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ARIPPA PERIODIC MEDIA NEWS – 12-4-23

(News clips from the previous month)

CFB, COAL REFUSE, ENERGY INDUSTRY

[Utility regulators urge PJM to move away from 'reactive' planning for grid reliability](#) - The Organization of PJM States Inc., or OPSI, is urging the PJM Interconnection to quickly shift from a “reactive” planning approach towards proactive, affordable ways for maintaining grid reliability.

[Coal generation decreased in 2022, but overall U.S. emissions increased](#) - U.S. coal-related CO2 emissions decreased by 7%, or 68 million metric tons (MMmt), in 2022 relative to 2021.

[PJM Announces Executive Appointments](#) - President and CEO Manu Asthana announced today a series of organizational changes that will best equip PJM to maintain reliability and security, support competitive markets, and help prepare for the grid of the future.

[World Coal Association rebrands as FutureCoal](#) - After 38 years, the World Coal Association (WCA) has rebranded itself as FutureCoal – The Global Alliance for Sustainable Coal.

['Winter is coming': A call to action for the nation's electric and gas grids](#) - As the workhorse powering the biggest chunk of the electrical grid, natural gas is perhaps the most consequential element of keeping the lights on during a winter storm.

[FERC investigates possible Winter Storm Elliott market manipulation](#) - The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission is investigating two possible cases of market manipulation during Winter Storm Elliott in late December, the agency said Thursday in its annual enforcement report.

[FERC projects 5% drop in winter power prices in PJM, New York and Southeast](#) - Wholesale electricity prices are projected to decline across most of the United States this winter compared to last winter, according to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's annual winter assessment released Thursday.

[Coal use needs to be slashed seven times faster to meet emissions target, analysis finds](#) - Efforts to restrict global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius are failing “across the board” — and major shifts will be required to create meaningful change, according to a new report, including a much faster move away from using coal to generate electricity.

[Northeast U.S. carbon dioxide emissions prices return to last year's highs](#) - The most recent auction of carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions allowances in the major U.S. northeast regional trading hub reached near record-high prices, as the number of allowances available was reduced.

['Not So Fast' Campaign Launched to Inform Americans about the Current and Future Roles of Coal](#) - A new public awareness campaign titled Not So Fast™ has launched to address misconceptions regarding coal's future role in the U.S. and global energy and infrastructure portfolios, and to educate people about the significant roles coal still plays in their daily lives.

[PJM Presents Grid Operator Recommendations for Proposed Greenhouse Gas Rule](#) - PJM outlined concerns and recommendations related to potential reliability impacts of EPA's proposed greenhouse gas rule at the FERC 2023 Annual Reliability Technical Conference.

[US POWER TRACKER: PJM forward power, gas prices remain well below year-ago levels](#) - Despite strengthening heading into the winter months, PJM Interconnection West Hub on-peak forward power prices were 46% lower in October trading than last year, and Platts Transco Non-New York forward natural gas prices were 54% lower.

[First-of-a-kind nuclear project is terminated in a blow to Biden’s clean energy agenda](#) - A project to build a first-of-a-kind small modular nuclear reactor power plant was terminated Wednesday, another blow to the Biden administration’s clean energy agenda following cancellations last week of two major offshore wind projects.

[Much of North America faces ‘elevated risk’ of blackouts in extreme winter conditions: NERC](#) - Much of the U.S. bulk power system faces an elevated risk of blackouts in extreme winter weather, the North American Electric Reliability Corp. warned in its 2023–2024 Winter Reliability Assessment, published Wednesday.

[US power use to slide in 2023 on milder weather forecasts](#) - U.S. power consumption will ease in 2023 from last year's record high as forecast milder weather depresses demand for heating and cooling, the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA) said in its Short Term Energy Outlook (STEO) on Tuesday.

[More MISO-PJM transmission transfer capacity could save over \\$15B by 2035: report](#) - Increased transmission capacity between the PJM Interconnection and the Midcontinent Independent System Operator could save \$15 billion by 2035 by reducing the need for generating capacity, according to a report released Thursday by the American Council on Renewable Energy.

[FERC Order 2023 won’t solve fundamental interconnection problems: Commissioner Clements](#) - The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission’s recently issued interconnection rule is a first step in reforming the interconnection process that establishes a baseline for transmission providers but won’t solve its fundamental problems, FERC Commissioner Allison Clements said Thursday.

[Coal use at U.S. power plants continues downward spiral; full impact on mines to be felt in 2024](#) - Coal use at U.S. power plants is slumping: The fuel has not achieved a 20% market share in any month so far in 2023 and the current outlook predicts low levels for the rest of the year.

[PJM Announces Organization Changes](#) - PJM announced today that Kenneth S. Seiler, Sr. Vice President – Planning, will retire April 1, 2024, following a distinguished career for the nation’s largest regional transmission organization.

[Understanding Selective Catalytic Reduction Systems and SCR Design Considerations](#) - Selective catalytic reduction (SCR) is an important emissions control technology utilized at many coal, biomass, waste-to-energy, and gas-fired power plants. Many items must be considered when designing SCR systems to optimize performance.

[Work starts on Antis trail coal removal](#) - Workers have begun removing a ridge of refuse coal south of Bellwood, between the mainline railroad and a gravel track parallel to Kerbaugh Road — a two-year project comprising most of what is needed for Phase 2 of Antis Township’s proposed First Frontier Valley Trail.

[Ramaco Resources acquires DOE patent to develop US coal into carbon products](#) - Kentucky-headquartered metallurgic coal miner Ramaco Resources (NASDAQ: METC) announced Wednesday it has acquired a patent from the US Department of Energy’s research institution, the National Energy Technology Laboratory (NETL), for the commercial development of its coal-to-products technology.

LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY ISSUES: FEDERAL

[Supreme Court books hearing in Chevron doctrine showdown](#) - In mid-January, the nation’s highest bench will settle in for at least two hours of oral argument over one of the most consequential legal doctrines in environmental and administrative law.

[DOE proposes easing environmental reviews for certain storage, solar, transmission projects](#) - The Department of Energy is proposing to ease environmental reviews for certain energy storage, solar and rebuilt or upgraded transmission projects on federal land.

[Biden signs funding bill, averting a government shutdown](#) - President Joe Biden signed the bill, which will fund the government through early next year to buy time for spending negotiations.

[Biden announces \\$3.9B for grid modernization as climate report warns of 'insufficient' adaptation](#) - The Biden administration announced a total of \$6 billion in funding for climate resilience on the same day it released the fifth national climate assessment.

[EPA's power plant carbon rule relies on unproven tech, threatens grid reliability: House Republicans](#) - The Environmental Protection Agency's proposal to cut carbon emissions from power plants depends on the use of unproven technologies, undermines states' authority to determine their own energy resources and threatens to destabilize the electric grid, Republican lawmakers and several witnesses said Tuesday at a House Subcommittee on Environment, Manufacturing, & Critical Materials hearing.

[Energy and Commerce Committee Leaders Press EPA on Harmful and Unworkable CPP 2.0 Proposal](#) - House Energy and Commerce Committee Chair Cathy McMorris Rodgers (R-WA), Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee Chair Morgan Griffith (R-VA), and Environment, Manufacturing, and Critical Materials Subcommittee Chair Bill Johnson (R-OH) today sent a letter to U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Michael Regan calling on the EPA to withdraw the overreaching and unworkable Clean Power Plan 2.0 proposal, which would make electricity less reliable and more expensive for Americans.

[The coming Senate energy, environment committee shuffle](#) - There will be fresh Democratic faces at the top of two Senate committees that deal predominantly with energy and environmental issues next Congress, and observers hope those leaders can build on recent legislative wins.

[EPA official says power plant carbon rule may need changes as groups stress reliability concerns](#) - The EPA is meeting with the North American Electric Reliability Corp., grid operators and others as it refines its power plant proposal, an agency official said during a FERC reliability conference.

[Democratic West Virginia Sen. Joe Manchin won't seek reelection, giving GOP a key pickup opportunity](#) - Democratic Sen. Joe Manchin of West Virginia announced Thursday that he won't seek reelection in 2024, giving Republicans a prime opportunity to pick up a seat in the heavily GOP state.

[Chairs Rodgers, Duncan, and Johnson Warn FERC about Grid Security Ahead of Commission's Reliability Conference](#) - House Energy and Commerce Committee Chair Cathy McMorris Rodgers (R-WA), Energy, Climate, and Grid Security Subcommittee Chair Jeff Duncan (R-SC), and Environment, Manufacturing, and Critical Materials Subcommittee Chair Bill Johnson (R-OH) sent a letter to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) Chair and Commissioners regarding the risks posed to the country's electric grid by the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Clean Power Plan 2.0 proposal and other power plant regulatory actions.

[Top takeaways from 2023 election results — and what they mean for 2024](#) - Tuesday was Election Day 2023, with Kentucky and Mississippi holding gubernatorial elections, Virginia Gov. Glenn Youngkin's (R) political future on the line, a new congressman elected and abortion rights looming as many voters headed to the polls.

[FERC, NERC Release Final Report on Lessons from Winter Storm Elliott](#) - FERC and the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) today released the final report on Winter Storm Elliott, the Christmas 2022 storm that contributed to power outages for millions of electricity customers in the Eastern half of the country.

[House GOP approves cutting EPA budget by nearly 40 percent](#) - House Republicans approved legislation Friday that would slash nearly 40 percent of the budget for the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

[A New Environmental Justice Playbook for Federal Agencies](#) - When President Biden signed Executive Order (E.O.) 14096 on Revitalizing Our Nation's Commitment to Environmental Justice for All, he called on the federal government to bring clean energy and healthy environments to all, and to recognize, undo, and mitigate harms to those who have suffered from pollution and the cumulative impacts of other environmental burdens like climate change.

[Capito, Barrasso Ask FERC to Push EPA for Answers on Destructive Power Plan](#) - Today, U.S. Senator Shelley Moore Capito (R-W.Va.), Ranking Member of the Environment and Public Works (EPW) Committee, and U.S. Senator John Barrasso (R-Wyo.), Ranking Member of the Energy and Natural Resources (ENR) Committee, sent a letter to Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) Chairman Willie L. Phillips and Commissioners James Danly, Allison Clements, and Mark C. Christie.

[Biden's offshore wind agenda relied on plans that are being canceled](#) - A slew of canceled offshore wind projects and contracts have jeopardized the Biden administration's push to expand the new industry and its promise of clean power for coastal states.

LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY ISSUES: STATE

[Shapiro to appeal court decision that stopped Pa. from joining climate program](#) - Gov. Josh Shapiro is appealing a court decision that stopped Pennsylvania's effort to join a cap-and-trade program targeting power plant emissions.

[Some Pennsylvania water conservation groups may be open to litigation if their projects don't pan out](#) - Nearly \$245 million worth of federal conservation grants is flowing into abandoned mines in Pennsylvania.

[Pennsylvania Democrats seek balance between environmental policy and loyalty to labor](#) - With a majority in the state House for the first time in a dozen years, Pennsylvania Democrats launched this legislative session with an ambitious environmental agenda.

[Pennsylvania lawmakers OK millions for universities, but feud over private and public school aid](#) - Pennsylvania's Legislature on Wednesday approved hundreds of millions of dollars for universities after a fight that has dragged on five months into the fiscal year, although the politically divided body continued to feud over elements of school funding.

[Environmentalists can't sue on greenhouse gas decision, judge rules](#) - Three environmental groups that sued to block Gov. Glenn Youngkin's decision to pull Virginia out of an interstate pact to cut carbon emissions do not have legal standing to even try, a Fairfax County judge ruled.

[DEP seeks new projects for Pa. electric grid](#) - The state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is looking for new, innovative projects to improve Pennsylvania's electric grid.

[PUC Vice Chair Barrow Appointed to Joint Federal-State Task Force on Electric Transmission](#) - Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (PUC) Vice Chair Kimberly Barrow has been appointed to serve as one of ten state utility commission representatives on the Joint Federal-State Task Force on Electric Transmission.

[Pa. electric customers would save with more power-sharing between regions, study says](#) - A new report from renewable energy boosters says increased coordination between regional electric grids could save people billions of dollars on energy bills.

[Reliability of power grid in Pa. threatened as energy sources dwindle: industry experts](#) - The PJM power grid serves 65 million people nationwide, including all of Pennsylvania, and its operating organization warns that electricity demand is outpacing supply and the transition to renewable energy sources that by decade's end will put reliability in serious jeopardy.

[Pa. has updated how it defines an 'environmental justice area.' Here's why that matters for at-risk communities.](#) - Pennsylvania has updated the criteria for how it defines "environmental justice areas," communities that are more vulnerable to climate and health risks and that get special attention from the state.

[Shapiro says Pa. refund program for tardy processing of licenses, permits is first in nation](#) - Gov. Josh Shapiro said beginning Wednesday the state will provide refunds to people, businesses or organizations whose permit- or license-related paperwork isn't processed within the promised timeframe.