



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

ARIPPA PERIODIC MEDIA NEWS – 11-1-23

(News clips from the previous month)

CFB, COAL REFUSE, ENERGY INDUSTRY

[PJM Presents Proposal for Needed Grid Upgrades](#) - PJM on Tuesday presented stakeholders with the proposal it will recommend to its Board of Managers to expand the regional transmission system to meet the needs of data center growth, generator retirement and new generation resource capacity in the Mid-Atlantic region.

[Regional transmission needs greatest in ERCOT, MISO, SPP: DOE](#) - Transmission developers and planners can use the Energy Department's needs study to map out new power line paths to boost reliability and access clean energy.

[Federal Data: Coal Falls 21 Percent Year To Date In U.S. Electricity Mix](#) - Coal continues a steep decline as a source of the nation's electricity.

[Power grid's future hinges on permitting and natural gas: Takeaways from POLITICO's Grid Reliability event](#) - Power industry officials painted a bleak picture of the grid's ability to keep up with the rising demand of electricity.

[Global demand for oil, coal and gas set to peak by 2030, energy agency IEA says](#) - Demand for oil, coal and natural gas is set to peak before the end of this decade, with fossil fuels' share in the world's energy supply dropping to 73% by the year 2030 after being "stuck for decades at around 80%," the International Energy Agency said Tuesday.

[AI is enhancing electric grids, but surging energy use and security risks are key concerns](#) - Utilities are beginning to use artificial intelligence to operate the electric grid more reliably and efficiently, but there are also challenges and risks to consider, including data privacy, cybersecurity and AI's own energy use, experts told the House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Energy, Climate, and Grid Security on Thursday.

[FERC directs NERC to draft reliability standards for wind, solar and storage](#) - The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission on Thursday directed the North American Electric Reliability Corp. to develop reliability standards for inverter-based resources, or IBRs, such as wind, solar and battery systems.

[Failing to expand the grid may be biggest threat to US energy transition: National Academies](#) - Failing to expand the electric grid may be the biggest threat to the U.S. energy transition this decade, according to a report from the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine.

[PJM asks FERC to approve capacity market reforms in push to bolster grid reliability](#) - The PJM Interconnection on Friday proposed revamping its capacity market rules to bolster grid reliability as renewable and energy storage resources replace fossil-fueled power plants.

[Mechanical engineering professor uses coal to create 'wonder material'](#) - Lightweight, strong, electrically conductive, and antimicrobial – graphene is a prime candidate for a host of applications. Now, a Virginia Tech team is making the material from a surprising source.

[ERDC researchers experiment on remediation of Coal Combustion Residuals](#) - Researchers with the U.S. Army Engineer Research and Development Center (ERDC) are experimenting on the phytostabilization potential and biomonitoring of heavy metals, specifically selenium and arsenic that come from contaminated soil and groundwater at coal combustion residuals (CCRs) storage sites.

[FERC extends review of Vistra-Energy Harbor merger, delaying \\$6.3B deal's potential close](#) - The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission extended its review of Vistra's proposed \$6.3 billion deal to buy Energy Harbor's nuclear power plants and retail electric business by about six months to April 11, the agency said Friday.

[Mine water heat – a proven success](#) - Mine water heat experts highlight the potential of mine water heat 6 months since the nation's first large-scale scheme in Gateshead started operating.

[Coal's coming decline has miners facing 400,000 layoffs by 2035](#) - The energy system's transition away from coal will leave miners with the equivalent of 100 job cuts daily through 2035, mostly in China and India.

['Globally, the energy transition hasn't started': DNV says renewables break records but fossils still to peak](#) - The renewables rollout is hitting record highs but a report by consultancy DNV has found that they are still just meeting new energy demand rather than replacing fossil fuels, which are only likely to peak next year.

[\\$9 billion project aims to bridge east and west power grids, accelerate renewable energy](#) - There are few wind turbines west of the Missouri River in South Dakota, and some experts say a lack of transmission lines is the main reason.

[OSMRE provides \\$150,000 for acid mine drainage project in Cambria County, Pennsylvania](#) - As part of the Biden-Harris administration's efforts to clean up legacy pollution and revitalize the environment and economy of coal communities, the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement has awarded \$150,000 in a cooperative agreement to the Western Pennsylvania Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation (WPCAMR).

[Global carbon emissions from electric power may peak this year, report says](#) - Carbon emissions from the global electricity sector may peak this year, after plateauing in the first half of 2023, because of a surge in wind and solar power, according to a climate thinktank.

[US POWER TRACKER: PJM Interconnection power forwards remain lower on year](#) - PJM Interconnection West Hub on-peak forward power prices for October, November and December were down 60% compared to the same period in 2022, with forward natural gas prices for those months down 68% on year, though gas and power forwards strengthen heading into the cooler months.

[Battery storage failures highlight reliability challenges of inverter-based resources: report](#) - "Poor commissioning practices" are contributing to the "unreliable performance" of inverter-based resources, or IBRs, staffs of the North American Electric Reliability Corp. and Western Electricity Coordinating Council concluded in a report released Monday.

[Texas Grid Operator Wants Closed Gas and Coal Plants as Winter Backup](#) - The Electric Reliability Council of Texas wants to increase the amount of power it can quickly access in the case of extreme demand. It specifically is looking toward a decommissioned coal-fired power plant near San Antonio.

[Grid operators oppose FERC conference on valuing reliability benefits of batteries, generators](#) - The PJM Interconnection and other grid operators oppose a request that the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission hold a technical conference to examine ways to improve how to measure the value power plants, energy storage and other resources provide to grid reliability.

[PJM, 80 parties agree to trim Winter Storm Elliott penalties](#) - The PJM Interconnection and 80 parties have settled disputes over an initial \$1.8 billion in total Winter Storm Elliott "non-performance" charges by trimming the penalties 31.7% to \$1.2 billion, according to Friday filings at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY ISSUES: FEDERAL

[DOE picks National Grid, Berkshire Hathaway, Grid United transmission projects in first capacity buys](#) - The Department of Energy plans to buy capacity on three transmission projects being developed by National Grid, Berkshire Hathaway, Grid United and their partners, a move designed to facilitate project financing, DOE said Monday.

[DOE issues draft plan for speeding up, improving grid interconnections](#) - The draft road map goes beyond the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's recent interconnection reform rule, in part by calling for fast-track interconnection options.

[Johnson maps out ambitious agenda](#) - House Republicans are diving right back into their legislative agenda and promising results after finally settling on a House speaker.

[Takeaways from tense hearing on DOE climate spending](#) - Department of Energy officials had a rough day on Capitol Hill on Thursday as lawmakers and the department's own watchdog accused them of lax oversight of billions of dollars in climate spending.

[Dems to GAO: Find out if coal companies are dodging cleanup](#) - Democrats in both chambers are asking Congress' watchdog to investigate whether cash-strapped coal companies are flouting federal law and dodging the cleanup of former, polluted mine sites that can threaten both public health and the environment.

[DOE announces 'largest-ever investment in America's grid,' giving \\$3.5B across 44 states](#) - The first round of funding under the Grid Resilience and Innovation Partnerships program will boost U.S. renewable capacity by more than 10% within this decade, said DOE officials.

[GOP-led states and industry groups ask Supreme Court to block Biden's 'good neighbor' pollution rule](#) - A group of Republican-led states, fossil fuel industry groups and utilities filed an emergency request with the Supreme Court Wednesday, asking it to block the implementation of the Biden administration's "good neighbor" rule – a regulation to cut down on harmful smog and air pollution that wafts downwind and across state lines.

[DOE selects 7 hydrogen hubs for \\$7B funding opportunity](#) - The U.S. Department of Energy on Friday announced its selection of seven regional hydrogen hubs in Appalachia, California, the Gulf Coast, the Mid-Atlantic, the Midwest, the Pacific Northwest and a Heartland hydrogen hub comprising Minnesota and the Dakotas.

[The legal battle over Biden's climate metric isn't over](#) - The Biden administration may have dodged a blow this week in its effort to put a price tag on the cost of planet-warming emissions — but the legal fight is far from over.

[GAO: EPA Relies on Outdated Systems to Manage Air Quality Data](#) - Two IT air quality data systems that inform the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) regulatory and compliance decisions are outdated, the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) has suggested. The federal agency must make progress to develop a business case to replace them, it said.

[Prepare Now for Even More Aggressive EPA Enforcement](#) - Companies should take note and be prepared to respond quickly to more—and more aggressive—EPA enforcement, on the heels of two new enforcement initiatives announced by David Uhlmann, the recently confirmed Assistant Administrator for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)'s Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance (OECA).

[FERC in Focus: Would 2 empty seats in 2024 be so bad?](#) - A Federal Energy Regulatory Commission staffer is the leading nominee for one empty seat, but questions about timing — and about Commissioner Danly's seat — remain.

[Supreme Court flooding case could ripple across the energy sector](#) - Texas property owners flooded by Hurricane Harvey and Tropical Storm Imelda are headed to the Supreme Court to make their pitch for why they should be allowed to sue for compensation from the state.

[EPA's Expansion of Coal Ash Regulation Could Impact Beneficial Use](#) - The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in May of this year issued a proposed rule that would greatly expand the scope of federal regulations governing the management of coal combustion residuals, or CCRs.

[Biden admin quietly released study showing green energy receives far more subsidies than fossil fuels](#) - The Biden administration quietly issued a 59-page report outlining the current scope of federal energy-related subsidies revealed that the renewable energy sector enjoys significantly larger taxpayer backing than the fossil fuel industry.

[Government shutdown averted with little time to spare as Biden signs funding before midnight](#) - The threat of a federal government shutdown suddenly lifted late Saturday as President Joe Biden signed a temporary funding bill to keep agencies open with little time to spare after Congress rushed to approve the bipartisan deal.

LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY ISSUES: STATE

[Kail, Policy Committee Discuss Long-Term Impacts of Democrats' Disastrous Energy Policies](#) - With House Democrats seeking to advance another shortsighted attempt to torpedo the state's energy industry, the House Republican Policy Committee, led by Chairman Joshua D. Kail (R-Beaver/Washington), convened a hearing Monday titled "Stopping Economic Disaster: The Democrats and their Green New Deal."

[Deadline Change: DEP Accepting Applications For Next Round Of Local Abandoned Mine Reclamation Project Grants Until Nov. 8](#) - The Department of Environmental Protection set a new deadline to apply for the third and final round of applications this year for abandoned mine reclamation and mine drainage treatment local project grants.

[Gov. Shapiro says he's slashing red tape, streamlining business permit, licensing process](#) - Pennsylvania has significantly speeded up the process of issuing permits, licenses and certificates in areas ranging from opening a business to becoming a nurse or teacher, to going hunting, Gov. Josh Shapiro said Thursday.

[Rich Negrin, department of environmental protection secretary, has resigned](#) - Department of Environmental Protection Secretary Rich Negrin has resigned for health reasons, according to Manuel Bonder, Gov. Josh Shapiro's press secretary.

[DEP 2024 Water Quality Report Shows 28,820 Miles Of Streams With Impaired Water Quality In PA \(34%\) - An Increase From 27,886 In 2022](#) - The Department of Environmental Protection invites comments on the draft 2024 Integrated Water Quality Monitoring Report for public comment showing just over one-third (34%) of Pennsylvania's streams-- 28,820 miles-- have impaired water quality.

[Here's what's still outstanding in Pennsylvania's budget](#) - When Gov. Josh Shapiro signs legislation to unlock state funding for hospitals, emergency medical services, and nursing homes, it will mark the first progress since August in clearing Pennsylvania's budget impasse.

[Pa. Chesapeake Bay cleanup efforts to get federal money](#) - More than \$5 million is heading to Pennsylvania to help reduce pollution flowing to the Chesapeake Bay.

[Casey Announces Workforce Development, High-Speed Internet Funding for 19 Projects in Pennsylvania Coal Communities](#) - Today, U.S. Senator Bob Casey (D-PA) is announcing that counties and organizations in Pennsylvania coal communities will receive a total of \$17.3 million in POWER grants from the Appalachian Regional Commission.

[Pennsylvania House Halts \\$150 Million Transfer From Game Commission to Fund Ag Program](#) - A move to transfer \$150 million from the Pennsylvania Game Commission that could jeopardize the agency's eligibility for federal funding has been stopped.

[Pa. House environmental leader guts his own bill to manage crypto mining growth](#) - The Democratic chairperson of the state House committee that vets environmental policy gutted his own bill on Monday, legislation that was designed to help the state get a regulatory grip on the energy-hungry cryptocurrency mining industry.

[Biden is talking about green energy and jobs in Pennsylvania again. Will his message break through?](#) - President Joe Biden is returning to Pennsylvania to use the critical battleground state again as a backdrop for some of his favorite political themes, championing steep increases in public works spending and detailing how bolstering green energy can spur U.S. manufacturing.

[Report shows that Pa. needs to boost renewable energy production, lawmakers, advocates say](#) - A nationwide report on renewable energy production shows that Pennsylvania lags behind almost every other state.

[Shapiro isn't sold on a key climate program, and his working group isn't either. What's next for RGGI?](#) - From almost the beginning of the Shapiro administration, top aides to the Democratic governor were looking for "RGGI alternatives," emails show.

[DEP Citizens Advisory Council Meets Oct. 10 To Introduce New Executive Director Ian Irvin; Discuss DEP Issues Generally](#) - DEP's Citizens Advisory Council is scheduled to meet on October 10 to introduce its new Executive Director Ian Irvin and discuss "identifying DEP matters" with DEP Executive Deputy Secretary Jessica Shirley.

[House Unanimously Passes Bill Against Lawsuits Aimed At Silencing Citizen Critics And Dampening Public Participation](#) - On October 5, the House unanimously passed House Bill 1466 (Bizzarro-D-Erie) that would help prevent powerful interests from filing SLAPP (Strategic Lawsuits Against Public Participation) lawsuits to silence citizen critics and chill free speech by a vote of 202 to 0.