



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

ARIPPA PERIODIC MEDIA NEWS – 7-2-24

(News clips from the previous month)

CFB, COAL REFUSE, ENERGY INDUSTRY

[Higher renewables costs, uncertainty show need for diverse energy resources: Lazard report](#) - Average levelized costs of energy for new U.S. wind and solar projects showed little change from 2023 to 2024 but have increased significantly since 2021 due to higher interest rates and other cost pressures, according to a report released this month by Lazard.

[Talen Energy defends interconnection agreement for Amazon data center at nuclear plant](#) - A protest at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission by American Electric Power and Exelon to an interconnection service agreement that would facilitate providing power directly from a nuclear power plant to an Amazon data center is a “misguided attempt to stifle this innovation,” Talen Energy said Thursday.

[PJM To Move Forward With Long-Term Planning Scenarios](#) - PJM and stakeholders will begin developing scenarios for long-term transmission planning as the first priority in complying with Order 1920, approved May 13 by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

[U.S. energy production exceeded consumption by record amount in 2023](#) - In 2023, energy production in the United States rose 4% to nearly 103 quadrillion British thermal units (quads), a record. Energy consumption in the United States fell 1% to 94 quads during the same period.

[PJM Study Weighs Effects of Policies on the Future Grid](#) - The fourth phase of PJM’s ongoing initiative to assess the impacts of integrating increasing numbers of renewable resources explores the longer-term challenges that might arise if current state and federal energy policies are fully implemented or accelerated.

[Consumer advocates ask FERC to halt PJM energy efficiency ‘addback’ in capacity market](#) - A PJM Interconnection practice that prevents energy efficiency resources from fully participating in its capacity market should be stopped, according to a complaint filed Thursday at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

[Clean energy, environmental groups urge FERC to reject PJM grid interconnection plan](#) - Clean energy trade groups and environmental organizations last week urged the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to reject the PJM Interconnection’s plan for meeting the agency’s new generator interconnection requirements.

[Aging coal plants are increasingly unreliable due to cycling increases and deferred maintenance: NERC](#) - Forced-outage rates at conventional and wind generating facilities “remain at historically high levels, exceeding rates for all years prior to 2021,” the North American Electric Reliability Corp. said Thursday in its 2024 State of Reliability, which reviews the previous year’s grid performance.

[Extreme heat is turning electricity cutoffs into new political battle for power companies](#) - If you are in Virginia sweltering and falling behind on your utility bill, you will have additional options to keep the air conditioner humming, but not until July 1.

[Fossil fuel use, emissions hit records in 2023, report says](#) - Global fossil fuel consumption and energy emissions hit all-time highs in 2023, even as fossil fuels' share of the global energy mix decreased slightly on the year, the industry's Statistical Review of World Energy report said on Thursday.

[Data center, AI load growth could threaten grid reliability: Conference Board](#) - Electricity demand from data centers could more than double over the next decade, threatening U.S. grid reliability and increasing operational risks for other businesses, the Conference Board said in a May 30 report.

[Utility self-funding rules for interconnection upgrades may unfairly drive up costs: FERC](#) - Four major grid operators may have unjust rules concerning transmission owners' right to pay for and earn a profit on network upgrades needed to connect generation and energy storage to the grid, according to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

[PJM has been dispatching coal-fired generators less than other generators](#) - Use of the coal fleet in PJM, the country's largest wholesale electricity market, has fallen over the last decade, driven largely by higher relative fuel costs.

[US PJM prepared to meet electricity demand during hot weather spell](#) - PJM Interconnection, the biggest U.S. power grid operator said on Friday that it is ready to meet anticipated electricity demand during a predicted heat wave.

[Local opposition to renewable energy projects 'widespread and growing': Columbia University report](#) - A report from Columbia University's Sabin Center for Climate Change Law analyzed local and state opposition to renewable energy projects and found it has significantly increased in the last year, with 55 new local restrictions since last May.

[Grid operators fail to effectively use interregional ties, increasing costs, hurting reliability: NREL](#) - U.S. utilities and grid operators are failing to take full advantage of transmission interconnections between regions, leading to higher electricity costs and potentially reduced grid reliability, according to researchers from the National Renewable Energy Laboratory.

[PJM Publishes Updated Brochure Explaining PJM's RTEP Process](#) - PJM has published a refreshed brochure that explains PJM's Regional Transmission Expansion Plan (RTEP) process and PJM's efforts to meet future grid needs.

[US may revive some shut nuclear plants to help meet emissions goal, energy chief says](#) - The United States could revive some of its recently retired nuclear power plants to help meet rising demand for zero-emissions electricity, or add reactors to existing sites, Energy Secretary Jennifer Granholm said in an interview.

[PJM market monitor challenges energy efficiency payments to Exelon utilities, FirstEnergy, others](#) - The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission should bar Baltimore Gas & Electric, FirstEnergy, NRG Energy and other companies from receiving capacity market revenue for energy efficiency resources until they show they are eligible for it, according to a complaint filed by the PJM Interconnection's market monitor.

[Report: PJM needs better planning for higher electricity demand and more plant retirements](#) - A new report released Tuesday morning and sponsored by advocacy group Americans for a Clean Energy Grid says that PJM – the regional transmission organization – is underestimating future demand and offers some suggestions for PJM to plan ahead

[Firepoint Energy Eyeing PA Coal Waste As Source Of Rare Earth Elements And Jet Fuel](#) - Wyoming startup company Firepoint Energy is looking to Pennsylvania waste coal piles as a source to recover Rare Earth Elements (REE).

[Bursts of Free Power Raise Red Flags for Green Tech Investors](#) - Something strange is going on in Europe's power markets: Prices keep dropping below zero.

[Vermont becomes 1st state to require oil companies to pay for climate change damages](#) - Vermont has become the first state to enact a law requiring fossil fuel companies to pay a share of the damage caused by climate change after the state suffered catastrophic summer flooding and damage from other extreme weather.

LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY ISSUES: FEDERAL

[FERC advances dynamic line rating framework, plus 6 other takeaways from its open meeting](#) - The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission is seeking comments on a possible regulatory framework for dynamic line ratings, or DLR, a move that could increase overall power flows on transmission lines.

[The Supreme Court weakens federal regulators, overturning decades-old Chevron decision](#) - The Supreme Court on Friday upended a 40-year-old decision that made it easier for the federal government to regulate the environment, public health, workplace safety and consumer protections, delivering a far-reaching and potentially lucrative victory to business interests.

[Supreme Court Halts EPA's 'Good Neighbor Plan'](#) - The U.S. Supreme Court in a 5–4 vote blocked enforcement of the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) final "Good Neighbor Plan," a rule intended to significantly cut smog-forming nitrogen oxide (NOx) pollution from power plants and other industrial facilities in 23 states.

[US Department of Labor announces \\$10.5M funding availability to support mine safety, health training, education](#) - The U.S. Department of Labor today announced that its Mine Safety and Health Administration is making \$10.5 million in grant funding available to help provide mine safety training for the nation's miners.

[Abandoned Mine Land: Opportunities Exist to Improve Interior's Economic Revitalization Program for Coal Communities](#) - Millions of Americans live less than a mile from an abandoned mine. These sites can pose health risks and create economic challenges for nearby communities.

[The ADVANCE Act—Legislation Crucial for a U.S. Nuclear Renaissance—Clears Congress. Here's a Detailed Breakdown](#) - The U.S. Senate has passed the Accelerating Deployment of Versatile, Advanced Nuclear for Clean Energy (ADVANCE) Act, sweeping legislation that seeks to promote U.S. nuclear leadership, accelerate advanced nuclear technology development while preserving existing nuclear generation, bolster national security measures, and enhance regulatory efficiency to support new nuclear deployment.

[Democratic Sen. Sherrod Brown joins Republicans in opposing EPA's power plant rule to reduce emissions](#) - Opposition is growing on Capitol Hill to a new rule for power plants meant to reduce carbon emissions.

[Texas leads 19-state coalition challenging green energy transition mandate](#) - Texas is leading a 19-state coalition challenging a federal agency requiring states to implement a "green energy" transition.

[Manchin, Graves, Sullivan Introduce Bicameral CRA Resolution of Disapproval to Overturn NEPA Phase II Final Rule](#) - Today, Senator Joe Manchin (I-WV), Chairman of the U.S. Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, joined Senator Dan Sullivan (R-AK) and Congressman Garret Graves (R-LA-06) to introduce a bipartisan, bicameral Congressional Review Act (CRA) resolution of disapproval to overturn the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Phase II Final Rule.

[Senate confirms FERC nominees, restoring agency to full commissioner complement](#) - The U.S. Senate confirmed three nominees to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission — one on Thursday and two on Wednesday — a move that will restore the agency to its full complement of five commissioners.

[House Judiciary Committee: Climate groups and activists 'colluding' on decarbonization](#) - The House Judiciary Committee said its years-long probe into ESG has found evidence that a "climate cartel" of left-wing environmental groups and financial institutions has "colluded to force American companies to decarbonize," according to an interim report released Tuesday.

[How Biden beat the clock on big environmental regs](#) - President Joe Biden's regulators recently finalized a flood of major energy and environmental rules in hopes that they'll stick even if Donald Trump returns to the White House.

[FERC in Focus: Has the agency been 'captured' by the sectors it regulates?](#) - In his dissent from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's landmark transmission planning and cost allocation rule issued last month, FERC Commissioner Mark Christie said the 2-1 decision was the result of political pressure and lobbying by special interest groups.

[NERC reports some U.S. regions at risk for energy shortfalls in extreme summer conditions](#) - Parts of the United States could be at risk for electricity supply shortages if electricity demand peaks are higher than anticipated or if less electricity is generated than expected, according to the North American Electric Reliability Corporation's (NERC) 2024 Summer Reliability Assessment.

[Idaho, West Virginia Senators Challenge Biden’s Controversial Power Plant Closure Plan](#) - In a move to safeguard America’s energy future, a coalition of U.S. Senators have taken a stand against the Biden administration’s latest regulations aimed at shutting down the nation’s critical baseload power sources.

[FERC weighs landmark plan to link Eastern and Western grids](#) - Southwest Power Pool, the grid operator for much of the central U.S., is seeking federal approval to become the first organization to provide transmission services bridging two of the country’s three electric grids.

[GOP Lawmakers Aim to Protect Coal and Gas-Fired Power Plants from EPA Rules](#) - Forty-three Republican senators (along with one Independent) introduced a Congressional Review Act (CRA) resolution of disapproval on June 5 to overturn emissions rules issued by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), which they say target existing coal-fired power plants and new gas-fired plants.

[Drive for energy permitting reform fuels tensions between climate, environmental justice advocates](#) - As the Biden administration aims for a U.S. net-zero emissions economy by 2050 and works to deploy up to \$1.6 trillion in climate and infrastructure funding, efforts to update the permitting process for renewables, transmission and other projects are catalyzing intense debates, sometimes between those typically allied on policy issues.

[Subcommittee Chair Duncan Opening Remarks at Hearing on Meeting the Energy Needs of America’s Digital Future](#) - House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Energy, Climate, and Grid Security Chair Jeff Duncan (R-SC) delivered the following opening remarks at today’s subcommittee hearing titled “Powering AI: Examining America’s Energy and Technology Future.”

[Interior Department Announces \\$130 Million to Help Create Jobs and Revitalize Land in Coal Communities](#) - As part of the Biden-Harris administration’s efforts to clean up legacy pollution while creating good-paying jobs and new economic opportunities for coalfield communities, the Department of the Interior today announced that the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE) is making available \$130 million in fiscal year 2024 funding for the Abandoned Mine Land Economic Revitalization (AMLER) program.

LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY ISSUES: STATE

[US Dept. Of Energy Awards Funding For Projects Repurposing Existing Energy Facilities, Including 4 In PA Promoting Reuse Of Abandoned Oil & Gas Wells, Mine Pools, Abandoned Mine Lands](#) - On June 26, the US Department of Energy's Office of Fossil Energy and Carbon Management announced \$1.4 million in federal funding for 14 local organizations and universities representing communities across the country that will each create a roadmap toward repurposing their existing energy assets.

[Pennsylvania to begin new fiscal year without budget, as Shapiro, lawmakers express optimism](#) - Work by Pennsylvania lawmakers to complete a new budget was on track to blow into the new fiscal year, with Democratic Gov. Josh Shapiro and top lawmakers still expressing optimism Thursday that closed-door talks are yielding progress, despite the missed deadline.

[Pa. lawmakers begin debate on new renewable energy goals](#) - Lawmakers are starting to debate Gov. Josh Shapiro’s proposal to increase renewable energy in the state.

[Power grid concerns complicate talks about incentivizing green energy in Pa.](#) - As billions of federal dollars for clean energy projects become available to Pennsylvania, state lawmakers are increasingly talking about making the commonwealth’s energy network greener. But underlying those discussions are big questions about the future of the state’s electrical grid.

[Shapiro’s PACER Plan Likely Stuck in Park, Sources Say](#) - It looks like Democratic Gov. Josh Shapiro’s plan to fast-track Pennsylvania into a carbon cap-and-trade program is going nowhere.

[Pa. House passes bill that would allow the state to use federal funds for energy development](#) - Legislation aimed at restructuring the Pennsylvania Energy Development Authority (PEDA) passed the Pennsylvania House on Tuesday.

[Yaw: House Committee Approves Framework for Carbon Capture Sequestration](#) - The state House of Representatives Consumer Protection, Technology and Utilities Committee today approved Senate Bill 831 to establish the legal and regulatory framework for potential carbon dioxide capture, utilization, and sequestration (CCUS) in Pennsylvania, according to Sen. Gene Yaw (R-23), sponsor of the measure.

[Pennsylvania's mine-scarred land presents challenges for solar development despite financial incentives](#) - Although many solar developers aim to build utility-scale solar arrays in Pennsylvania that would add clean energy to the state's grid, achieving it on acreage where coal was king carries a higher cost to companies than farmland.

[Amid heat wave, Pa. can meet its energy demand. The electrical grid operator is concerned that might not always be true](#) - PJM, which operates the electrical grid for the northeast region including Pennsylvania, says it can meet the increased demand for electricity during the heat wave that's expected to continue through Sunday.

[Federal funding targets Pennsylvania's abandoned coal mines and economic development](#) - Pennsylvania is getting another \$29 million in federal funding to clean up abandoned mines, as part of the mine cleanup projects also aimed at promoting economic development.

[What is left behind: When a coal-fired power plant shuts](#) - The vast divide between the government's understanding of the needs of the people they serve and the people themselves was never more excruciatingly apparent than it was this past week at a Pennsylvania town hall meeting.

[HANER: The Virginia Clean Economy Act Back Under Legislative Microscope](#) - A senior Democratic state senator is leading an effort to review and possibly revise the 2020 Virginia Clean Economy Act (VCEA), which orders the future elimination of hydrocarbon fuels (oil, natural gas, and coal) used in making electricity.

[DEP Establishes a Customer Experience Management Advisory Council to Put Customer Service Front and Center for Agency Leadership](#) - The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is establishing a Customer Experience Management Advisory Council (CXMAC) to advise DEP's Acting Secretary and Chief Customer Experience Officer on strategies and improvements to enhance service delivery to the public.

[Stefano Bills on Nursing Accreditation, Utility Stakeholder Groups, Pass Senate Committee](#) - In a meeting today, the Senate Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure Committee voted in favor of two bills sponsored by committee chairman, Sen. Pat Stefano (R-32).

[Regulators approve request from Dominion to drop RGGI fee on customer bills](#) - The average Dominion Energy Virginia residential customer will soon see a charge of about \$4.50 dropped from their bills. The fee was being collected to recover costs through the state's participation in the regional carbon market.