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ARIPPA PERIODIC MEDIA NEWS – 12-2-24

(News clips from the previous month)

CFB, COAL REFUSE, ENERGY INDUSTRY

<u>PJM forecasts adequate winter generation resources</u> - PJM Interconnection and its members have adequate resources to serve the expected demand for electricity this winter.

<u>ECP plan to buy 5.3 GW could drive up PJM capacity prices, Public Citizen, others tell FERC</u> - Energy Capital Partners should say whether it intends to divert the plants' output to supply data centers, according to Public Citizen, Private Equity Stakeholder Project and the Sierra Club.

<u>US miner Corsa explores PGM extraction from coal refuse</u> - US-based metallurgical coal miner Corsa Coal has announced promising results from its investigation into the presence of valuable minerals in its coal refuse material.

<u>Constellation asks FERC for PJM rules on data centers and other co-located load</u> - Constellation Energy Generation urged the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to order the PJM Interconnection to adopt rules for providing service to fully isolated co-located load, such as data centers, according to a complaint filed at the agency on Friday.

<u>Affordability, data center growth and more: 9 state utility regulators reveal their top challenges</u> - State utility regulators are grappling with how to maintain affordable electricity as demand grows and the energy transition continues, according to interviews with key commissioners from nine states.

<u>PJM Advances Initiatives To Facilitate Replacement Generation Resources</u> - PJM and its members are advancing several initiatives to streamline the interconnection of new resources onto the grid to maintain grid reliability in the near term.

<u>A \$300B a year deal for climate cash at UN summit sparks outrage for some and hope for others</u> - United Nations climate talks adopted a deal to inject at least \$300 billion annually in humanity's fight against climate change, aimed at helping developing nations cope with the ravages of global warming in tense negotiations.

<u>Ratepayer advocates press FERC for PJM capacity market changes, citing 'crushing' prices</u> - Six ratepayer advocates on Monday filed a complaint at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission seeking changes to the PJM Interconnection's capacity market design, which they said is causing "crushing" capacity prices.

Not just a 'boondoggle': State regulators, industrial companies push for cost effective transmission - With transmission costs expected to continue increasing, state utility regulators, energy consumers and transmission operators are eyeing options to ensure the grid is expanded in the most cost-effective way possible, according to a Nov. 13 panel at the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners' annual meeting in Anaheim, California.

<u>PJM and Members Conduct Annual Winter Emergency Operations Drill</u> - PJM conducted its Winter Emergency Operations Drill with its members on Nov. 14.

<u>Natural gas supply is a bulk power reliability risk this winter: NERC</u> - Regulatory and industry initiatives "have improved winter readiness," but many areas of the bulk electric power system still face a risk of energy shortfalls under extreme cold conditions, the North American Electric Reliability Corp. said Thursday in its annual Winter Reliability Assessment.

<u>PJM Announces Organization Changes</u> - PJM announced today that Vice President of Planning Paul McGlynn is retiring from the organization effective March 31, 2025, after nearly four decades in the industry.

<u>Gas-fired generation likely needed to maintain reliability for years: SPP, Black Hills</u> - Gas-fired generation will likely be needed to maintain grid reliability for years to come, according to Southwest Power Pool and Black Hills Energy executives.

<u>US Unveils Plan to Triple Nuclear Power by 2050 as Demand Soars</u> - President Joe Biden's administration is setting out plans for the US to triple nuclear power capacity by 2050, with demand climbing for the technology as a round-the-clock source of carbon-free power.

<u>FERC approves 6-month delay to PJM's next 3 capacity auctions</u> - The delay stems from a complaint alleging that PJM's rules do not account for the impacts of reliability must-run power plants in the grid operator's capacity auctions.

<u>FERC approves PJM plan to omit energy efficiency resources from capacity auctions</u> - Federal regulators have accepted the PJM Interconnection's proposal to stop including energy efficiency resources in its capacity auctions, concluding that the move will reduce retail electricity bills while continuing to account for efficiency-driven load reductions on the demand side.

<u>PJM Reviews Initial Project Selections, Preliminary Short List of 2024 RTEP Window 1 Proposals</u> - PJM reviewed the first short list of proposals being considered for the 2024 Regional Transmission Expansion Plan Window 1 during the Nov. 6 meeting of the Transmission Expansion Advisory Committee (TEAC).

<u>US power generators pump the brakes on coal plant retirements</u> - Planned closures of coal-fired power plants in the US are slowing as forecasts show rising power demand from datacenters and manufacturing.

<u>US should add 35 GW of interregional power transfer capacity to boost energy adequacy: NERC</u> - An additional 35 GW of electric power transfer capability between transmission planning regions would help to strengthen U.S. energy adequacy in extreme weather conditions and enable electrification and load growth, the North American Electric Reliability Corp. concluded in the second and third portions of a transmission study published Monday.

2024 PA Abandoned Mine Reclamation Conference Honors Schuylkill County's Bill Reichert With Mayfly Award - The PA Abandoned Mine Reclamation Conference on October 22-24 in State College honored Schuylkill County's Bill Reichert with the Mayfly Award to recognize a lifetime of knowledge and expertise dedicated to clean water and the reclamation of abandoned mines in Pennsylvania.

<u>AEP</u>, others press for FERC guidance on 'gargantuan' issue of data center colocation - Making sure the grid has adequate power supplies was one of the top issues that emerged during a technical conference on colocating data center load at power plants held on Friday by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

FERC Blocks PJM Proposal to Expand Amazon Data Center Load at Susquehanna Nuclear Plant - The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) has rejected an amended interconnection agreement that would have supported expanded co-located load at an Amazon Web Services (AWS) data center connected to the 2,520–MWe Susquehanna nuclear power plant in Pennsylvania, citing grid reliability and cost fairness concerns.

<u>PJM to FERC: Colocated Load Growth Requires Guidance to Manage Reliability, Risks, Cost and Regulatory Issues</u> - Stu Bresler, Executive Vice President, Market Services and Strategy, testified Nov. 1 before the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to share PJM's perspectives on the surging growth in requests by data centers and other large electricity consumers to locate their facilities next to the power sources they will draw from.

LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY ISSUES: FEDERAL

What Trump's tariffs could mean for American energy - President-elect Donald Trump's pledge to slap new tariffs on goods from Canada, Mexico and China could inflate the cost of producing and buying energy in almost all forms, possibly sending gasoline prices surging and the U.S. energy industry into a tailspin.

<u>EPA proposes tightening NOx limits for new gas-fired power plants</u> - New gas-fired power plants would face tougher nitrogen oxides standards under a proposal issued by the Environmental Protection Agency Friday, in the last days of the Biden administration.

<u>FERC expands states' role in regional transmission planning, cost allocation</u> - The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission on a 4-0 vote on Thursday largely upheld its Order 1920 on transmission planning and cost allocation, but gave state regulators a bigger role in shaping scenario development and cost allocation.

Republicans cooking up 2025 permitting plan if lame-duck push fails - If Republicans aren't able to cinch a deal with Democrats on permitting overhaul this year, they say that's OK. They'll come back next year to do it on their own.

<u>EPA Focus on Carbon Capture Stokes Fight on Clean Air Law Intent</u> - Federal courts are poised to clarify how far the EPA can push technological innovation at power plants, with arguments set over a Biden administration emissions plan before incoming Trump officials may try to quash the rule for good.

<u>How Trump and Republicans could pay for new tax cuts</u> - President-elect Trump and Republican lawmakers are gearing up to push a massive tax-cut bill through Congress next year but will face pressure to find ways to cover the costs.

<u>Biden inks billion-dollar climate deals to foil Trump rollbacks</u> - The administration is accelerating the approval of large loans for clean technologies that the president-elect attacked on the campaign trail.

<u>WoodMac Analysis Says Trump Energy Agenda Will Face Roadblocks</u> - An analysis from global data and analytics group Wood Mackenzie says Republican control of the White House and Congress means U.S. energy policy will move away from net-zero emissions targets, but there remains bipartisan support for the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA).

<u>Trump taps North Dakota Gov. Burgum to run Interior, new national energy council</u> - North Dakota Gov. Doug Burgum, a Republican, will run the newly formed National Energy Council and will be nominated to lead the Department of Interior, President-elect Donald Trump said Friday.

<u>Trump names fossil fuel executive Chris Wright as energy secretary</u> - President-elect Donald Trump has selected Chris Wright, a campaign donor and fossil fuel executive, to serve as energy secretary in his upcoming, second administration.

<u>Trump taps former Rep. Lee Zeldin to lead EPA</u> - President-elect Donald Trump on Monday selected former Rep. Lee Zeldin, a Republican from New York, to lead the Environmental Protection Agency amid expectations the agency will roll back regulations affecting fossil fuel-fired power plants.

<u>EPA implements climate law's methane fee as Republicans plan repeal</u> - The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued a final rule Tuesday that implements a charge for oil and gas companies that release too much of the planet-warming gas methane.

<u>Ex-energy regulator says he offered Trump team plan to cut his old agency</u> - Former Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Chair Neil Chatterjee said on Thursday he gave a road map to the Trump transition team on how to implement job cuts at the agency that regulates the nation's gas and electric systems.

<u>Power Shift: Trump's Energy Agenda Sparks Cautious Optimism, Climate Concerns</u> - Tuesday's election, which will return Donald Trump to the White House and grant the U.S. Senate a Republican majority, could have sizeable implications for the power industry. In reactions sent to POWER, industry groups expressed a combination of cautious optimism, resilience, and preparedness for potential changes.

<u>Donald Trump has sweeping plans for a second administration. Here's what he's proposed</u> - Donald Trump has promised sweeping action in a second administration.

What Trump's election win means for FERC, utilities, and the grid - On the campaign trail, President-elect Donald Trump railed against clean energy policies enacted under the Biden-Harris administration, vowed to throttle offshore wind development "on day one" and end the "Green New Scam."

<u>Trump declares 'unprecedented and powerful mandate'</u> - President-elect Donald Trump will return to the White House in January with an agenda to slash government regulations, expand fossil fuel production and fire his critics in the federal government.

<u>Republican AGs linked arms to fight Biden energy agenda</u> - President Joe Biden's effort to tackle climate change across government agencies was met by well-organized, litigious foes: Republican state attorneys general.

LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY ISSUES: STATE

<u>PUC Invites Stakeholder Comments On The Issue Of The Adequacy Of Electricity Supplies In Pennsylvania</u> - As a follow-up to a November 25 Technical Conference held by the Public Utility Commission, the Commission is inviting comments from all stakeholders on the adequacy of electricity supplies in Pennsylvania.

<u>That's A Wrap: City & State's Legislative Session Review</u> - A look at what Pennsylvania lawmakers did – and didn't – accomplish during the last legislative session.

<u>Pa. spending headed into the red? As budget season approaches, clashing views abound</u> - New and bleak numbers from the state Independent Fiscal Office could harden partisan views on Pennsylvania's long-term financial health as another budget season approaches, with projections for deficits that start this year at \$3.4 billion and escalate to \$6.7 billion in five years.

<u>DEP Awards \$2.55 Million In Federal Funding To Support 5 Local Abandoned Mine Reclamation Projects</u> - On November 22, the Department of Environmental Protection announced the award of more than \$2.5 million for five projects to restore abandoned mine lands and clean streams affected by abandoned mine drainage as a part of the Abandoned Mine Lands and Acid Mine Drainage Grant Program.

<u>DEP says it has reduced permit backlog</u> - A backlog for oil and gas permits in the state has completely been eliminated, the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection announced this week.

<u>Judge deems Youngkin's actions to withdraw Virginia from RGGI 'unlawful'</u> - Floyd County Circuit Court Judge Randall Lowe ruled Wednesday Republican Gov. Glenn Youngkin acted unlawfully by withdrawing Virginia from the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, a program aimed to reduce climate changing emissions that has funneled hundreds of millions to the state to deal with the impacts of extreme weather events.

<u>Energy policymakers convene for Virginia Clean Economy Act summit</u> - Democratic and Republican lawmakers, utilities, energy regulators and other interested parties met in Henrico County Monday to discuss how the state's growing power needs may be met in conjunction with the goals of the Virginia Clean Economy Act, a 2020 law aiming for zero-carbon emissions by 2050.

<u>DEP: Some Guidance Now Available To Apply For \$396 Million In RISE PA Industrial Decarbonization Grants; Application Period Opens Early In 2025</u> - The Department of Environmental Protection now has available some guidance on how to apply for the RISE PA Industrial Decarbonization Grant Program with an anticipated application period opening in early 2025.

<u>Environmental Quality Board Approves Proposed Spill Notification Regulation; NOx & VOC Corrections For Comment;</u>
<u>Blasting Reg</u> - On November 12, the Environmental Quality Board approved for public comment a proposed regulation on notification of spills and corrections to Air Quality regulations on RACT requirements for nitrogen oxide and volatile organic compounds.

<u>Pa. House Democrats hopeful for greater cooperation with Republican Senate in new session</u> - The Pennsylvania House of Representatives returned to session Tuesday, a week after the House Democratic Caucus maintained its narrow majority in one of the party's few election victories.

<u>Va.'s congressional delegation calls for reauthorization of Infrastructure Investments and Jobs Act</u> - Members of the congressional delegation from Virginia would like to see the Infrastructure Investments and Jobs Act, or Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, reauthorized when it ends in less than two years.