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## ARIPPA PERIODIC MEDIA NEWS – 6-3-24

(News clips from the previous month)

### CFB, COAL REFUSE, ENERGY INDUSTRY

[US data center electricity demand could double by 2030, driven by artificial intelligence: EPRI](#) - Data centers could consume 9% of the United States' electricity generation by 2030 — double the amount consumed today, according to a study released Wednesday by the Electric Power Research Institute.

[US power demand expected to jump 2.7% this summer, plus 5 other takeaways from FERC's open meeting](#) - U.S. electric demand is expected to increase 2.7% this summer to 1,487 TWh compared to last summer, driven by warmer weather, economic growth and data center expansions, according to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's annual summer energy market and reliability report, released Thursday.

[Attorney General Marshall Leads 19-State Lawsuit Against California & Others Threatening Energy System](#) - Alabama Attorney General Steve Marshall led a 19-state coalition asking the Supreme Court to declare unconstitutional the efforts of California, Connecticut, Minnesota, New Jersey, and Rhode Island to dictate the future of American energy policy.

[EEI joins AEP, Duke, other utilities in suing EPA over power plant greenhouse gas rule](#) - The Edison Electric Institute on Wednesday sued the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency over its rule limiting greenhouse gas emissions from coal-fired and new gas-fired power plants.

[Call For Presentation Proposals: PA Abandoned Mine Reclamation Conference Oct. 22-24 In State College](#) - The Planning Committee for the PA Abandoned Mine Reclamation Conference has issued an invitation for presentation proposals.

[Grid Operators Raise Fears EPA Carbon Rule Could Hurt Grid Reliability](#) - Grid operators are expressing new concerns about the impact EPA's Carbon Rule will have on electric reliability. Southwest Power Pool (SPP), a regional transmission organization spanning the central and western United States, is the latest grid operator to issue a statement raising concerns about how the rule could negatively impact its mission to provide reliable electric service to its customers.

[PJM Advances to Next Phase of New Interconnection Process](#) - PJM announced today the completion of Phase I System Impact Studies for 306 proposed generation projects as part of Transition Cycle #1 of PJM's new interconnection process.

[Coal Still Powers More U.S. Electricity Than Any Renewable Energy Source](#) - Despite a continuous decline in U.S. coal power generation, the share of coal in America's electricity mix is still above 15%, more than any renewable energy source.

['Still a lot to do' to improve grid interconnection after FERC Order 2023: Cleanpower panel](#) - FERC Order 2023 will ease interconnection bottlenecks that have worsened in recent years, but further updates are needed to keep pace with changing technology, five energy system experts said on a May 8 panel at the Cleanpower Conference in Minneapolis.

[NERC: Summer Grid Outlook Improved But Still Vulnerable to Extreme Weather, Demand Growth Spikes](#) - All regions across the bulk power system (BPS) are generally prepared to meet resource adequacy criteria to meet normal peak demand this summer, but ongoing concerns about extreme weather events, rapid demand growth, and systemic vulnerabilities still pose significant risks for supply shortfalls and grid reliability, the North American Electric Reliability Corp. (NERC) has warned.

[Coal proves hard to dislodge from US power system](#) - U.S. coal-fired power generation over the first four months of 2024 shrank to its lowest total in four years, but retained a more than 15% share of the national power mix despite widespread efforts to transition energy systems away from fossil fuels.

[PJM Board of Managers Selects Mark Takahashi To Serve Additional Term as Chair](#) - The PJM Board of Managers has announced that it has reelected Mark Takahashi to serve an additional one-year term as Board chair.

[PJM, MISO to study transmission upgrades to bolster interregional power flows](#) - In response to state utility regulators and other advocates, the PJM Interconnection and the Midcontinent Independent System Operator have agreed to look for possible near-term transmission upgrades that would increase power flows between their footprints.

[U.S. coal-fired electricity generation decreased in 2022 and 2023](#) - Electricity generation from units that primarily consume coal in the U.S. Lower 48 states decreased for all hours of the day by about 23% between 2021 and 2023, according to our Form EIA-930, *Hourly and Daily Balancing Authority Operations Report*.

[MARKET MONITOR FINDS PJM WHOLESALE ELECTRICITY MARKETS COMPETITIVE](#) - PJM Interconnection's wholesale electric energy market produced competitive results during the first three months of 2024, according to the 2024 Quarterly State of the Market Report for PJM: January through March released today by Monitoring Analytics, LLC, the Independent Market Monitor for PJM.

[Clean energy, gas generation in PJM may take longer to come online than expected: report](#) - New generation may take longer than expected to come online in the PJM Interconnection, requiring further reforms to grid interconnection and transmission planning processes, according to a report released Wednesday by the Center on Global Energy Policy at Columbia University.

[In some parts of the U.S., the grid of the future might be closer than you think](#) - A little more than two years ago, a clean energy record was broken. For the first time, a regional transmission organization met more than 90% of its electric demand, called load, with renewable power.

[PJM Releases 2023 Annual Report, 'Energy in Balance'](#) - PJM Interconnection's 2023 Annual Report is now available on PJM.com.

[Innovation and Reliability Highlighted at PJM Annual Meeting](#) - PJM, members and other stakeholders gathered for PJM's Annual Meeting in Baltimore May 6 to discuss the reliable operation of the grid amid the increasingly complex and fast-paced energy transition, and to explore solutions.

[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.

[PJM Members Reelect Three Board Members](#) - PJM Interconnection announced today that its members have elected Paula Conboy, David E. Mills and Vickie A. VanZandt to serve additional three-year terms on the PJM Board of Managers.

[Replacing a Talen Energy coal-fired power plant with battery storage is infeasible: PJM](#) - An 800-MW, four-hour battery is "not a realistic option" for replacing Talen Energy's 1,280-MW, coal-fired Brandon Shores power plant near Baltimore, according to the PJM Interconnection.

[PJM Summer Outlook: Adequate Resources Available To Meet Summer Demand Under Anticipated Conditions](#) - PJM Interconnection expects to meet summer electricity demand in 2024, though continuing generator retirements and increasing demand continue to erode reserve levels for the operator of the nation's largest electrical grid.

[PJM Describes April 8 Eclipse Impacts](#) - PJM maintained reliable grid operations while managing significant impacts to solar energy production during the total solar eclipse that directly crossed over the PJM region April 8.

## **LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY ISSUES: FEDERAL**

[Democratic Sen. Joe Manchin of West Virginia registers as independent, citing 'partisan extremism'](#) - Democratic Sen. Joe Manchin of West Virginia announced Friday he has switched his registration to independent, raising questions about his political plans since the move could help his chances should he seek elected office again in a state that has turned heavily Republican.

[White House looks to bolster carbon market credibility](#) - The Biden-Harris Administration released a joint statement and list of seven principles for “responsible participation in voluntary carbon markets” Tuesday, codifying the government’s philosophy on carbon credits’ role in fighting climate change.

[Earthjustice leads lawsuit seeking stricter EPA coal plant wastewater rules](#) - Environmental groups on Thursday filed a suit in federal appeals court challenging provisions in the Environmental Protection Agency’s recently updated wastewater limits for coal-fired power plants that they say don’t go far enough.

[Treasury issues proposed guidance on technology-neutral clean energy tax credits](#) - The U.S. Department of the Treasury and IRS issued proposed guidance on Wednesday for the Inflation Reduction Act’s new technology-neutral 48E and 45Y clean electricity credits, which will replace existing production and investment tax credits.

[FACT SHEET: Biden-Harris Administration Takes Action to Expand Access to Capital for Small- and Medium-Sized Climate Businesses](#) - Through President Biden’s Investing in America agenda, the U.S. is making the largest public investment in climate action in history. The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and Inflation Reduction Act, the largest-ever investment in climate action, introduced and expanded grants, loans, tax incentives, and other programs to accelerate clean energy deployment, invest in resilience, and seed breakthrough innovative technologies.

[FERC rebuffs states, upholds approval of PJM capacity market plan for Delmarva region](#) - The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission on Friday unanimously upheld its decision to approve the PJM Interconnection’s plan to revert to the original results of its last base capacity auction, in the wake of a federal appeals court ruling.

[Sens. Manchin, Barrasso craft bipartisan permitting reform bill amid growing load forecasts](#) - Sens. Joe Manchin, D-W.Va., and John Barrasso, R-Wyo. — chairman and top Republican, respectively, on the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee — plan to soon share with colleagues draft bipartisan permitting reform legislation, Manchin said Tuesday.

[Mine worker union challenges Biden climate rule in court](#) - A union representing miners has filed a legal challenge to a Biden administration climate rule.

[US proposes ending new federal leases in nation’s biggest coal region](#) - The Biden administration on Thursday proposed an end to new coal leasing from federal reserves in the most productive coal mining region in the U.S. as officials seek to limit climate-changing greenhouse gas emissions from burning the fuel.

[DC Circuit rejects stay request, paving way for EPA to implement power plant carbon rule](#) - The U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit on Friday rejected requests by rural electric cooperatives and a coalition of 25 states to stay new power plant carbon emissions limits, which the Environmental Protection Agency finalized in April and are scheduled to go into effect in 2032.

[FERC issues landmark transmission planning, cost allocation rule, with dissent over state roles](#) - At a special open meeting Monday, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission on a 2-1 vote issued a long-awaited transmission planning and cost allocation reform rule that aims to help the United States meet its long-range transmission needs.

[FERC revises its backstop permitting rules for national interest transmission corridor projects](#) - The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission on Monday unanimously approved new requirements for issuing backstop siting permits for transmission projects in national interest electric transmission corridors, or NIETCs, areas the Department of Energy determines are congested.

[Schumer throws cold water on big permitting package](#) - Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer on Monday all but dismissed the prospect of a big, bipartisan permitting package this Congress.

[FERC in Focus: How will 2 Supreme Court cases — on Chevron deference and ALJs — affect the commission?](#) - The U.S. Supreme Court is set to issue decisions this term on two cases that could affect the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission — one dealing with the amount of deference courts give federal agencies when they interpret federal law and the other centering on the use of administrative law judges and enforcement cases.

[23 states, rural co-ops sue EPA over 'unlawful, unreasonable' power plant rules](#) - A coalition of 23 states and the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association on Thursday filed separate lawsuits in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit, petitioning for review of power plant rules finalized by the Environmental Protection Agency in April.

[\\$4.99M DOE grant to build domestic supply chain for critical minerals](#) - A Penn State research team was recently awarded a \$4.99 million grant from the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) to develop and assess advanced separation technologies for the extraction and recovery of rare earth elements and other critical materials from coal, coal wastes and coal by-products.

[DOE unveils 10 potential 'national interest' transmission corridors where projects could be expedited](#) - The U.S. Department of Energy on Wednesday unveiled a list of 10 potential national interest electric transmission corridors, a designation that would allow the federal government to expedite the development of grid expansion projects in those areas.

[EPA climate rule has safety valves. Here's what that means.](#) - EPA added several new reliability provisions to its power plant carbon rule that appear to come directly from the Edison Electric Institute — a major utility trade group that has been broadly critical of the pollution standards.

#### **LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY ISSUES: STATE**

[PUC Publishes Final Policy Statement On Use Of Electric Storage To Enhance Grid Reliability, Resilience And Reduce Energy Costs](#) - The Public Utility Commission published notice in the June 1 PA Bulletin making available the final policy statement establishing guidelines for the use of electricity storage by electric distribution companies (EDC).

[Executive director named for Virginia Commission on Electric Utility Regulation](#) - Virginia's commission tasked with reviewing energy-related legislative proposals now has an executive director, after announcing the hiring of a Virginia Department of Energy member to fill the position.

[DEP Issues Request For Information For Clean Energy Generation, Storage Projects On State-Owned Abandoned Mine Lands; Webinar June 10](#) - The Department of Environmental Protection published notice in the June 1 PA Bulletin inviting proposals for Clean Energy Campus generation and storage projects on 13 state-owned abandoned mine land sites of 50 acres or more totaling 1,850 acres.

[Lt. Governor, Acting DEP Secretary Highlight Potential Of Solar Power On Abandoned Mine Lands At Beaver County Site; Issued New Report On Solar Potential Of Mined Lands](#) - On May 30, Lt. Gov. Austin Davis and Acting Secretary of the Department of Environmental Protection Jessica Shirley touted the potential economic and environmental benefits of building solar facilities on abandoned mine lands in Pennsylvania at a news conference at a newly operational solar farm in Beaver County.

[Survey seeks coal community residents](#) - For the first time, residents in Armstrong, Washington, Center, Brush Valley, East and West Wheatfield townships, as well as in Shelocta, Creekside, Armagh and Homer City boroughs are being asked about the direct consequences of the energy transition on their lives.

[Feds offer \\$90 million for vast solar array on PA mine land](#) - The federal government is offering up to \$90 million to a renewable energy developer to build Pennsylvania's largest solar farm on 2,700 acres of reclaimed coal-mining land along the West Branch of the Susquehanna River.

[Pennsylvania Joins Federal-State Initiative To Make America's Power Grid More Reliable, Able To Deliver Clean Power At Reduced Cost](#) - On May 28, the Biden Administration announced a Federal-State Modern Grid Deployment Initiative with commitments from 21 leading states-- including Pennsylvania-- to tackle the electric grid modernization challenge.

[RGGI officially removed from Virginia state budget](#) - The Virginia General Assembly and Republican Gov. Glenn Youngkin approved the final state budget on May 13. Language that tied Virginia to the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, or RGGI, did not make the final cut.

[Powell, Pisciotano introduce green energy bill](#) - State Reps. Lindsay Powell and Nick Pisciotano, both D-Allegheny, today introduced legislation aimed at growing green energy jobs across Pennsylvania while ensuring a just transition for fossil fuel industry workers.

[Pennsylvania Climate Emissions Reduction Act \(PACER\) Retains Key Aspects of the RGGI Regulation](#) - On May 8, 2024, a large group of Democrat members of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives introduced H.B. 2275, the Pennsylvania Climate Emissions Reduction Act, into the General Assembly.

[Shapiro Energy Plan is Death Sentence for Mine Land Remediation](#) - A new energy plan spearheaded by Gov. Josh Shapiro would cripple mine land remediation efforts by closing local electric power plants, according to Sen. Dave Argall (R-29), Rep. Doyle Heffley (R-122), Rep. Jamie Barton (R-124), Rep. Mike Cabell (R-117), Rep. Tim Twardzik (R-123), Rep. JoAnne Stehr (R-107), and Rep. Dane Watro (R-116).

[Swing state Democrat takes a shot at shaping a winning energy policy](#) - Pennsylvania Gov. Josh Shapiro's effort to advance clean energy in a state heavily dependent on fossil fuels has him facing a situation that mirrors President Joe Biden's reelection challenge: showing that stewardship on climate issues doesn't diminish his standing as a friend of labor.

[DEP Awards \\$5.67 Million In Federal Funding To Support Local Abandoned Mine Reclamation, Mine Water Treatment, Subsidence Control Projects; Next Grant Applications Due June 3, Sept. 23](#) - On May 13, the Department of Environmental Protection announced the award of \$5,672,751 in federal funding to support eight local abandoned mine lands and mine drainage restoration projects as a part of the Abandoned Mine Lands and Acid Mine Drainage Grant Program.

[New Pennsylvania PUC policy sparks debate over who can own energy storage assets](#) - Pennsylvania's Public Utility Commission released a policy statement last month that included a definition of energy storage assets but took a neutral stance on their ownership.

[Lawmakers introduce landmark energy bills in Pa. House](#) - State Rep. Danielle Friel Otten, D-Chester, and state Rep. Aerion Abney, D-Allegheny, today introduced legislation advancing the Shapiro administration's Pennsylvania Reliable Energy Sustainability Standard (PRESS) and Pennsylvania Climate Emission Reduction (PACER) Program plans for Pennsylvania, respectively. The plans were first announced by Gov. Josh Shapiro in March.

[Pennsylvania Senate approves GOP's \\$3B tax-cutting plan, over objections of top Democrats](#) - Republican lawmakers on Tuesday advanced legislation for a \$3 billion tax cut, their just-unveiled counterproposal to Democratic Gov. Josh Shapiro's budget plan as each side offers a competing vision for how to use a massive cash surplus sitting in the state treasury.

[Pennsylvania Legislators and Industry Experts Convene to Boost Energy Sector and Economic Growth](#) - Spearheaded by Rep. Martina White (R-Philadelphia) in partnership with the Pennsylvania Manufacturers' Association, a pivotal energy roundtable took place this week, aiming to revitalize Pennsylvania's energy sector and spur economic expansion.

[Federal Court of Appeals Upholds EPA's Plan for Cleaner Air in Pennsylvania](#) - The Third Circuit Federal Court of Appeals in Philadelphia upheld the Environmental Protection Agency's smog-reduction plan for Pennsylvania, denying a challenge from the operator of the Keystone and Conemaugh coal-fired power plants.

[GOP-led bill creating Independent Energy Office, POWER Board makes it through Senate](#) - The Pennsylvania Senate on Wednesday approved a Republican-led bill to establish a sweeping, new energy framework for the state.

[Pa. Senate committee advances bill to defang PUC amid broader deregulatory push](#) - The Pennsylvania Senate advanced a bill Thursday that could sharply limit the Public Utility Commission's regulatory powers in the interest of saving rate payers money.