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## ARIPPA PERIODIC MEDIA NEWS – 10-1-24

(News clips from the previous month)

### CFB, COAL REFUSE, ENERGY INDUSTRY

[PJM artificially inflates capacity prices by billions, complaint alleges](#) - The PJM Interconnection's failure to consistently account for power plants with reliability must-run contracts in its capacity market could drive up ratepayer costs by \$15 billion in the next three capacity auctions, according to a complaint filed Friday at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission by the Sierra Club and other groups.

[PJM says 'concerns are growing' after less than 2 GW added this year](#) - Nearly 2,000 MW — almost all solar — has come online in the PJM Interconnection's footprint this year, down from close to 5,000 MW in 2013, according to a presentation by the grid operator to its Markets and Reliability Committee on Wednesday.

[PJM market design flaws add billions to latest capacity auction costs: market monitor](#) - The PJM Interconnection's most recent capacity auction was significantly affected by market design flaws, including one that enables generation owners to increase prices by exerting market power, according to the grid operator's independent market monitor.

[Gray Skies for U.S. Power Generation? Uncertainty and Turmoil on the Horizon](#) - The Supreme Court's landmark decision this past summer in *Loper Bright Enterprises v. Raimondo* marks a significant shift in administrative law by overturning the long-standing principle of Chevron deference, which was established in *Chevron U.S.A. Inc. v. Natural Resources Defense Council Inc.* in 1984.

[PJM rejects call to include RMR plants in capacity auctions to lower prices](#) - The PJM Interconnection is rejecting a call to include reliability must-run power plants in its capacity auctions, saying the move would blunt price signals needed to spur new generation, according to a Sept. 19 letter to ratepayer advocates from the grid operator.

[A fast-track PJM interconnection review could speed Three Mile Island restart: Constellation CFO](#) - Pennsylvania Gov. Josh Shapiro is urging the PJM Interconnection to quickly develop a fast-track process to review interconnection requests for shovel-ready generation such as Constellation Energy's 835-MW unit 1 at the Three Mile Island nuclear power plant — dubbed the Crane Clean Energy Center.

[Regulations subvert 'environmental justice'](#) - Thirty years ago, more than 800 waste coal piles marred the Pennsylvania landscape, poisoning streams and emitting gaseous odors, including the rotten-egg smell of hydrogen sulfide.

[Constellation plans 2028 restart of Three Mile Island unit 1, spurred by Microsoft PPA](#) - Constellation plans to restart the 835-MW Three Mile Island Unit 1 nuclear generating station in Pennsylvania in 2028, the company said Friday.

[NERC sounds alarm over winter gas supplies, potential grid impacts](#) - Almost two years after Winter Storm Elliott forced the largest recorded manual load shed in the history of the Eastern interconnection, the North American Electric Reliability Corp. said Friday it "remains concerned about maintaining sufficient natural gas supplies to address extreme winter conditions."

[Rising demand could drive US wholesale electricity prices 19% higher by 2028: ICF](#) - ICF expects U.S. electricity demand will grow by 9% by 2028 and 18% by 2033, an increase of 2% per year, on average, relative to 2024 levels, the consulting firm said in a report published Thursday. Peak demand could grow 5% over the next four years, ICF said.

[US nuclear, coal power sites could host up to 269 GWe of new nuclear capacity: DOE](#) - The sites of operating or recently retired U.S. nuclear power plants could support up to 95 GW of additional electric power production capacity from newly-built nuclear reactors, the Department of Energy said in a Sept. 3 report.

['Good bones': A new life for the former Bruce Mansfield coal plant could mean that it stays put](#) - One of the first things Frontier did after taking over the Bruce Mansfield coal-fired power plant in Shippingport was to get rid of the pile of coal on the ground.

[Massive Funding Boost Spurs Coal Clean-up Efforts in Appalachia](#) - Plans are underway to give Kentucky residents whose water supplies have been adversely affected by historic coal mining practices access to clean, piped water through the Kentucky Division of Abandoned Mine Lands' Water Supply Replacement Program. The project is one of many across the Appalachian region made possible by an injection of \$725 million in funding into cleanup of decades-old abandoned coal mines.

[PJM and Transmission Owners Conduct Voltage Reduction Action Test](#) - PJM recently tested its ability to temporarily reduce voltage in order to practice and validate an emergency procedure used to ease system conditions under extreme circumstances.

[FirstEnergy to pay \\$100M in HB 6 settlement with SEC; ex-CEO to face civil fraud charges](#) - FirstEnergy has agreed to pay a \$100 million fine to settle civil fraud charges filed by the Securities and Exchange Commission related to the House Bill 6 nuclear power plant bailout. But the utility's former top executive will still face charges from the SEC.

[U.S. generation projected to rise 3% this year, driven by solar and natural gas](#) - U.S. electricity generation is expected to increase by 3% – 121 billion kilowatthours (BkWh) – this year compared to 2023, largely driven by solar power and natural gas, according to Short-Term Energy Outlook analysis from the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA).

[National Grid, Constellation propose options to prioritize grid interconnection requests](#) - National Grid USA and Constellation Energy floated proposals for prioritizing interconnection requests to get generation and energy storage online faster during a panel discussion at a Federal Energy Regulatory Commission workshop on Tuesday.

[US power use expected to reach record highs in 2024 and 2025, EIA says](#) - U.S. power consumption is on track to rise to new records in 2024 and 2025, the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA) said in its Short Term Energy Outlook (STEO) on Tuesday.

[US natural gas markets point to steep price rise in 2025](#) - The northern hemisphere summer has not yet officially finished, but United States natural gas markets are already sizing up supply and demand balances for this winter and the next year, and indicate that sharply higher prices may emerge.

[America's Biggest Grid Is Losing Its Balance](#) - The PJM Interconnection can't seem to figure out supply and demand anymore, which could be good news for natural gas.

[PJM seeks OK from FERC to end energy efficiency capacity payments](#) - The PJM Interconnection would stop including energy efficiency resources in its capacity auctions under a proposal the grid operator filed with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Friday.

[Mine land cleanup in Appalachia faces federal delays, capacity limits](#) - Even though federal money to reclaim mine lands in Appalachia has been slow to arrive, some states have made progress on improvement plans from a generation ago nonetheless.

[The fallout from PJM's record-setting capacity auction](#) - In this three-part series, Utility Dive explored the fallout from the PJM Interconnection's latest capacity auction, which delivered historically high prices.

[RGGI carbon allowances continue trading at new highs ahead of Q3 auction](#) - Carbon allowances in the US Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative are trading at all-time highs this August, likely leading to a record clearing price going into the third quarter auction in early September, according to S&P Global Commodity Insights analysts.

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

[RTOs could fast-track power projects in interconnection queues under House bill](#) - U.S. grid operators could fast-track their review of power plants in their interconnection queues if the plants will improve grid reliability under a bill introduced Wednesday by a House Republican.

[Senate Republicans move to tweak carbon capture credit](#) - A trio of Senate Republicans introduced legislation Wednesday that would change one of carbon capture's biggest drivers in the United States.

[Supreme Court poised to consider challenge to deadlocked FERC decisions](#) - The Supreme Court is set to consider a petition questioning the authority of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission during tied decisions.

[OSMRE Honors Five States for Exemplary Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation](#) - The Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement is pleased to announce the recipients of the 2024 Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation Awards.

[Conservation groups defend in court the ability of citizens to report problems with coal mines to federal authorities](#) - Today, a federal judge approved a motion by conservation groups to join in the defense of a Biden administration rule that makes it easier for individuals and community organizations to report problems related to coal mining directly to federal regulators.

[Biden climate chief says there isn't much spending GOP can claw back from IRA](#) - White House adviser Ali Zaidi said the Biden administration is racing to lock in the hundreds of billions of clean energy investments in its landmark climate law — a pledge that comes as former President Donald Trump is vowing to dismantle the whole effort.

[FERC rejects CPower's challenge to PJM demand response rules, plus 4 other open meeting takeaways](#) - The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission on Thursday rejected a complaint by CPower Energy Management that argued the PJM Interconnection's rules are a "Catch-22" that effectively block large-scale residential demand response aggregation, potentially increasing energy and capacity prices.

[Grid Operators Explain Their Opposition to Harmful CPP 2.0](#) - Twenty-seven states along with a number of national trade organizations and companies have filed legal challenges to EPA's Clean Power Plan 2.0 (CPP 2.0) because of the rule's legal overreach, unrealistic and expensive requirements, and threat to grid reliability.

[\\$720B in IJA funds yet to be allocated](#) - Nearly three years into the five-year law, less than half of the money has been announced, according to the DOT.

[Modernizing NEPA Through Permitting Reform](#) - Today, the House Committee on Natural Resources held a full committee legislative hearing on three bills related to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

[Presidential debate in Pennsylvania dances around the energy question](#) - The presidential debate Tuesday night in Philadelphia focused on immigration, abortion, and crowd sizes at campaign rallies.

[Key Republican releases draft permitting bill as bipartisan talks continue](#) - A key House Republican negotiator has released a draft bill aimed at speeding up approvals for the nation's energy projects as bipartisan and bicameral talks continue.

[Supreme Court Showdown: EPA Defends Carbon Capture Amid Power Industry Backlash](#) - The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has doubled down on its stance that carbon capture is "adequately demonstrated" in a brief filed with the U.S. Supreme Court as part of a bid to urge the high court to allow the agency's contentious Carbon Pollution Standards to remain in effect while legal challenges continue.

[Trump vows to halve energy costs in 12 months. Few see that happening.](#) - Presidents have limited control over the global oil market, industry experts say, and any steep price drop could make it unprofitable for firms to “drill, baby, drill.”

[‘Full steam ahead:’ U.S. official from Mingo County works to protect coal miners from black lung](#) - This Labor Day, as a new federal rule is being rolled out to prevent deadly black lung disease in miners, Christopher Williamson is remembering the coal miners who fought for the creation of his agency and who weren’t afforded the protections that current and future workers hopefully will.

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

[Pennsylvania’s plans to spend federal funds on climate initiatives could be upended if Trump wins](#) - Pennsylvania wants to remain a manufacturing powerhouse. But state leaders also want to reduce climate change-causing emissions from steel mills and other industrial facilities, while cutting back the toxic pollutants that cause health problems in nearby neighborhoods.

[PA Coal Alliance Members Recognized For Mine Reclamation And Employee Safety](#) - On September 19, the Pennsylvania Coal Alliance announced the winners of its annual mine safety and mine reclamation awards.

[Republican governors launch effort to fight clean energy mandates](#) - Ten Republican governors this week announced a coalition aimed at reducing regulations around energy production and opposing renewable energy mandates.

[PA Senate Passes RGGI Repeal as State Energy Execs Complain About Permitting Delays](#) - Pennsylvania is a step closer to exiting the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI). A bill repealing the carbon tax portion of RGGI passed the state Senate by a 27 to 22 vote on Tuesday.

[Can Pennsylvania's nuclear power save the PJM grid? Maybe](#) - Pennsylvania relies on nuclear power more than any other state except Illinois — and there’s talk of growth.

[Plaintiffs argue case in RGGI lawsuit](#) - A case involving the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative was debated in circuit court Monday in Montgomery County.

[Public transit funding, utility protections, and more top Pa. legislature’s fall to-do list](#) - Funding public transit, reauthorizing utility shut-off protections, and agreeing on new rules for hospitals are all at the top of the legislature’s priority list when it returns to Harrisburg later this month.

[Fracking, energy policy fight looms over Harris, Trump campaigns in Pennsylvania](#) - Vice President Kamala Harris said more than a month ago that she no longer favored a ban on fracking — an issue that has dogged her campaign in the must-win battleground of Pennsylvania.

[Appalachian Regional Commission Announced It Will Invest \\$16.9 Million In Appalachia's Electric Grid, Businesses, Workforce, Trails; 4 Projects Benefit PA](#) - On September 5, the Appalachian Regional Commission announced \$16.9 million in funding for five collaborative projects to expand the region’s infrastructure, tourism, business development and workforce opportunities funded through ARC’s Appalachian Regional Initiative for Stronger Economies (ARISE) program.

[PUC Awarded \\$4.6 Million DOE Grant To Improve Siting Process For High-Voltage Electric Transmission Lines](#) - On September 4, the Public Utility Commission announced it has received up to a \$4.6 million grant from the US Department of Energy’s Grid Deployment Office to enhance the process for reviewing proposed high-voltage transmission line projects in Pennsylvania.

[PUC: Number Of Storm-Related Electric Outages Increasing Due To A Jump In Number Of Severe Storms With Extremely High Winds](#) - On September 3, the Public Utility Commission reported Pennsylvania experienced 49 “reportable outage events” in 2023 that disrupted electric service for residents and businesses across the state, according to the latest Electric Service Reliability Report.