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ARIPPA PERIODIC MEDIA NEWS – 5-1-24

(News clips from the previous month)

CFB, COAL REFUSE, ENERGY INDUSTRY

[PJM, Penn State and ISO-NE Awarded DOE Grant To Improve Market Design](#) - A collaborative project among PJM Interconnection, Penn State and ISO New England has won funding from a U.S. Department of Energy program designed to develop and improve wholesale electricity markets.

[U.S. energy-related CO2 emissions decreased by 3% in 2023](#) - Based on analysis in our most recent U.S. Energy-Related Carbon Dioxide Emissions report, U.S. energy-related CO2 emissions decreased by 3%, about 134 million metric tons (MMmt), in 2023.

[Extreme winter weather grid performance improves, and 5 other takeaways from FERC's open meeting](#) - The U.S. power grid appeared to perform better during two bitter cold snaps in January compared with winter storms Elliott and Uri, partly because of operational and other changes made by grid operators, power plant owners and others, according to a report discussed Thursday at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's open meeting.

[Coal's future dims as new regulations pile on and former defenders retreat](#) - Coal, the fading powerhouse of the U.S. electricity system, is about to see its fortunes turn even darker.

[PJM grid has significant decline in emissions](#) - Partisan divides remain for Pennsylvania's energy future, but the state's electric grid keeps posting drops in emissions.

[Interconnection Reform Is Working, but Will New Generation Actually Get Built?](#) - For a good part of the last two years, PJM has been engaged in deep discussions with our stakeholders, regulators, and state and federal officials about the challenge of maintaining the reliable electric service we all have come to depend on, while proceeding through a revolutionary energy transition to a greater share of renewable-based electricity generation.

[McCrary Institute, ORNL Launch First U.S. Regional Cybersecurity Center to Protect Grid](#) - A \$12.5 million project to establish the first U.S. regional cybersecurity research and operations center focused on grid protection has garnered a \$10 million Department of Energy (DOE) grant.

[Eastern PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation conducts water tests after mine subsidence](#) - Days after a mine subsidence in Toby's Creek behind Luzerne Lumber caused water from the creek to pour into an abandoned mine shaft underground, water found bubbling to the surface in several places in the surrounding area was tested by the Eastern PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation (EPCAMR).

[Constellation, generator trade groups back PJM plan to revert to original capacity auction results](#) - Constellation Energy, the PJM Power Providers Group, known as P3, and the Electric Power Supply Association are urging the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to approve the PJM Interconnection's plan to revert to the original results of its last base capacity auction — a move that would more than double capacity costs for one of its zones compared to revised results.

[Mineral Point-area waste coal pile to be removed](#) - The removal of a mammoth mound of waste coal left behind by Bethlehem Mines Corp. in the Mineral Point area will start this summer.

[Ohio AG: death of key figure in House Bill 6 corruption scandal doesn't stop state's case](#) - The state of Ohio's investigation into the House Bill 6 nuclear power plant corruption scandal continues, in spite of the death of one of the key figures in the case in what's being called a suspected suicide.

[Grid interconnection queues jumped 27%, to 2.6 TW, in 2023, led by solar, storage: DOE lab](#) - About 2.6 TW of planned power projects were seeking to connect to the U.S. grid at the end of last year, up 27% from the year before and representing twice as much as the country's existing generating capacity, according to a report released Wednesday by Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory.

[Unsolved mystery: How much power is crypto using?](#) - As concerns grow about what a flood of new computers, data centers and artificial intelligence operations means for the electric grid, one industry remains a massive question mark: cryptocurrency.

[FERC approves PJM's \\$5.1B cost-share plan for transmission to be built by Dominion, others](#) - The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission on Monday approved the PJM Interconnection's plan to allocate the costs from about \$5.1 billion in planned transmission projects set to be built by Dominion Energy, FirstEnergy, Exelon, PPL, NextEra Energy, Transource and Public Service Electric & Gas.

[US electric utilities brace for surge in power demand from data centers](#) - U.S. electric utilities predict a tidal wave of new demand from data centers powering technology like generative AI, with some power companies projecting electricity sales growth several times higher than estimates just months earlier.

[US power use forecast to reach record highs in 2024 and 2025](#) - 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.

[Reconducting US power lines could quadruple new transmission capacity by 2035: report](#) - Replacing power lines with advanced conductors would enable 90% clean electricity by 2035, according to a Goldman School and GridLab report.

[US power system set to cut coal use to record lows](#) - Utilities in the United States are on track to cut the share of coal in national power generation to record lows over the coming months, as the heating demand season ends and output from clean power sources such as solar and wind farms hits record highs.

[Geopolitical turmoil has 'significant ramifications' for North American electric grid: NERC](#) - U.S. and Canadian electric grids face a growing threat from hackers and physical attacks, and greater communication, coordination and advance planning are required to counter them, officials at the North American Electric Reliability Corp. said on Thursday.

[Monday's eclipse could cut US solar output by 40 GWh. Here's how 5 grid operators are preparing.](#) - A total eclipse on Monday will mean the loss of thousands of megawatt-hours of solar generation across portions of the United States — likely impacting more generation than in any previous solar eclipse, experts say.

[Low-carbon shift raises risk of blackouts, grid execs warn](#) - Executives of U.S. regional power grids are warning they face new and unprecedented challenges as energy demand grows and the industry takes on the enormous shift to carbon-free electricity.

[The Big Picture: Coal Controls \[Infographic\]](#) - U.S. coal power plant emissions in 2023 showed dramatic reductions in air pollutants, owing mainly to coal plant closures. According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), compared to 2022, sulfur dioxide emissions fell by 24%, nitrogen oxides (NOx) by 15%, carbon dioxide by 7%, and mercury by 17%.

LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY ISSUES: FEDERAL

[Federal U.S. Power Sector Initiatives Went Full Throttle in April: Here's the List](#) - The Biden administration has unveiled several sweeping actions over the past month aimed at boosting clean energy deployment, enhancing manufacturing jobs, and reducing pollutant emissions across the power sector.

[EPA Unleashes Four-Pronged Assault on Fossil Fuel Power Pollution](#) - In an unprecedented move, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on April 25 simultaneously finalized four major environmental rules covering greenhouse gases (GHG), air toxics, wastewater discharges, and coal combustion residuals from fossil fuel-fired power plants.

[DOE Invests More Than \\$17 Million for Rare Earth Element and Critical Mineral and Material Processing Technologies Using Coal and Coal Byproducts as Feedstocks](#) - As part of President Biden's Investing in America agenda, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) today announced \$17.5 million for four projects that will help lower the costs and reduce the environmental impacts of the onshore production of rare earths and other critical minerals and materials from coal, coal wastes, and coal by-products.

[Kaptur Leads Letter to President Biden Urging Further Consideration of Proposed Power Plant Emission Rule's Impact on Jobs, Electricity Affordability and Reliability](#) - Today, Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur (OH-09), along with Congresswoman Mary Peltola (AK-AL), Congressman Jared Golden (ME-02), Congressman Henry Cuellar (TX-28), and Congressman Vicente Gonzalez (TX-34), wrote to President Biden to recommend that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) undertake additional analysis to ensure that the final Section 111 rule regulating power plant emissions does not jeopardize access to affordable and reliable electricity for our nation's most vulnerable communities.

[Democratic bill mandates FERC interconnection reforms to bring new resources online faster](#) - The bill would help bring new power supply online to address surging demand growth and increasing grid reliability concerns, according to the R Street Institute's Devin Hartman.

[EPA Denies Industry Petition to Delist Stationary Combustion Turbines as Hazardous Pollutants](#) - The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has denied an industry petition seeking to delist stationary combustion turbines from the agency's list of hazardous air pollutants (HAP) major source categories regulated under section 112 of the Clean Air Act (CAA).

[Biden looks to cement green legacy](#) - President Joe Biden is waging an administrationwide campaign to shore up his climate and conservation record with just seven months to go until the presidential election and a major regulatory deadline looming.

[FERC Proposal Would Cut Reactive Power Compensation, a Potential Hit to Independent Power Producer's Revenue Mix](#) - In a time where capacity revenues are pricing lower and many generation owners find that their facilities are not being dispatched for energy on a consistent basis, reliable revenue streams are increasingly important.

[OSMRE announces more than \\$124.8 million to reclaim abandoned coal mines](#) - As part of the Biden-Harris administration's efforts to create good-paying jobs and address legacy pollution harming communities across the nation, the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement announced today more than \$124.8 million in fiscal year 2024 abandoned mine land (AML) reclamation fee-based grants available to states and Tribes for AML reclamation efforts that continue to protect the health and safety of Americans and restore the environment.

[Coal miners have long faced risk of black lung disease. Now they're getting new protections](#) - Coal miners will be better protected from poisonous silica dust that has contributed to the premature deaths of thousands of mine workers from a respiratory ailment commonly known as black lung disease, the Labor Department said Tuesday as it issued a new federal rule on miners' safety.

[Don't count on FERC as the 'big sugar daddy' for new transmission, generation: Commissioner Christie](#) - Transmission won't get built without state buy-in, according to Mark Christie, a Federal Energy Regulatory Commission commissioner.

[CISA issues notice for long-awaited critical infrastructure reporting requirements](#) - The Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency posted a long-anticipated notice of proposed rulemaking Wednesday for the Cyber Incident Reporting for Critical Infrastructure Act of 2022.

LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY ISSUES: STATE

[New EPA regs stand to create grid reliability crisis, warn PA stakeholders](#) - The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) newly announced suite of final rules to reduce pollution from fossil fuel-fired power plants isn't going over well in Pennsylvania.

[Primary voters take down at least 2 incumbents in Pennsylvania House](#) - Pennsylvania election results include a loss Tuesday in the Democratic primary by a Philadelphia state representative one day after prosecutors announced that they had erroneously issued a warrant mistakenly accusing him of violating a protective order.

[Few surprises in 'relatively calm and successful' Pennsylvania primary](#) - Pennsylvania's primary night lacked surprises as the presidential nominees were already locked in and few problems cropped up at the polls.

[New initiative aims to have 50% of Pa. government's electricity generated by solar panels](#) - Pennsylvania Gov. Josh Shapiro's administration said Monday it aims to have 50% of the government's electricity generated by ten new solar arrays in the state.

[Pa. House measure aims to protect vulnerable communities from heavy pollution burden](#) - Advocates are pushing for limits on polluting industries that want to locate or expand in vulnerable communities in Pennsylvania.

['We can move the needle': Leaders converge in Harrisburg for 2024 PA Energy Summit](#) - Power players from across the commonwealth convened for a morning of networking and policy discussions at City & State's 2024 Pennsylvania Energy Summit, a half-day conference that explored Pennsylvania's role in an evolving energy landscape.

[VA General Assembly considers RGGI budget amendments](#) - Virginia's General Assembly will consider budget amendments to reenter the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, known as RGGI.

[With labor and environmentalists talking, Pa. House Blue-Green alliance debuts legislative agenda](#) - Labor leaders and environmentalists stood together Tuesday as members of the Pennsylvania House Blue-Green Caucus announced a legislative agenda they said would create renewable energy jobs for union workers and protect the commonwealth's air and water.

['Fast Track' series looks at states' permit progress: First up, Pennsylvania](#) - The Competitive Enterprise Institute is pleased to announce the release of a new policy paper series called "Fast Track." The series, overseen by CEI senior fellow James Broughel, aims to explore and analyze state-level efforts to reform environmental permitting procedures, with the goal of identifying best practices and offering recommendations for further improvements.

[Pennsylvania issues guidelines on using energy storage to boost distribution grid reliability](#) - Pennsylvania utilities — including Duquesne Light, FirstEnergy Pennsylvania, PECO Energy and PPL Electric — will be able to use energy storage to address reliability on their distribution systems under a policy statement issued April 4 by the Pennsylvania Public Utilities Commission.

[Pennsylvania makes a push to attract and approve carbon capture wells](#) - The Pennsylvania state Senate on Tuesday approved legislation aimed at helping the nation's No. 2 natural gas-producing state attract carbon capture projects and enable federally-funded hydrogen hubs, but critics say the bill lacks important safeguards.

[West Virginia cracks down on major banks over environmental activism](#) - The State of West Virginia banned four major financial institutions from entering into tens of billions of dollars worth of state contracts over their environmental policies.

[Pennsylvania leads nation in abandoned mines, but feds see light at the end of the tunnel](#) - Pennsylvania is receiving another quarter-billion dollars from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law this year — the latest federal investment in helping communities respond to environmental problems caused by abandoned mines.

[Casey announces \\$1.35M for Nanticoke Creek restoration project](#) - When it comes to abandoned coal mine lands, U.S. Sen. Bob Casey on Monday said Pennsylvania has more than most states.

[Second new SCC judge is sworn in](#) - Attorney Kelsey A. Bagot was sworn in Monday as the newest judge on the Virginia State Corporation Commission, filling its three-commissioner bench for the first time since March 2022.