophisticated hackers, physical attacks, the rise of inverter-based resources and a reliance on pipelines for gas-fired generation.

[Biden boosted climate action. But U.S. emissions goals still in doubt.](#) - When Joe Biden was a presidential candidate in 2020, he pledged to ban oil and gas drilling on public land, pump federal money into clean energy, and achieve net-zero emissions by midcentury.

[Climate change and extreme weather big yawns for GOP](#) - Heat waves, wildfire smoke and floods have swept across the U.S. and the world this summer, but extreme weather events aren’t swaying House Republicans on climate change — at least not yet.

[House Republicans propose planting a trillion trees as they move away from climate change denial](#) - As Speaker Kevin McCarthy visited a natural gas drilling site in northeast Ohio to promote House Republicans’ plan to sharply increase domestic production of energy from fossil fuels last month, the signs of rising global temperatures could not be ignored. Smoke from Canadian wildfires hung in the air.

[House Republicans propose deep cuts for Interior, EPA](#) - House Republicans would take a budgetary buzzsaw to energy and environmental agencies the Biden administration and Democrats had buttressed after years of stagnant funding.

[Judge freezes WOTUS fight until Biden issues new rule](#) - A federal judge has temporarily halted a legal battle over the Biden administration’s signature water regulation until EPA and the Army Corps of Engineers have a chance to rework the rule in light of a recent Supreme Court decision.

[As Budget Talks Heat Up in Congress, Republicans Ramp Up Attacks on Climate Spending](#) - Congress is once again fighting over cuts to the federal budget, putting the government at risk of a shutdown in October. Many Republican proposals target funds for clean energy and climate change.

[EPA says carbon capture is within reach. Utilities aren’t biting.](#) - The utilities that control most of the country’s power plants aren’t rushing out to install carbon capture, even as the Biden administration offers the technology as a lifeline for fossil fuels.

[Why SCOTUS might stop Republican attacks on carbon metric](#) - Republican-led states are urging the nation’s highest bench to strike down the Biden administration’s method of justifying costly climate regulations.

[Biden-Harris Administration Invests Over \\$200 Million in States and Tribal Nations to Modernize America’s Electrical Grid](#) - As part of President Biden’s Investing in America agenda, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) today announced nine states and three tribal nations as the third cohort to receive a combined total of \$207.6 million in Grid Resilience State and Tribal Formula Grants.

[Environmental advocates rally in support of EPA legacy coal ash rule](#) - Environmental justice advocates are urging the U.S. EPA to implement proposed rules on legacy coal ash sites that have been exempt from regulation. Several affected groups spoke during a rally before a public EPA hearing in Chicago on June 28.

[Republicans seek FERC conferences to assess grid effects of EPA's proposed power plant carbon limits](#) - Republican Sens. John Barrasso, Wyo., and Shelley Moore Capito, W. Va., are asking the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to hold technical conferences to review how the Environmental Protection Agency's proposal to limit greenhouse gas emissions from power plants could affect grid reliability.

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

[Virginia enviro groups file notice they will challenge Youngkin's RGGI withdrawal](#) - Environmental attorneys Monday filed notice that they intend to file a legal challenge against Republican Gov. Glenn Youngkin's proposed regulation to withdraw Virginia from the regional carbon market known as the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative.

[Shapiro Administration Provides Budget Updates To Stakeholders](#) - The Shapiro administration has reached out to stakeholders in education and health and human services to inform them about the budget impasse.

[Armanini, Kephart applaud focus on abandoned area mines](#) - State Reps. Mike Armanini, R-DuBois, and Dallas Kephart, R-Clearfield, are praising funding being targeted at addressing clean-up of Pennsylvania's abandoned mines, including those within the districts they represent.

[DEP, Agriculture, DCNR Release Pennsylvania's 2022 Chesapeake Bay Annual Progress Report](#) - The departments of Environmental Protection, Agriculture and Conservation and Natural Resources have released Pennsylvania's Healthy Waters Health Communities 2022 Chesapeake Bay Progress Report.

[Biden's tough sell in Pennsylvania: green energy to union workers](#) - President Joe Biden travels on Thursday to Philadelphia to pitch the promise of a green economy to union workers skeptical that the solar, wind and electric vehicle industries can deliver the same economic punch for organized labor as fossil fuel-powered refineries and power plants.

[Democrat quits Pa. House, leaving chamber tied at 101-101. A special election is set for September](#) - A Democratic lawmaker from Pittsburgh resigned Wednesday from the Pennsylvania House of Representatives, moving the razor-thin majority her party has held this year to a partisan tie with the Legislature mired in a budget stalemate.

[CARBON EMISSIONS FROM COAL DECREASING IN PENNSYLVANIA](#) - New data from the U.S. Energy Information Administration shows carbon dioxide emissions from coal in Pennsylvania continuing a decades long downward trend.

[Feds, states reach settlement in lawsuit over Chesapeake Bay pollution from Pa.](#) - A settlement agreement has been finalized in a lawsuit that alleged federal officials weren't doing enough to stop Chesapeake Bay pollution originating in Pennsylvania.

[Senate Bill Introduced To Provide \\$5 Million In Tax Credits To Develop Solar Energy Facilities On Brownfields, Abandoned Mine Sites, Warehouse Roofs](#) - On July 12, Sen. Doug Mastriano (R-Adams) announced the introduction of Senate Bill 798 to provide \$5 million in state tax credits to develop solar energy facilities on brownfields, abandoned mine sites, capped landfills, warehouse and parking facility roofs.

[DEP Secretary Introduces Bevin Ann Buchheister As New Acting Deputy Secretary For Water Programs](#) - DEP Secretary Richard Negrin introduced Bevin Ann Buchheister, Esq. as the new Acting Deputy Secretary for Water Programs at the July 11 Environmental Quality Board meeting.

[Bad blood, technicalities, and complicated code bills keep the Pa. budget in limbo](#) - While both chambers of the Pennsylvania legislature have passed a budget spending plan that Gov. Josh Shapiro says he'll sign, legislative technicalities and bad blood over an axed school voucher proposal are prolonging the commonwealth's week-long impasse.