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ARIPPA PERIODIC MEDIA NEWS – 10-2-23

(News clips from the previous month)

CFB, COAL REFUSE, ENERGY INDUSTRY

[PJM Files Proposed Winter Storm Elliott Settlement](#) - PJM and 80 other settling parties today filed a settlement package to comprehensively resolve 15 separate Federal Energy Regulatory Commission complaints regarding extraordinary non-performance charges resulting from Winter Storm Elliott on Dec. 23 and Dec. 24, 2022.

[SPP Set to Become First RTO Straddling Eastern and Western Interconnections](#) - The Southwest Power Pool (SPP) is poised to become the first regional transmission organization (RTO) to provide coordinated operation across the Eastern and Western Interconnections, bridging a historic gap to potentially boost regional reliability, savings, and efficiencies.

[The US power grid quietly survived its most brutal summer yet](#) - Despite record power demand, the grid largely avoided blackouts. Don't take this for granted.

[PJM board calls for capacity market changes to bolster grid reliability, resource adequacy](#) - The PJM Interconnection plans in mid-October to ask the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to approve revisions to its capacity market in time for its next auction.

['Not nearly enough.' IEA says fossil fuel demand will peak soon but urges faster action](#) - Global demand for oil, natural gas and coal is likely to peak by 2030 — an “encouraging” development but “not nearly enough” to limit the rise in global temperatures to 1.5 degrees Celsius, the International Energy Agency said Tuesday.

[PJM states forging ahead to create a voluntary forward clean energy market](#) - A group of PJM Interconnection states is pushing ahead with plans to create a voluntary forward energy attribute market by the end of the year that would be unbundled from PJM's existing power markets, allowing states to pursue their clean energy policies.

[DEP Starts Air Monitoring Study Near Rausch Creek Coal Waste-Fired Electric Generation Facility, Schuylkill County In Response To Citizen Concerns In An EJ Area](#) - On September 22, the Department of Environmental Protection announced it will start an air monitoring study in the vicinity of the Rausch Creek Coal Waste-fired Electric Generation facility in Western Schuylkill County to evaluate particulate matter in the air.

[Attorneys dig up thousands of new documents in case against FirstEnergy](#) - Lawyers for pension and investment funds suing Akron-based FirstEnergy report that as they press the company for documents relating to alleged bribery, the company is finding thousands more.

[FERC, NERC Reveal Disturbing Details from Winter Storm Elliot Inquiry](#) - Incremental unplanned generation outages triggered during Winter Storm Elliot spiked to 90.5 GW—significantly more than the 61.8 GW during Winter Storm Uri in 2021—representing 13% of the U.S. portion of anticipated resources in the Eastern Interconnection.

[Pace of Coal Retirements Increases Near-Term Reliability Risks](#) - Warnings about a pending grid reliability crisis are increasing, and fingers point to the premature retirement of dispatchable electricity resources as the primary threat.

[NERC wants smaller renewables, batteries to register as bulk-power assets over reliability concerns](#) - The North American Electric Reliability Corp. is considering rule changes that would require smaller wind, solar and battery generators, known as inverter-based resources, or IBRs, to register as assets on the bulk-power system, or BPS.

[Michael Bloomberg pumps \\$500 million into bid to close all US coal plants](#) - Former New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg announced on Wednesday he will pump \$500 million into the next phase of his energy transition campaign, aiming to shut down "every last" coal plant in the United States and slash gas-fired capacity in half by 2030.

[Vistra plans to sell nearly 400 MW in PJM to ease market power fears from Energy Harbor deal](#) - Vistra will sell two power plants totaling 386 MW in Ohio to ease concerns it could unfairly raise power prices in the PJM Interconnection by buying Energy Harbor, the companies said Monday.

[The US is building power lines faster, but not fast enough](#) - Major transmission lines and grid plans have been approved in the past two years. But they're just 10 percent of what the country needs to decarbonize its grid.

[Researchers discover 'super material' in coal](#) - Researchers at Virginia Tech have found a way to use coal to create a "super material" known as graphene.

[Moody's warns of potential power price volatility from renewables oversupply](#) - As utilities increase the amount of renewable energy in their fuel supply mixes, the associated need for an increase in resource buffers could lead to oversupply that would increase power price volatility and grid reliability costs, said Moody's Investors Service in a Wednesday report.

[Petra Nova, Pioneering Power Plant Carbon Capture Unit, Is Up and Running Again, says JX Nippon](#) - Petra Nova, one of the world's only two carbon capture and storage (CCS) retrofits at a commercial power plant, has restarted operations, JX Nippon Oil and Gas Exploration Corp. announced on Sept. 13.

[Rising power costs spark fears of clean energy slowdown](#) - Clean power companies are pressing regulators to let them charge more for their electricity than previously agreed — a dynamic that could influence the politics and economics of state-level climate targets.

[Appalachian tech hub bid focuses on turning coal byproducts into new materials](#) - A Bluefield, West Virginia-based application with Southwest Virginia representation is seeking federal economic development investment to convert coal byproducts into products like batteries and building materials.

[What Electricity Sources Power the World?](#) - In 2022, 29,165.2 terawatt hours (TWh) of electricity was generated around the world, an increase of 2.3% from the previous year.

[Carbon-free grid? There may not be enough workers to build it.](#) - At a July event in Philadelphia, a young welder clad in a hard hat and safety vest introduced President Joe Biden from a stage erected on a factory floor.

[Renewable Energy Projects Nearing End Raise Abandonment Concerns](#) - As wind and solar development speeds up across the country, more states are running into questions about how to responsibly decommission or repower projects at the end of their lives.

[Utility group taps Trump official as next CEO. Is it backsliding on climate?](#) - When Dan Brouillette took over as Energy secretary under former President Donald Trump, he chose the National Petroleum Council as the venue to deliver his first public comments.

[EIA Reports Second Straight Year of Growth for New U.S. Gas-Fired Power Plants](#) - The U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA) said it expects 16 new natural gas-fired power plants will begin commercial operation this year, a second straight year of growth in gas-fired generation capacity after three consecutive years of declines.

[As renewables grow, questions remain for utilities and regulators](#) - As the share of energy from renewables grows, some policymakers in Harrisburg have raised concerns about electric grid reliability, even though solar and wind make up only a small share of current generation.

LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY ISSUES: FEDERAL

[Bresler, Other RTO Leaders Testify Before House Subcommittee on Grid Reliability](#) - PJM's Stu Bresler, Sr. Vice President – Market Services, testified Sept. 28 before the U.S. House of Representatives Subcommittee on Energy, Climate & Grid Security to provide PJM's perspective on preserving the electric grid through the ongoing energy transition.

[Sen. Hickenlooper touts interregional transmission as new report tackles US grid risks](#) - The U.S. electrical grid faces significant risk from extreme weather, rising demand, an evolving resource mix and physical and cyber attacks, according to a report published Tuesday by SAFE, a nonpartisan policy organization focused on energy issues.

[ICYMI: Manchin's Bipartisan Mining Schools Act of 2023 Passes Out of Energy and Natural Resources Committee](#) - U.S. Senator Joe Manchin's (D-WV), Chairman of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources (ENR) Committee, Mining Schools Act of 2023 was recently passed out of the ENR Committee by a voice vote.

[FERC outlines 'catastrophic' gas, grid threats](#) - The natural gas system in New York City nearly failed and left a million customers without heat last Christmas Eve, federal regulators said Thursday.

[Biden broadens use of social cost of carbon](#) - The Biden administration announced plans Thursday to consider climate costs in a much broader swath of government policies and decisions than ever before — including how the federal government wields its massive buying power.

[Joe Biden is unveiling the American Climate Corps, a program with echoes of the New Deal](#) - The White House on Wednesday unveiled a new climate jobs training program that it says could put 20,000 people to work in its first year on projects like restoring land, improving communities' resilience to natural disasters and deploying clean energy.

[U.S. industry lags on emissions cuts, DOE says](#) - The country's heavy industries remain off track in meeting the Biden administration's climate goals but still have time to slash emissions by 40 percent by 2030, according to a trio of new reports from the Department of Energy.

[Dems bet on transmission bill as bridge to permitting deal](#) - As Congress continues to chase a bipartisan deal to overhaul the nation's permitting process for energy projects, two Democrats are throwing into the mix a new proposal they hope will help all sides find common ground.

['That's perjury': Takeaways from a tense Granholm hearing](#) - Energy Secretary Jennifer Granholm faced withering criticism from House Republicans on Thursday, with one lawmaker raising the question of impeachment over Granholm's previous false congressional testimony about stock holdings.

[New EPA Report Shows Major Emissions Reductions in Electricity Sector from President Biden's Inflation Reduction Act](#) - Today, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) released a new report that finds that President Biden's Inflation Reduction Act – the largest climate investment ever – spurs major carbon dioxide (CO₂) emission reductions from the U.S. electricity sector and across the economy.

[Sources: Manchin backs FERC energy analyst for commission seat](#) - A Federal Energy Regulatory Commission staffer would be the next member of the powerful panel if Senate Energy and Natural Resources Chair Joe Manchin has his way.

[DOE announces \\$125M in grid modernization, power resilience grants](#) - The U.S. Department of Energy on Tuesday announced \$125 million in formula grants to modernize state and tribal electric grids and ensure power reliability.

[Ninth Circuit largely upholds FERC PURPA reform decision affecting small solar, wind](#) - The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit on Tuesday upheld the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's 2020 revamp of the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act, a law designed to spur small-scale renewable energy and cogeneration.

LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY ISSUES: STATE

[Pennsylvania governor noncommittal on greenhouse gas strategy as climate task force finishes work](#) - Gov. Josh Shapiro on Friday remained noncommittal on a strategy to reduce planet-warming greenhouse gases after a task force the Democrat appointed came to an uncertain conclusion over how to make Pennsylvania the first major fossil fuel state to adopt carbon pricing over power plant emissions.

[Pennsylvania Receives Federal Appalachian States Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation Award For Clearfield County Mine Reclamation, Trail Enhancement Project](#) - On September 25, the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement honored Pennsylvania's Bureau of Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation during the National Association of Abandoned Mine Land Programs conference in Chicago.

[Pa. lawmakers are still trying to finish the budget 3 months after the deadline](#) - Pennsylvania lawmakers are no closer to finalizing the state's spending plan nearly three months after the deadline, leaving hundreds of millions of dollars for the poorest schools, student mental health grants, and more in limbo.

[DEP Announced \\$38.76 Million In Funding For 6 Abandoned Mine Reclamation Projects In 5 Counties; Next Round Of Applications Due Dec. 2](#) - On September 21, the Department of Environmental Protection announced \$38.76 million in funding for six environmental restoration projects of abandoned mine lands in the first of three rounds of the 2023 Abandoned Mine Lands and Acid Mine Drainage (AML/AMD) Grant Program.

[DEP Hears Concerns, Some Support From Water Resources Committee On Draft Reg. On Reporting Unauthorized Spills, Releases](#) - On September 21, Water Resources Advisory Committee members gave DEP their initial reaction to a proposed regulation setting notification requirements for unauthorized discharges to waters of the Commonwealth and many of their comments pointed out concerns with the draft.

[DEP Publishes Interim Final Environmental Justice Policy Changing Permit Review Process; Opens Comment Period Setting 9 Public Hearings](#) - On September 16, the Department of Environmental Protection published the Interim Final Environmental Justice Policy in the PA Bulletin that will now guide DEP's permit application reviews and outreach efforts in environmental justice areas throughout the Commonwealth.

[Pennsylvania Coal Alliance recognizes companies for safety, reclamation](#) - On Tuesday, the Pennsylvania Coal Alliance (PCA) announced the winners of its annual awards recognizing employee safety and mine reclamation efforts.

[Pa. misses 7th RGGI auction as litigation keeps involvement in limbo](#) - Pennsylvania has missed seven carbon credits auctions since formally joining the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative in April 2022 due to ongoing litigation.

[Pennsylvania can help our country meet the growing demand for rare-earth minerals | Opinion](#) - Historically known as a hub of industrial innovation, Pennsylvania is now poised to enter a new era of economic prosperity through the mining and refinement of rare-earth minerals.

[Environmentalists Demand Answers About Pennsylvania Governor's Secretive Committee on Cap-and-Trade Program](#) - As the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative stalls in the courts, front-line communities ask the administration to prioritize their input.

[FirstEnergy utilities near merger, but rates won't change yet](#) - FirstEnergy Corp. is a step closer to consolidating its four Pennsylvania utilities into a single entity, but it has assured customers that nothing will change in the short term.

[After six years of inaction, Virginia Commission on Electric Utility Regulation reconvenes](#) - Virginia's Commission on Electric Utility Regulation met for the first time in six years Tuesday, following legislation during the last General Assembly session that requires it to now meet twice every year.

[Gov. Josh Shapiro's administration has slashed wait times and backlogs for state approvals and licenses](#) - Within the first few weeks of Gov. Josh Shapiro's administration, the new Democratic governor promised to make Pennsylvania more friendly for businesses and workers.