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ARIPPA PERIODIC MEDIA NEWS – 9-3-24

(News clips from the previous month)

CFB, COAL REFUSE, ENERGY INDUSTRY

[FERC's Christie offers 'compromise' on transmission financial incentives](#) - The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission should only grant incentives for building power lines after they have been approved by state utility regulators, according to FERC Commissioner Mark Christie.

[Getting real about reliability in PJM](#) - Every PJM capacity auction tells a story. PJM's capacity auctions are intentionally designed to provide a glimpse into the future and allow market participants to anticipate tomorrow's challenges so market-based solutions can be crafted today.

[PJM capacity prices could jump 157% in next auction: Morgan Stanley](#) - While prices could hit a \$695/MW-day cap, relatively small changes in new supply in the December auction could produce large swings in the outcome, analysts said.

[US leads wealthy countries spending billions of public money on unproven 'climate solutions'](#) - A handful of wealthy polluting countries led by the US are spending billions of dollars of public money on unproven climate solutions technologies that risk further delaying the transition away from fossil fuels, new analysis suggests.

[Interregional power transfer capability ranges from 1% to 92% across North America: NERC](#) - Electric power transfer capability between transmission planning regions varies widely by location and season, the North American Electric Reliability Corp. said Tuesday in a draft analysis that will be finalized and sent to federal regulators as part of an effort to improve grid reliability.

[U.S. energy spending increased by more than 20% in 2022](#) - In 2022, energy expenditures—or the amount of money U.S. consumers spent on energy—increased 22% from 2021 to more than \$1.7 trillion when adjusted for inflation, according to our State Energy Data System (SEDS).

[Pittsburgh Works Together Releases New Report: The PJM Grid In Peril: What Will Keep The Lights On?](#) - On August 27, Pittsburgh Works Together, an economic development alliance of business and organized labor locals, released a new report-- The PJM Grid In Peril: What Will Keep The Lights On?

[Clean energy groups push for more interconnection reforms ahead of FERC workshop](#) - The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's generator interconnection reform rules issued in July 2023 are "helpful" but more changes are needed to help bring online generation and energy storage resources, according to a report released Tuesday by renewable energy trade groups.

[Aug. 26 Update: PJM Issues Maximum Generation Alert for Aug. 27](#) - PJM has issued a Maximum Generation Alert and Load Management Alert for Aug. 27 ahead of expected hot weather across many parts of the Eastern Interconnection, including the region PJM serves, to ensure the reliable delivery of electricity to its customers across 13 states and the District of Columbia.

[PJM Publishes Response to 2023 State of the Market Report](#) - PJM has posted its response to the 2023 State of the Market Report published by Monitoring Analytics, PJM's Independent Market Monitor.

[Rising PJM capacity prices lift returns for all assets](#) - The tenfold increase in the cleared price for the 2025–26 Base Residual Auction is estimated to boost revenue for wind, solar and gas plants within the footprint of the PJM Interconnection LLC.

[Sierra Club Sues PSC In Federal Court Over Coal Plant Operations](#) - The Sierra Club filed its 36-page complaint this week in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of West Virginia.

[Market problems, poor planning causing price hikes in nation's largest electric market, critics say](#) - After years of climbing electric prices nationwide, customers in the United States' largest power market are about to get squeezed harder.

[The power grid is hard to understand. This startup is trying to help.](#) - Grid Status, a data platform founded last year by an analytics-industry veteran, just raised \$8M to further its mission of making real-time grid data widely accessible.

[Arch Resources and CONSOL Energy to Combine in All-Stock Merger of Equals to Create Core Natural Resources, a Premier North American Natural Resource Company Focused on Global Markets](#) - Arch Resources, Inc. ("Arch") (NYSE: ARCH) and CONSOL Energy Inc. ("CONSOL") (NYSE: CEIX) today announced that they have entered into a definitive agreement to combine in an all-stock merger of equals to create Core Natural Resources, a premier North American natural resource company focused on global markets.

[EIA expects 62.8 GW to come online in 2024, led by solar, energy storage](#) - The Energy Information Administration expects power plant developers and owners will add 62.8 GW this year in the United States, up 55% from 2023 when 40.4 GW came online, the agency said Monday.

[Ohio Attorney General Dave Yost settles with FirstEnergy for \\$20 million](#) - Ohio Attorney General Dave Yost has agreed to settle the largest bribery and money laundering scandal in state history with the massive utility that funded it.

[US wind and solar on track to overtake coal this year](#) - Wind and solar generated more power than coal through the first seven months of the year, federal data shows, in a first for renewable resources.

[PJM Board Approves Updates to Regional Transmission Expansion Plan](#) - The PJM Board of Managers has authorized changes to the Regional Transmission Expansion Plan (RTEP) to help ensure a more efficient, economical and reliable supply of power for the 65 million people PJM serves across 13 states and the District of Columbia.

[Carbon market governing body tightens standards for renewable energy credits](#) - The Integrity Council for the Voluntary Carbon Market will not allow carbon credits issued under current methodologies used to develop renewable energy projects to be certified with its Core Carbon Principles, or CCP, label, the organization announced Tuesday.

[New initiative aims to solidify carbon removal standards](#) - A sustainability-focused nonprofit, launched Tuesday, aims to bring rigor and accountability to how carbon dioxide is pulled from the atmosphere and help companies verify and better implement their carbon removal policies.

[Dominion says ratepayers will be insulated from PJM capacity auction impacts](#) - Despite the PJM Interconnection's 2025/26 capacity auction seeing record high prices, Dominion Energy customers won't experience noticeable rate hikes, thanks to the company's "natural hedge" of owning its own generation, Dominion Energy CEO Bob Blue said on the company's second-quarter earnings call.

[PJM Reaches Next Interconnection Milestone](#) - PJM has cleared 204 generation projects to the second phase of its new interconnection process, designed to study 72,000 MW of mostly renewable or hybrid resources by the third quarter of 2025.

[Firepoint Energy takes steps to become a publicly traded company](#) - Firepoint Energy Inc, a Wyoming C-Corp startup with principal offices opening in Punxsutawney Pennsylvania and Texas, announces that the company has entered into a letter of intent and a share purchase agreement, to acquire the controlling interest of a publicly traded company on the OTC Markets.

[FERC seeks more info on Talen-Amazon nuclear interconnection pact](#) - The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission is seeking more information about an amended interconnection service agreement that would facilitate the sale of power to an Amazon data center from a nuclear power plant in Pennsylvania.

[The most coal is stockpiled at U.S. power plants since 2020](#) - Coal stockpiles at U.S. electric power plants totaled 138 million short tons at the end of May, the most since the first half of 2020 when the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic reduced electricity demand and coal consumption.

[PJM capacity auction to lead to double-digit rate hikes for Exelon utilities: CFO](#) - Exelon expects the PJM Interconnection's latest capacity auction for the 2025/26 delivery year will likely lead to double-digit rate increases for some of its utility subsidiaries, including Baltimore Gas and Electric, a company official said Thursday.

LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY ISSUES: FEDERAL

[Trump vows EPA rollbacks as climate becomes hot campaign issue](#) - The Trump campaign is promising to rescind Biden administration energy-sector regulations intended to curtail greenhouse gas emissions to help the nation reach international climate targets.

[US judge strikes down Biden administration ban on worker 'noncompete' agreements](#) - A federal judge in Texas on Tuesday barred a U.S. Federal Trade Commission rule from taking effect that would ban agreements commonly signed by workers not to join their employers' rivals or launch competing businesses.

[Environmental clues from Harris' Senate stint](#) - As a California senator, Kamala Harris waded into the weeds on environmental policy issues including invasive species, nuclear waste and Superfund sites.

[23 states, multiple coal companies ask Supreme Court to halt Biden rule to restrict pollution](#) - Twenty-three Republican-led states and at least two coal companies are asking the Supreme Court to halt a Biden administration rule that seeks to limit power plants' emissions of mercury and other toxic metals.

[EPA solidifies plans for \\$27B in climate funds targeted by Republicans](#) - The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is solidifying its use of \$27 billion in climate funds that have been in GOP crosshairs.

[US DOE makes \\$54.4m carbon management funding announcement](#) - The US Department of Energy's (DOE) has announced a further \$54.4m in funding to advance carbon management technologies to help address technical challenges and reduce costs.

[Wyoming To Lead 17-State Lawsuit Against EPA Over Coal Ash Rules](#) - Wyoming is taking the lead in a 17-state lawsuit against the EPA over its rules on coal ash produced by power plants. The rules will go into effect in November unless stopped.

[Some House Republicans warn against climate law repeal](#) - Eighteen House Republicans are telling their leadership not to gut the clean energy tax credits in the Inflation Reduction Act if the GOP wins a governing majority in Washington next year.

['This is *the* climate pick': How Walz could reshape the race](#) - Climate action has not been a central theme of this year's Democratic presidential campaigns. But the elevation of Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz to the ticket offers climate hawks a new chance to define the election.

[Innovative transmission, energy storage projects in 18 states get \\$2.2B from DOE](#) - The Department of Energy on Tuesday awarded \$2.2 billion to eight transmission projects in 18 states that could expand grid capacity by about 13 GW.

[Window to repeal SEC climate disclosure rule closes](#) - The window for lawmakers to repeal the Securities and Exchange Commission's climate-risk disclosure rule via the Congressional Review Act closed on Thursday, which marked 60 Senate session days since the rule was published in the Federal Register, according to an emailed release from Petkanas Strategies.

[What's next for the permitting bill?](#) - Legislation to fortify the nation's electric grid and accelerate energy permits cleared a crucial hurdle in the Senate Wednesday, prompting clean and conventional energy lobbyists in the Dirksen building hearing room to erupt with applause.

LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY ISSUES: STATE

[Pennsylvania state senator to propose loan fund to spur new power plants](#) - A Pennsylvania state senator plans to soon introduce a bill to create a revolving fund that would offer low-interest loans for building power plants in the state.

[PA Grid Operator Pays 700% More to Buy Power, Warns Price Hikes Will Follow](#) - Red lights are flashing at one of America's largest electricity transmission operators over possible power outages after it was forced to spend 700 percent more to buy power for its customers in the latest auction.

[CPV Renewables Begins Construction on Wind Project in Pennsylvania, CPVs Third Project Utilizing Former Coal Mine Land](#) - Today Competitive Power Ventures' (CPV) affiliate, CPV Renewable Power (CPV Renewables) announced the start of construction for CPV Rogue's Wind in Pennsylvania. The 114 MW wind project, stretching across Cambria and Clearfield Counties, will be CPV's third project that repurposes former coal mine land into a new source of renewable energy.

[PUC Seeks Comments on Updates to Regulations for PUC Procedures and Formal Proceedings](#) - The Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (PUC) today continued efforts to modernize and clarify sections of PUC regulations related to practice before the Commission, updating those procedures for the first time in nearly 20 years.

[Business leaders wary of critical mineral subsidies](#) - As federal money and private investment pour into critical minerals, Pennsylvania's potential is great.

[New EPA Evaluation Shows Pennsylvania Made New Funding Commitments To Clean Up Chesapeake Bay Watershed, But Did Not Meet 2023 Cleanup Targets](#) - On August 14, the US Environmental Protection Agency released the its evaluation of the Chesapeake Bay jurisdictions' 2022-23 milestones, noting that although most of the Bay states are behind, they are catching up to meet the 2025 water quality restoration goals and 2023 saw new significant successes at the state level that will improve the restoration trajectory.

[Pennsylvania No. 14 in regulatory burden nationwide](#) - Less burdensome regulation has led to economic growth in some states, but Pennsylvania trails far behind.

[Without cuts or new revenue, Pa.'s budget surplus is on track to run dry](#) - Pennsylvania's multibillion-dollar surplus will soon be halved according to a projection by a state budget watchdog, the result of a long-running structural deficit combined with a growing list of obligations competing for public dollars.

[Controversy growing as Three Mile Island revival talks gain traction](#) - Discussions of possibly reopening the Three Mile Island nuclear generators are ramping up, with some government power players showing their excitement, while others their nervousness.

[Pa. Supreme Court collecting briefs in RGGI case](#) - The state Supreme Court is considering written arguments in the case over whether a program to cut pollution from power plants should be allowed in Pennsylvania.

[Pennsylvania Gov. Josh Shapiro isn't Kamala Harris' pick for vice president](#) - Pennsylvania Gov. Josh Shapiro has not been tapped to run for vice president on the Democratic ticket with Kamala Harris.

[Legal bills top \\$4.2M in fight over key climate change program](#) - Pennsylvania lawmakers have spent more than \$4.2 million on legal bills as they fight over the commonwealth's participation in a multistate effort to combat climate change, records obtained by Spotlight PA show.

[US Dept. Of Energy Awards Western PA/WV/OH ARCH2 Hydrogen Hub \\$30 Million](#) - On July 31, the US Department of Energy awarded the Appalachian Hydrogen Hub—also known as the Appalachian Regional Clean Hydrogen Hub (ARCH2), led by Battelle—with \$30 million for the first tranche of funding (out of the total project federal cost share of up to \$925 million) to begin Phase 1 activities.