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ARIPPA PERIODIC MEDIA NEWS – 11-1-24

(News clips from the previous month)

CFB, COAL REFUSE, ENERGY INDUSTRY

[Power and Data Center Sectors Join Forces to Resolve Mounting Electricity Demand Uncertainties](#) - The Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI) has launched an ambitious new initiative alongside power companies, grid operators, and several tech giants to establish five to 10 “flexibility hubs” that will demonstrate how data centers can be leveraged as flexible grid resources starting in the first half of 2025.

[Powerful utility group chief heads for exit](#) - Edison Electric Institute President Dan Brouillette is stepping down less than a year after taking the helm at the electric utility lobbying group, as some in the energy community have grumbled about his leadership.

[5 governors call for PJM capacity market rule changes to reduce ‘unnecessary’ consumer costs](#) - Five governors are urging the PJM Interconnection to reform its capacity market rules and interconnection queue process to prevent “unnecessary” costs for electricity customers.

[With electricity prices rising, groups blame slow rollout of renewables](#) - Electric bills for residents in Chesapeake Bay drainage states could rise as much as 24% now that wholesale electricity prices rose to record levels at an auction that locked up guaranteed power during extreme weather events in the region.

[Power plant owners back PJM capacity auction delay but warn of waning investor confidence](#) - Power plant owners generally support the PJM Interconnection’s proposal to delay its upcoming capacity auctions by six months while it crafts new capacity market rules, but warn that auction delays erode investor confidence in the market, according to Tuesday filings at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

[Asthana at OPSI: ‘We need capacity’](#) - Back in 2022, Manu Asthana arrived at the annual meeting of the Organization of PJM States with a message he has repeated frequently since then.

[PJM floats options for fast-track interconnection for shovel-ready projects](#) - The PJM Interconnection on Friday presented to stakeholders a straw proposal for allowing “shovel ready” projects to jump into an interconnection study process early next year in an effort to meet grid reliability needs.

[Supreme Court to consider if polluting industries can go court-shopping](#) - The Supreme Court agreed to hear three cases Monday from industry groups seeking to choose how to fight federal environmental regulations, highlighting a long-running battle over efforts to pick conservative or liberal courts parties believe will be more friendly to their cause.

[Firepoint Energy developing Western Pennsylvania pilot site for lithium extraction, synthetic fuel production](#) - Firepoint Energy Inc, a Wyoming C-Corp startup with a principal office in Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania, announces that the company has entered into a letter of intent to lease 100 acres in Indiana County, Pennsylvania in order to develop a pilot site for lithium extraction, synthetic jet fuel creation, and the elimination of a four-million-ton waste coal pile.

[Power Demand from Data Centers Keeping Coal-Fired Plants Online](#) - The power generation sector is looking at numerous ways to provide enough electricity to satisfy demand from data centers.

[Resource Adequacy Challenges Focus of PJM Testimony to FERC](#) - Aftab Khan, PJM Interconnection Executive Vice President – Operations, Planning & Security, testified Oct. 16 about maintaining resource adequacy amid growing demand and operational complexity before the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission’s annual Reliability Technical Conference.

[Possible PJM market changes could lower near-term capacity prices: Morgan Stanley](#) - The PJM Interconnection's plan to delay its next capacity auction by about six months and possibly change its market rules could lead to lower near-term capacity prices but ultimately give rise to higher prices for a longer period of time, according to Morgan Stanley analysts.

[Dominion Energy Virginia releases comprehensive long-term plan to meet growing power demand with reliable, affordable and increasingly clean electricity](#) - In its 2024 Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) filed today with the Virginia State Corporation Commission (SCC) and the North Carolina Utilities Commission (NCUC), Dominion Energy Virginia laid out multiple portfolio options to meet rising power demand through significant investments in new power generation from every source, expansion and modernization of the power grid, energy storage, and energy efficiency programs.

[PJM Winter Outlook: Adequate Power Supplies Available Under Normal Conditions](#) - PJM Interconnection and its members have adequate resources to serve the forecasted demand for electricity this winter under expected conditions, although reserve margins continue to shrink with continued generator retirements and increasing demand.

[Natural Streams Foundation announces an RFP to manage coal refuse removal](#) - The Natural Streams Foundation (NSF) is pleased to announce a Request for Proposal (RFP) for qualified disposal and processing facilities to manage coal refuse removal as part of the Marianna Project in Washington County, PA.

[Selloff in RGGI carbon market causes prices to drop 22% from Q3 auction: Platts](#) - Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative carbon allowance prices have dropped more than 20% from record highs set this summer after a delay in market regulatory changes spurred a selloff in late September, according to price assessments by Platts, part of S&P Global Commodity Insights.

[PJM Provides Update on 2024 RTEP Window 1](#) - PJM briefed stakeholders Tuesday (Oct. 8) on the 2024 Regional Transmission Expansion Plan Window 1, which closed Sept. 17.

[Omitting Talen Energy RMR units from PJM's next capacity auction could cost \\$14.5B: OPSI](#) - The PJM Interconnection's failure to include power plants with reliability must-run contracts in its capacity auctions could increase costs in the grid operator's upcoming capacity auction by roughly \$14.5 billion, the Organization of PJM States Inc., or OPSI, told federal regulators on Tuesday.

[Dominion Energy, American Electric Power, FirstEnergy reach joint planning agreement to propose regional transmission projects across PJM footprint](#) - Dominion Energy Virginia, American Electric Power and FirstEnergy Corp. have entered into an innovative joint planning agreement to propose several new regional electric transmission projects across multiple states within the PJM footprint.

[Constellation, Calpine, others urge FERC to reject Exelon co-location tariff proposals](#) - Constellation Energy, Calpine and Public Service Enterprise Group are among the parties urging the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to reject proposals from Exelon utilities to change their tariffs to account for data centers and other load co-located at power plants.

[Billions in Federal Funding Earmarked for Power Plant CCS Projects: Here's a Snapshot](#) - The Department of Energy (DOE) unveiled plans on Sept. 27 to inject \$1.3 billion into its portfolio of federally funded carbon capture demonstration and large-scale pilot programs by the end of the year—including up to \$400 million to support one commercial-scale coal power plant carbon capture and storage (CCS) demonstration.

[Helene's Historic Devastation Spurs Largest-Ever Mutual Aid Response, Signals Power Sector Reckoning](#) - Electric cooperatives across the Southeast describe Hurricane Helene's devastation as vast and unprecedented, warning that restoring some crucial infrastructure serving the not-for-profit entities' customers will take a long and arduous process.

[ERCOT, SPP and 3 US regions need 'significant investment' in new generating capacity: BofA](#) - After two decades of stagnant electricity demand growth, the United States could need up to 300 GW of incremental effective capacity by 2035, according to a BofA Global Research report published Monday.

LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY ISSUES: FEDERAL

[How will the presidential and Senate election outcomes affect FERC and its policies?](#) - The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and key agency-related issues such as electric transmission and natural gas policy could be set in different trajectories depending on the outcome of the Nov. 5 elections, according to former FERC chairmen and other commission experts.

[Energy Tax Credit Changes Begin To Line Up For 2025](#) - Reports of the coming Great Tax Debate of 2025 may be somewhat exaggerated.

[Biden-Harris Administration Delivers Nearly \\$474 Million in New Grid Resilience Funding to States and Tribes as Part of Investing in America Agenda](#) - In support of the Biden-Harris Administration's Investing in America agenda, today the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) announced that 49 states, 5 territories, 254 Tribal Nations, and the District of Columbia have received a combined total of \$473.6 million in fiscal year (FY) 2024 Grid Resilience State and Tribal Formula Grants to modernize the electric grid to reduce the impacts of extreme weather events while also ensuring the reliability of the power sector.

[FERC Conference Highlights Increasing Dangers to Grid Reliability](#) - On October 16, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) hosted a major conference focused on electric reliability.

[EPA Completes Series of Enforcement Actions to Protect Communities from Exposure to Coal Ash Pollution](#) - Today, Oct. 23, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency announced agreements with four companies to settle violations of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act's regulations related to coal ash surface impoundments and landfills.

[Coal community groups ask Harris and Trump for continued funding](#) - Fifteen organizations sent a letter this week to both presidential candidates, Vice President Kamala Harris and former President Donald Trump, asking for continued federal investments in their efforts to re-energize the economies of coal communities.

[FERC bars payments for 'deadband' reactive power, plus 4 other open meeting takeaways](#) - In a move opposed by generators, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission on Thursday issued a rule that bars payments to power plant owners for reactive power within the standard power factor range.

[DOE selects nearly \\$2B in projects for grid resilience funding](#) - The U.S. Department of Energy selected 38 projects for nearly \$2 billion in funding from its Grid Resilience and Innovation Program, DOE said Friday.

[Power plant rule avoids SCOTUS pause. Will it survive surging energy demand?](#) - EPA's power plant rules and rising electricity demand are on a collision course.

[Supreme Court rejects calls to put a hold on EPA power plant carbon rule](#) - The U.S. Supreme Court on Wednesday rejected "emergency applications" by utilities, independent power producers and others seeking to put a hold on an Environmental Protection Agency rule that limits carbon emissions from power plants.

[EPA Releases 2023 Data Collected Under Greenhouse Gas Reporting Program](#) - Today, Oct. 15, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency released 2023 greenhouse gas data collected under the EPA's Greenhouse Gas Reporting Program. In 2023, reported direct emissions of greenhouse gases from large stationary sources, representing approximately 50% of total U.S. emissions, were down by approximately 4% from 2022.

[Biden announces more than \\$600 million for electric grid resilience during visit to survey Hurricane Milton damage](#) - President Joe Biden made yet another trip to a community devastated by a hurricane with his Sunday visit to Florida, where he announced more than half a billion dollars in projects for electric grid resilience, as costlier and more frequent storms continue to strain the federal government's disaster-relief funding.

[Congress mulls changes in permitting process, could mean lower electricity prices](#) - Congress is inching toward a legislative breakthrough to overhaul how energy projects, from wind and solar to geothermal, coal and petroleum extracted in America's coastal waters, receive federal permits to operate.

[Supreme Court leaves in place two Biden environmental regulations](#) - The Supreme Court left in place Friday two Biden administration environmental regulations aimed at reducing industry emissions of planet-warming methane and toxic mercury.

[DOE delivers high-stakes grid study as election pressure rises](#) - The Department of Energy issued a planning road map Thursday for a major expansion of the nation's high-voltage power grid aimed at moving far more renewable energy to population centers and meeting 2035 climate goals.

[Chairman Newhouse Leads Letter Seeking Information on Administration's Groundwater Efforts](#) - Western Caucus Chairman Dan Newhouse (WA-04) and five Members sent a letter to the President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology (PCAST) in response to the Council's request for public input on America's groundwater challenges.

LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY ISSUES: STATE

[CBF: New Chesapeake Bay Assessment Reveals Concerns, New Restoration Data Tool Offers Hope](#) - Despite a slight improvement from previous years, the Chesapeake Bay Foundation said more than two-thirds of the Chesapeake Bay and its tidal rivers and streams did not meet clean water standards between 2020 and 2022, according to an assessment by the EPA's Chesapeake Bay Program released October 31.

[Shapiro Administration Launches New One-Stop Grant Search Tool to Streamline Pennsylvanians' Access to Government Funding Opportunities](#) - Today, Secretary of Administration Neil Weaver and the Commonwealth Office of Digital Experience (CODE PA) launched a new resource on PA.gov Opens In A New Window that makes it easier for residents, businesses, non-profits, schools, and local governments to find and apply to grant programs from state agencies.

[LEGISLATIVE ROUNDUP: DEP has reduced permit backlog by 67% under Gov. Shapiro](#) - Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Acting Secretary Jessica Shirley this week gave an update on DEP's permit modernization updates.

[Biden-Harris Administration Announces More Than \\$244 Million to Address Legacy Pollution, Revitalize Communities in Pennsylvania Through Investing in America Agenda](#) - The Department of the Interior and the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE) today announced more than \$244 million in fiscal year 2024 funding from President Biden's Investing in America agenda to address dangerous and polluting abandoned mine lands, create good-paying, family-sustaining jobs and catalyze economic opportunity in coal communities across Pennsylvania.

[Pennsylvania General Assembly session draws to a close with fewest new laws in more than a decade](#) - In one of its final votes of the 2023-2024 legislative session, the Pennsylvania House sent a bill to Gov. Josh Shapiro for his signature that would tear down a longstanding barrier to first responders receiving workers compensation for post-traumatic stress injuries.

[DEP Now Accepting Qualified Professional Bids As Part Of SPEED Permit Review Program](#) - On October 22, the Department of Environmental Protection announced it is now accepting Qualified Professional bids through the Pennsylvania eMarketplace for reviewers of four DEP permit applications under the new SPEED [Streamlining Permits for Economic Expansion And Development] Permit Review Program.

[Appalachian Regional Commission Awards \\$18.5 Million In Pennsylvania To Support Economic Revitalization Of Communities Impacted By Downturn In Coal Industry](#) - On October 16, the Appalachian Regional Commission awarded \$68.2 million to 65 projects through its Partnerships for Opportunity and Workforce and Economic Revitalization (POWER) Initiative.

[Short on Power by 2028? PA's Power Grid Crisis](#) - Lawmakers in Pennsylvania heard testimony today of potential shortfalls in electric power later in the decade.

[Nobody is using \\$2.6B in Pa. tax credits. Gov. Josh Shapiro wants a rewrite to boost electricity production.](#) - Companies have yet to claim a single dollar from a \$2.6 billion tax credit package Pennsylvania enacted in 2022 to encourage natural gas use, hydrogen production, milk processing, and more.