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## ARIPPA PERIODIC MEDIA NEWS – 8-1-24

(News clips from the previous month)

### CFB, COAL REFUSE, ENERGY INDUSTRY

[PJM Capacity Auction Procures Sufficient Resources To Meet RTO Reliability Requirement](#) - PJM's capacity auction has competitively secured resources to meet the RTO reliability requirement for the 2025/2026 Delivery Year.

[55 miles of high-voltage transmission lines added in 2023 as US buildout slows: report](#) - Utilities and other transmission developers brought 55 miles of high-voltage transmission lines into service in 2023, according to a report released Tuesday by Grid Strategies.

[Global coal demand to remain largely stable through 2025 — IEA](#) - Global consumption of coal is set to remain largely stable this year and the next as surging electricity demand in key economies will likely offset the rapid expansion of renewables such as solar and wind, the International Energy Agency (IEA) said in a recent market report.

[NERC wary of 100 GW in possible plant retirements and other takeaways from CEO Jim Robb](#) - North American Electric Reliability Corp. CEO Jim Robb spoke Thursday at the WIRES summer meeting, laying out the challenges and opportunities that a changing resource mix creates for the North American energy system.

[US wind power falls to 33-month low, generators burn more natgas](#) - The amount of electricity produced by wind farms in the U.S. fell to a 33-month low on Monday, forcing power generators to crank up natural-gas fired plants to keep air conditioners humming during a hot summer day.

[NERC should lead development of new approach to resource adequacy assessments: report](#) - The North American Electric Reliability Corp. should lead development of a new approach to resource adequacy assessments that supplements the traditional loss of load expectation, or LOLE metric, with more granular indicators, according to a Thursday report from the grid watchdog and the National Academy of Engineering.

[Innovative solutions emerge to reduce 2.5-TW US clean energy interconnection backlog](#) - The still growing backlog of generation projects in U.S. transmission provider interconnection queues may soon be relieved by emerging innovative solutions.

[Rising cooling demand to keep coal plants online this year, IEA says](#) - Global electricity demand is set to grow at its fastest pace in nearly 20 years this year, spurred by increasing demand for air conditioning as temperatures rise, the International Energy Agency (IEA) said in a report on Friday.

[Grid operator PJM to start talks on regional transmission](#) - The nation's largest grid operator told renewables trade groups that it will launch a transmission planning process ordered by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

[Ramaco Resources Preparing To Build Plant To Transform Coal](#) - The future of coal may not be as a fuel source for power plants to produce and provide electricity.

[Duke, Exelon, others urge FERC to toss 'show cause' order on utility self-funding interconnection upgrades](#) - A Federal Energy Regulatory Commission "show cause" order that proposes to eliminate a transmission owner's right to pay for and earn a profit on network upgrades for interconnecting power projects is based on unconstitutional premises and should be withdrawn, according to Duke Energy, Exelon, Xcel Energy and three other utility companies.

[EIA: Coal consumption's decline is likely to reverse this year](#) - The amount of coal transported in the United States decreased 8% in 2023, continuing a trend in which coal shipments have generally decreased over the past two decades as coal's share of power generation has declined in the United States.

[Data center, crypto operations in 10 states drive all US commercial power sales growth since 2019: EIA](#) - U.S. commercial sector electricity use grew 1% last year from 2019 levels, but the growth was driven by data center development in 10 states, according to the Energy Information Administration.

[PJM market monitor asks FERC to end grid operator's energy efficiency capacity payments](#) - The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission should order the PJM Interconnection to stop making capacity payments for energy efficiency resources and recoup past payments, according to a complaint filed at the agency by the grid operator's market monitor.

[Current FERC reforms won't be enough to solve interconnection gridlock: MIT economists](#) - The U.S. likely won't be able to meet its climate goals or decarbonize the electric grid by 2050 unless it adopts additional reforms to speed the interconnection process, a group of Massachusetts Institute of Technology researchers argue in a paper published on July 4 in the journal Science.

[Camber Energy Announces Carbon Capture System Achieves 100% Removal From Fossil Fuel Power Plant Emissions](#) - Camber Energy, Inc. (NYSE American:CEI) ("Camber" or the "Company"), a growth-oriented diversified energy company, shared today the most recent announcement from ESG Clean Energy, LLC ("ESG") advising that ESG's carbon capture system has achieved capturing 100% of the CO<sub>2</sub> from a combustion exhaust stream, making it possible for any internal combustion engine - big or small - to have no carbon dioxide emissions.

[Charted: What Powered the World in 2023?](#) - Global primary energy consumption reached a new record of 620 exajoules (EJ) for the second consecutive year in 2023, up from 607 exajoules in 2022.

[Demand for rare elements used in clean energy could help clean up abandoned coal mines in Appalachia](#) - Down a long gravel road, tucked into the hills in West Virginia, is a low-slung building where researchers are extracting essential elements from an old coal mine that they hope will strengthen the nation's energy future.

[Talen-Amazon interconnection agreement needs extended FERC review: PJM market monitor](#) - The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission should reject or hold a hearing process on proposed changes to an interconnection service agreement, or ISA, that would provide power directly from a majority-owned Talen Energy nuclear power plant to an Amazon data center, the PJM Interconnection's market monitor said Wednesday.

[Mapped: Energy Costs by State in 2024](#) - Despite the average energy consumption per person trending downward since 2000, energy cost still represents a significant part of American household budgets.

[EIA expects rising electricity demand and natural gas prices to affect electricity fuel mix for the rest of 2024](#) - The U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA) expects that the United States will generate more electricity from renewables and coal in the second half of this year, as electricity demand and natural gas prices increase.

[US electricity prices rise again as AI, onshoring may mean decades of power demand growth: BofA](#) - The year-over-year inflation rate for U.S. electricity prices reached 5.9% in May, up from 3.8% in January, according to Bank of America Institute, a think tank utilizing proprietary data to develop insights into consumer behavior and the economy.

[Firepoint Energy Selects Jefferson County Site For Waste Coal-To-Fuel Conversion, Rare Earth Element Recovery Production Site](#) - On July 5, Firepoint Energy Inc, a Wyoming C-Corp startup with principal offices opening in Pennsylvania and Texas, announced the selection of a Jefferson County, Pennsylvania waste-coal-to-fuel site, which will also be used for the recovery of rare earth minerals.

[How has energy use changed throughout U.S. history?](#) - In 2023, 94 quadrillion British thermal units (quads) was consumed in the United States, a 1% decrease from 2022, according to our Monthly Energy Review.

[US Is Enjoying a Growing Energy Surplus — For Now](#) - Energy scarcely got a look-in during last week's US presidential debate, but its brief mention is still worth a closer look.

[Exclusive: Constellation talking to Pennsylvania on Three Mile Island restart, sources say](#) - Constellation Energy (CEG.O), opens new tab is in talks with the Pennsylvania governor's office and state lawmakers to help fund a possible restart of part of its Three Mile Island power facility, the site of a nuclear meltdown in the 1970s, three sources familiar with the discussions said on Tuesday.

[FERC targets Affirmed Energy for alleged tariff violation in PJM capacity market](#) - The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission is poised to take an enforcement action against Affirmed Energy for alleged misconduct in its sale of energy efficiency resources in the PJM Interconnection capacity market, according to a letter released by the agency on June 26.

[June heat wave increased electricity demand in the eastern and midwestern United States](#) - Electricity demand in the eastern and midwestern United States increased in June as a heatwave settled across the Midwest, mid-Atlantic, and Northeast regions of the United States.

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

[Energy and Natural Resources Committee Clears Manchin-Barrasso Permitting Reform Legislation, Pending Nomination](#) - oday, the U.S. Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee held a business meeting to consider Chairman Joe Manchin (I-WV) and Ranking Member John Barrasso's (R-WY) Energy Permitting Reform Act of 2024.

[Small Businesses Urge Supreme Court to Reject Vague Water Quality Standards](#) - NFIB filed an amicus brief in the case City and County of San Francisco, California v. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) at the U.S. Supreme Court.

[DOE awards \\$371M to boost permitting, local benefits from transmission projects](#) - The Department of Energy is giving up to \$371 million mainly to community projects in an effort to provide local benefits from 16 under-development interstate transmission lines, DOE said Wednesday.

[House Republicans pass bill cutting EPA funding by 20 percent](#) - House Republicans on Wednesday passed what is expected to be the final government funding bill before August recess, proposing steep cuts for the Environmental Protection Agency's budget for fiscal year 2025.

[Bipartisan energy permitting bill ups FERC transmission siting authority, requires interregional planning](#) - Sens. Joe Manchin, I-W.Va., and John Barrasso, R-Wyo., on Monday introduced permitting reform legislation that would bolster the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's authority to approve transmission lines and require interregional transmission planning.

[Republicans ask Supreme Court to pause new EPA rules limiting planet-warming pollutants](#) - Over 20 Republican state attorneys general asked the Supreme Court on Tuesday to temporarily block the Environmental Protection Agency from enforcing new rules that aim to curb planet-warming emissions from power plants.

[Harris VP contenders on energy, the environment](#) - Vice President Kamala Harris' nascent presidential campaign continued to gather steam Monday as attention turned to her potential vice presidential running mate.

[Challenges to FERC grid rule set up post-Chevron court test](#) - Utility regulators, advocacy groups and at least one state are kicking off litigation against a federal order meant to spur long-term electric grid planning that could face new hurdles after the Supreme Court limited agency powers.

[FERC in Focus: What's on tap for the rest of 2024 as FERC's 3 new commissioners gear up?](#) - The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission enters the second half of 2024 with its landmark transmission planning and cost allocation rule in the books — but subject to possible changes — and three new commissioners in their seats.

[Daily on Energy: E&C Republicans press FERC on plans for power plant rule fallout](#) - House Energy and Commerce Committee leaders are looking into how the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission plans to interact with the Biden administration's power plant emission rules, coming amid criticisms from Republicans that the rule threatens reliability to the grid and affordable energy prices.

[Biden-Harris Administration Invests Additional \\$10 Million To Build Domestic Supply Chain for Critical Minerals and Materials](#) - As part of President Biden's Investing in America agenda, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) today announced nearly \$10 million for two projects that will help lower the costs and reduce the environmental impact of producing rare earth elements and other critical minerals and materials from coal, coal wastes, and coal by-products.

[How JD Vance's VP selection could influence American energy policy](#) - The upcoming presidential election is poised to significantly influence how Americans receive their electricity.

[US miners push Washington to revive long-dormant Bureau of Mines](#) - Mining trade groups plan to push Washington to revive and expand the long-dormant Bureau of Mines, an effort aimed at streamlining how the U.S. government regulates and supports critical minerals production and timed to coincide with the 2024 presidential election.

[FERC issues transmission planning rule, plus 5 other first half agency highlights](#) - When the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission started this year with only three sitting commissioners, some feared the agency could lose its quorum and work would grind to a halt.

[Supreme Court overturns FERC solar approval after Chevron's demise](#) - A Montana solar project may be one of the first casualties of the Supreme Court's decision to overturn the Chevron doctrine.

[The Chevron Deference Is Dead. What Does It Mean for the Power Sector?](#) - The U.S. Supreme Court on June 28 overturned the Chevron doctrine—a forty-year-old precedent—significantly curtailing the power of federal agencies to interpret ambiguous statutory provisions, even in areas of agency expertise.

[FACT SHEET: President Biden Announces New Actions to Protect Workers and Communities from Extreme Weather](#) - Across the country, tens of millions of Americans are experiencing the effects of extreme weather events.

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

[Pa. legislators passed a lot of new laws with the budget. Here's what's happening with environmental policy.](#) - Environmental advocates say the new \$47.6 billion state budget is a bipartisan agreement that takes some positive steps for the environment.

[35% Clean Energy by 2035: PA Lawmakers Hold Hearing on PRESS](#) - In a public hearing today, Pennsylvania lawmakers talked about PRESS— a policy goal to have 35% of the state's energy come from clean or renewable sources by 2035.

[A new national spotlight shines on Josh Shapiro's contested environmental record](#) - It was supposed to be a triumphant moment. Five months ago, Pennsylvania Gov. Josh Shapiro traveled to a union hall in Scranton to announce a new energy plan his administration touted as a "bold vision for Pennsylvania's energy future."

[Youngkin Speaks About Energy Plan Ahead of Update in Coming Weeks](#) - Republican Gov. Glenn Youngkin on Friday leaned into his All-of-the-Above energy plan that calls for continued use of natural gas, despite scientists stating human use of fossil fuels is causing climate change's increasingly intense storms.

[House committee goes underground for hearing about coal's importance](#) - Coal industry leaders gathered with the state House Republican Policy Committee for a Wednesday hearing on "The Positive Impacts of Coal" held hundreds of feet underground in a Greene County mine where bituminous coal has been produced for over 150 years.

[Federal dollars driving energy policy in Pennsylvania toward solar, hydrogen](#) - A flurry of recent bipartisan agreements by state lawmakers on energy projects and policies is sending a clear message: Pennsylvania is slowly moving toward clean energy but fossil fuels aren't going anywhere.

[Pa. gets \\$400M from EPA to lower carbon emissions from industries](#) - EPA Secretary Michael Regan joined Pennsylvania Governor Josh Shapiro near Pittsburgh Monday to unveil federal grants to state and local governments to fight climate change.

[DEP To Post Information Soon On New SPEED Permit Review Program Enacted As Part Of State Budget](#) - On July 19, the Department of Environmental Protection posted this notice on its Permit Modernization webpage about the new SPEED (Streamlining Permits for Economic Expansion and Development) established in the new state budget.

[A \\$40B critical mineral supply chain could start in Pennsylvania](#) - Pennsylvania has a mine pollution problem. America has a critical mineral shortage.

[Franklin County cuts deal to OK Transource power-line project](#) - An electricity transmission line in Franklin County that has faced opposition since 2018 got a green light from the county.

[Pennsylvania expands protections against frivolous suits aimed at curtailing free speech](#) - Pennsylvanians have new protections against lawsuits meant to silence public expression under a bill Gov. Josh Shapiro signed into law this week.

[IFO: Pennsylvania to hit budget deficit next year](#) - After a budget deal passed in the Capitol, a Pennsylvania state agency warns that the surplus will be depleted next year.

[PA Supreme Court Grants Intervention to Environmental Organizations in RGGI Litigation](#) - Today, the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania recognized the fundamental right of PennFuture, Clean Air Council, Sierra Club, and Environmental Defense Fund and their members to defend Pennsylvania's participation in the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI), by overturning the Commonwealth Court's June 28, 2022 denial of intervention.

[With electricity demand predicted to double, Dominion Energy looks to add "peaker plants"](#) - In 2020, Virginia became the first southern state to lay out a legal mandate for a carbon-free electrical grid.

[Pa. waterways contribute to Chesapeake Bay earning its best grade in over two decades in this year's report card](#) - Efforts to clean Pennsylvania's local waterways have contributed to the best overall health of Chesapeake Bay — the largest estuary in the United States — in over 20 years, according to a recent analysis.

[Compromises on education spending, tax cuts, and transit headline Pa.'s \\$47.6B budget](#) - Gov. Josh Shapiro has signed a \$47.6 billion budget that increases public education spending, funnels new dollars into economic development, provides a one-time boost for transit systems, and creates a new college scholarship program.

[State cut permitting backlog 60% since 2023](#) - The Department of Environmental Protection has long had a reputation for its painfully slow permitting process.

[Pennsylvania energy costs are rising. But why?](#) - Pennsylvania is a state that produces so much natural gas that it trails only Texas, and so much electricity — more than half of which comes from natural gas power plants — that it's the chief exporter of electrons to other states on the regional grid. But the gravy doesn't flow down to consumers in proportion to those leading ranks, at least not through the pocketbook.

[PA Legislators Announce Relaunch of Bipartisan, Bicameral Nuclear Energy Caucus](#) - Pennsylvania state Sens. John Kane (D-9) and Lynda Schlegel Culver (R-27) and state Reps. Robert Matzie (D-16) and Tom Mehaffie (R-106) today announced the relaunch of the Nuclear Energy Caucus.