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ARIPPA PERIODIC MEDIA NEWS – 4-1-24

(News clips from the previous month)

CFB, COAL REFUSE, ENERGY INDUSTRY

[Emission Rates in PJM Reach All-Time Low](#) - The average emission rates for carbon dioxide, nitrogen oxides and sulfur dioxide from generators operating in the PJM footprint dropped to a record low in 2023, having steadily declined for nearly two decades, according to annual data compiled by PJM.

[What are the energy impacts from the Port of Baltimore closure?](#) - The collapse of the Francis Scott Key Bridge into the Patapsco River on March 26 has temporarily halted all shipping traffic from the Port of Baltimore. In this article, we examine implications for energy-related trade.

[ISO/RTO Council urges FERC to nix NERC's proposed cold weather reliability standard](#) - Federal regulators should reject the North American Electric Reliability Corp.'s latest proposed cold weather reliability standards for power plants, according to the PJM Interconnection and other major grid operators.

[US FERC: The End of Reactive Power Compensation for Generators?](#) - Many electric power generating companies have filed with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission ("FERC") to collect reactive power compensation. FERC has now opened a rulemaking proceeding that would largely wind down most payment for reactive power.

[Grading the Grid: Natural Gas and Nuclear Top List of Reliable and Affordable Energy Sources](#) - Natural gas and nuclear power lead the rest of the class in generating clean and affordable energy, according to a new national energy report card created by Northwood University in partnership with the Mackinac Center for Public Policy.

[Spring Means 'Shoulder Season' in PJM](#) - The first day of spring today (March 19) falls in the middle of "shoulder season" for PJM and other grid operators.

[Sixth Circuit Finds that FERC Overstepped its Authority on Voluntary Remand of PJM Reserve Market Design Changes](#) - On December 19, 2023, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit ("Sixth Circuit"), in *Electric Power Supply Association; PJM Power Providers Group v. FERC*, held that the former Chair of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission ("FERC"), Richard Glick, exceeded his authority when he reinstated market design features including a stepped demand curve and an \$850/MWh price ceiling for the PJM Interconnection, L.L.C. ("PJM") Reserve Market, without the backing of his colleagues.

[New England could see resource adequacy troubles even with billions in investments: ISO-NE](#) - The New England electric grid could require up to \$1 billion in annual transmission investments through 2050 to support the clean energy transition, but even with that level of spending the grid operator said it will still face potential resource adequacy challenges.

[PJM Prepares for Total Solar Eclipse April 8](#) - PJM is planning to handle potential impacts to electricity supply and demand when the total solar eclipse briefly blocks sunlight over its geographical footprint on the afternoon of April 8.

[Up to 58 GW faces retirement in PJM by 2030 without replacement capacity in sight: market monitor](#) - About 24 GW to 58 GW of thermal resources — or 12% to 30% of the PJM Interconnection's installed capacity — are at risk of retiring by 2030 without a clear source of replacement generation, according to the grid operator's market monitor.

[3rd Circuit backs NRG, Constellation Energy, others in rejecting FERC move on PJM capacity auction](#) - A federal appeals court on Tuesday vacated the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's decision to allow the PJM Interconnection to change its capacity market rules in the middle of its last auction, saying the rule change was illegal retroactive ratemaking.

[US electricity prices outpace annual inflation](#) - Analysts cited transmission costs and federal policies for the 3.6% increase the Bureau of Labor Statistics reported Tuesday.

[US power use to reach record highs in 2024 and 2025 - EIA](#) - U.S. power consumption will rise to record highs in 2024 and 2025, the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA) said in its Short Term Energy Outlook (STEO) on Tuesday.

[PJM Publishes Annual Planning Report for 2023](#) - PJM has published the 2023 edition of its Regional Transmission Expansion Plan Report, which highlights the transmission projects approved by the PJM Board of Managers throughout 2023 and PJM's ongoing planning efforts.

[Amid explosive demand, America is running out of power](#) - AI and the boom in clean-tech manufacturing are pushing America's power grid to the brink. Utilities can't keep up.

[States eye rescue of retiring coal plants](#) - Republican lawmakers in almost a dozen states want to prop up coal plants that face closure amid a boom in renewable energy and a federal crackdown on power plant pollution.

[Study Warns PA Electric Grid Could Face Blackouts by 2028](#) - A new study warns that the Biden administration-backed push to electrify America's economy is on a collision course with its policy of retiring "base load" power plants as part of its green agenda. This could put Pennsylvania at risk for blackouts starting in 2028.

[NERC to file inverter-based resource rule revisions with federal regulators](#) - The North American Electric Reliability Corp. has developed new rules to address unregistered bulk power system-connected inverter-based resources, or IBRs, and plans to file them with federal regulators in early March, the reliability organization said Thursday.

[National Grid says Biden-backed transmission line 'not viable'](#) - National Grid and Citizens Energy are pulling the plug on a proposed \$2 billion two-way transmission line linking New England and Quebec that had received financial backing from the Biden administration.

LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY ISSUES: FEDERAL

[Biden's uneasy energy empire](#) - President Joe Biden is presiding over a historic boom in U.S. energy production, with oil, natural gas and renewable power all setting records that would have seemed unfathomable two decades ago.

[States shouldn't have to pay for transmission driven by other states' policies: FERC's Christie](#) - States should not be required to pay for transmission projects built to support other states' energy policies, according to Mark Christie, a commissioner on the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

[FERC affirms generator interconnection rule, but 'it's not a silver bullet,' Christie says](#) - The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission on Thursday unanimously affirmed last year's interconnection reform rule, Order 2023, to address what Chairman Willie Phillips called an "unacceptable backlog" of generators waiting to connect to the grid.

[Senators press FERC nominees on climate, natural gas, transmission cost allocation](#) - The Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee considered President Joe Biden's three nominees to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission at a Thursday hearing, asking them to clarify their philosophies on the commission's role and what they would prioritize if confirmed.

[Biden's softer climate regulation shows big US bet on subsidies to decarbonize](#) - The Biden administration says its recent decision to scale back new climate regulations meant to force emissions cuts from cars and power plants will have a negligible impact on its overarching goal to halve greenhouse gas pollution this decade.

[Murky deadline looms for Biden's regs](#) - Federal agencies know they're in a race against the clock to complete President Joe Biden's most consequential energy and environmental regulations.

[FERC, NARUC Establish Federal-State Current Issues Collaborative](#) - FERC voted today to establish a new Federal-State Current Issues Collaborative to build on nearly three years of successful transmission-related task force discussions with state utility regulators and expand their efforts to energy sector issues where there are relevant jurisdictional connections or potential regulatory gaps.

[Energy agency announces \\$475M in funding for clean energy projects on mine land sites](#) - The Biden administration pumped more money into clean energy projects Thursday, announcing up to \$475 million in federal funding for projects in five states — including the political battleground states of Pennsylvania, Arizona and Nevada.

[Federal appeals court pauses SEC climate rule implementation](#) - A federal appeals court granted a motion for administrative stay of the Securities and Exchange Commission's recently finalized climate risk disclosure rule on Friday.

[EPA advances rule to close coal ash loophole](#) - The Biden administration pushed forward its new rule to crack down on toxic coal waste near aging and former power plants, which thus far has evaded federal cleanup requirements.

[Biden Officials Mull Quicker Death for US Coal Power Plants](#) - US coal-fired power plants could be forced to shut down two years sooner than envisioned under a Biden administration plan to stifle pollution from the electricity sector.

[It may be too late for Biden's grid expansion](#) - The Department of Energy plans to create electricity corridors that could double the size of the high-voltage power grid needed to ship more clean energy across the country.

[Parsing legal definitions, power industry pushes back on EPA coal ash enforcement](#) - A legal debate over semantics of the U.S. EPA's 2015 coal ash rules could decide whether groundwater-soaked coal ash can remain in place next to an Ohio power plant.

[Fallon: America's Power Grid is Unprepared to Handle New Biden Administration Regulations](#) - Subcommittee on Economic Growth, Energy Policy, and Regulatory Affairs Chairman Pat Fallon (R-Texas.) today opened a hearing titled "The Power Struggle: Examining the Reliability and Security of America's Electrical Grid" by discussing the threats facing America's power grid security and reliability.

[DOE's ARPA-E faces budget cut, FERC to explore AI and other highlights from Biden's budget](#) - President Joe Biden on Monday proposed a \$7.3 trillion budget for fiscal year 2025 that includes funding and tax increases that could affect utilities and others in the power sector.

[SOTU: Biden links clean energy policy to 'tens of thousands' of jobs](#) - The president made big promises about what his climate and energy agenda could deliver in a speech crafted to boost his reelection bid.

[Half of US states join GOP lawsuits challenging new EPA rule on deadly soot pollution](#) - A new Biden administration rule that sets tougher standards for deadly soot pollution faced a barrage of legal challenges Wednesday, as 25 Republican-led states and a host of business groups filed lawsuits seeking to block the rule in court.

[US Department of Labor launches tool to help miners, mining communities](#) - The U.S. Department of Labor' today announced that its Mine Safety and Health Administration has unveiled an online platform to help miners and their families navigate the process of finding healthcare providers, facilities and related resources.

[FERC Inquiry to Explore Investor Influence on Public Utilities](#) - March 26, 2024 is the deadline for comments on a Notice of Inquiry issued by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission ("FERC" or "Commission") at the end of 2023 on whether the Commission should modify its policies respecting the availability of blanket authorizations under Section 203(a)(2) of the Federal Power Act ("FPA"), including its evaluation of whether an investor has the ability to control a utility.

[FERC rejects West Virginia PSC, market monitor complaints seeking access to PJM committee](#) - The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission on Friday dismissed complaints by the West Virginia Public Service Commission and the PJM Interconnection's market monitor seeking to gain access to one of the grid operator's key committee meetings.

LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY ISSUES: STATE

[Cabell, Policy Committee Host First in Series of Hearings on Affordable and Reliable Energy for Pennsylvania Consumers](#) - At a time when consumers in Pennsylvania—and nationwide—are facing rising energy costs, Rep. Mike Cabell (R-Luzerne) and the House Republican Policy Committee, led by Chairman Josh Kail (R-Beaver/Washington), today convened the first hearing in a series to discuss ways to ensure both low-cost and reliable energy for consumers.

[PA House GOP's Pro-Energy Agenda Counters Shapiro Cap-and-Trade Plan](#) - Two weeks after Pennsylvania Gov. Josh Shapiro announced his cap-and-trade carbon credits system, House Republicans unveiled a vastly different energy legislative package.

[TOMB: Shapiro's Senseless Expansion of Alternative Energy](#) - In 2004, Pennsylvania implemented one of the most aggressive mandates to adopt wind and solar energy. At the time, less than 1 percent of net energy generation came from these sources. In 2023, after nearly \$1.5 billion in subsidies, wind and solar generated less than 2 percent.

[Legislators prepare bills in Pa. House, Senate to support Shapiro's energy policy](#) - Democratic lawmakers in both chambers of the Pennsylvania General Assembly are seeking co-sponsors for bills proposing to enact Gov. Josh Shapiro's recently proposed energy policy into state law.

[Argall: Shapiro energy plan bad for co-gen plants](#) - What Governor Josh Shapiro calls a “commonsense energy plan,” a local legislator says could be a death knell to local co-generation plants he says have been vital to abandoned mine reclamation.

[State senator pushing back against plan that would require power plants in Pa. to purchase carbon credits to offset their emissions](#) - State Sen. Dave Argall says he sent a letter to Gov. Josh Shapiro Monday, asking him to reconsider an energy plan announced last week.

[Is Gov. Shapiro's Pivot Toward Energy Taxes in Pennsylvania Driving Trade Unions to GOP?](#) - Unless Gov. Josh Shapiro of Pennsylvania reverses course and abandons his effort to keep proposed energy taxes in play, he could lose the support of trade unions that have contributed to his campaigns.

[Youngkin doubles down on axing RGGI](#) - Governor Glenn Youngkin again railed against a multistate compact aimed at reducing the impact of climate change Thursday.

[Josh Shapiro proposes state climate program to replace RGGI, and asks for new renewable energy goals](#) - Gov. Josh Shapiro is offering his own version of a controversial program to limit climate-warming pollution from power plants, and is setting new goals for how much energy Pennsylvania gets from renewable sources.

[EPA: Pennsylvania One Of 45 States, MSAs To Submit Priority Climate Action Plans As Part Of \\$5 Billion Climate Pollution Reduction Grant Program](#) - On March 11, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency announced a record 45 states, plus the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and dozens of Metropolitan Statistical Areas have now developed priority climate action plans through investments made possible by the federal Inflation Reduction Act's Investing in America program.

[DEP Reports Progress on Implementing Shapiro Administration Permitting Reform, Reduces Permit Backlog by 41 Percent](#) - The Shapiro Administration's efforts to enhance and improve permitting are showing early success as the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) improves online permitting, online payment, and delivers on-time permit decisions.