



2015 Chestnut Street, Camp Hill, PA 17011 Phone: (717) 763-7635, Fax: (717) 763-7455, Email: office@arippa.org

ARIPPA PERIODIC MEDIA NEWS – 1-2-25

(News clips from the previous month)

CFB, COAL REFUSE, ENERGY INDUSTRY

[PJM responds to Pennsylvania Governor's complaint over power market rules](#) - Grid operator PJM Interconnection responded on Tuesday to a complaint from Pennsylvania Governor Josh Shapiro over power market rules, citing concerns about potential power shortages due to the fast-paced expansion of data centers.

[2024 in Review: Enhancing Transmission To Meet New and Changing Demand](#) - The demand for electricity in the PJM footprint could grow by 40% over the next 15 years, driving the need for an upgraded, expanded transmission system capable of carrying additional generation to more than 65 million people across 13 states and Washington, D.C.

[Talen Energy to appeal FERC's rejection of Amazon data center deal](#) - Talen Energy (TLN.O), opens new tab plans to contest the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's (FERC) rejection of an amended interconnection agreement for an Amazon data center at its Pennsylvania nuclear plant, the company said on Monday.

[Delaware Generator To Retire Ahead of Schedule](#) - PJM has announced that Indian River Unit 4, a coal-fired generator in Delaware owned by NRG, can retire nearly two years ahead of its currently scheduled deactivation without adverse impacts to reliability.

[Virginia was the top net electricity recipient of any state in 2023](#) - Electricity routinely flows among the Lower 48 states, with almost 10% of U.S. electricity generation traded across state lines.

[Five Critical Insights from NERC's 2024 Long-Term Reliability Assessment](#) - Well over half of North America faces a potential shortage of electricity supplies in the coming years, compounded by surging demand growth, accelerating generator retirements, and delays in resource development, the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) has warned in its latest 2024 Long-Term Reliability Assessment (LTRA).

[IEA: Global coal power use reaches all time high, driven by increased electricity demand](#) - The International Energy Agency (IEA) has published its latest report on coal power, revealing that global coal demand hit an all-time high in 2024.

[American Efficient faces \\$975M FERC hit for 'manipulative scheme' in MISO, PJM](#) - American Efficient and its related companies face a \$722 million penalty and the return of \$253 million in unjust profits for allegedly providing capacity from energy efficiency resources that didn't reduce energy use through the companies' efforts, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission said Monday.

[US LNG exports raise electricity bills, gas prices and emissions, DOE report concludes](#) - Increased U.S. liquefied natural gas exports will contribute to higher electricity and natural gas prices, as well as increased greenhouse gas emissions and other costs, according to a U.S. Department of Energy study published Tuesday.

[Report Says \\$6.5 Billion in Unburned Coal Sitting at U.S. Power Plants](#) - A new report from the Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis (IEEFA) says U.S. coal-fired power plants have as much as \$6.5 billion of unused coal inventory, based on the latest figures on fuel stockpiles from the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA).

[Big tech and utilities push FERC for power plant policy](#) - Google and Amazon are assuring federal regulators they can pay for electricity generated at power plants adjacent to their power-hungry data centers and boost grid reliability at the same time.

[PJM Board Supports Action in Support of Urgent Grid Reliability Needs](#) - The PJM Board of Managers has informed stakeholders of its support for undertaking immediate actions to provide for resource adequacy in light of the continuing and rapid tightening of grid power supplies versus growing demand for electricity.

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

[PJM warns legislators of looming challenges: increasing power demand, decreasing supply](#) - When you get up in the morning, you want to know your lights will come on and you can plug in and recharge your laptop and cell phone.

[PJM expects summer peak load to grow 2% a year on average, driven by data centers](#) - Largely driven by data center growth, the PJM Interconnection expects its summer and winter peak load will grow by 2% and 3.2% a year on average through 2045, up from 1.6% and 1.8% growth, respectively, in last year's forecast, according to a presentation on its preliminary load forecast that was discussed at a Load Analysis subcommittee meeting on Monday.

[Hundreds of New Gas-Fired Power Units Planned as U.S. Gas Output Soars](#) - The latest data from the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA) published Dec. 10 shows five states accounted for more than 70% of record U.S. natural gas production this year and last year, which includes a period when electricity generation from natural gas also reached new summer highs.

[FERC rejects plan to shift PJM's transmission planning protocol in win for state regulators](#) - Concerned about a loss of regional transmission organization independence, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission on Friday rejected proposals that would have given PJM Interconnection transmission owners more control over the grid operator's transmission planning process.

[Scientists find huge trove of rare metals needed for clean energy hidden inside toxic coal waste](#) - Millions of tons of coal ash left over from burning the planet's dirtiest fossil fuel are sitting in ponds and landfills, able to leach into waterways and pollute soil. But this toxic waste may also be a treasure trove for the rare earth elements needed to propel the world toward clean energy.

[Largest Pennsylvania Coal-Fired Plant Will Convert to Natural Gas](#) - A major Pennsylvania coal-fired power plant, the largest coal-burning facility in the state before it was closed in 2023, may be converted to a natural gas-fired station.

[Five-year US load growth forecast surges 456%, to 128 GW: Grid Strategies](#) - U.S. electricity demand could rise 128 GW over the next five years, driven by data centers and manufacturing growth primarily in six regions of the country, according to a report published Thursday by Grid Strategies.

[PJM boosts gas in contentious grid plan](#) - The power needs of data centers run by America's technology giants will open the door to new natural gas-fired generation under a strategy advanced by the largest U.S. grid operator, pushing aside carbon-free wind and solar projects.

[Underground voids from abandoned mines pose danger to people and property when land collapses](#) - Swaths of Pennsylvania and many other states are honeycombed with old, unstable mines that can cause the earth to suddenly give way and threaten people and property.

[Renewable energy developers urge PJM to drop fast-track interconnection plan](#) - The PJM Interconnection's proposed Reliability Resource Initiative, if approved, will be challenged at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and in court, the developers said.

[How to Improve Remediation of Coal Ash Pond Water](#) - Many power companies face significant risks from coal ash ponds. New solutions based on water flow physics are showing promise in preventing the spread of hazardous particulate matter.

LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY ISSUES: FEDERAL

[Congress passes water resources bill that could mean millions of federal dollars for Western Pennsylvania](#)

- Efforts to clean up pollution from Pennsylvania coal mines, and protect current hours of service for the locks along the Allegheny River were included in legislation that cleared Congress before lawmakers went home for the holidays.

[Watchdog calls for halt to energy loans amid insufficient conflict of interest controls](#) - An internal government watchdog is calling on the Energy Department's loan office to halt its financing for energy projects, saying there are insufficient controls in place to prevent conflicts of interest.

[EPA head Regan, who championed environmental justice, to leave office Dec. 31](#) - Michael Regan, who championed environmental justice as administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, will leave the agency Dec. 31, three weeks before the end of President Joe Biden's term.

[FERC floats 'ride-through' reliability standards for wind, solar, batteries, plus 5 other open meeting takeaways](#) - The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission is seeking comments on proposed "ride-through" reliability standards for inverter-based resources, called IBRs, such as wind, solar and battery systems.

['Good riddance' says Oklahoma governor as DOE nixes 7 national transmission corridors, refines 3](#) - The U.S. Department of Energy on Monday opened a 60-day public comment on three potential national interest electric transmission corridor designations, known as NIETCs, which would allow the federal government to support and expedite grid expansion projects in those areas.

[Trump vows to speed up permits for energy, other megaprojects](#) - President-elect Donald Trump said he will expedite federal permits and environmental reviews for construction projects worth more than \$1 billion.

[Finger-pointing begins after permitting talks collapse](#) - The blame game started over the weekend and intensified Monday after bipartisan talks on broad permitting legislation collapsed.

[A watershed moment: Congress passes legislation to address toxic legacy of abandoned mines](#) - Today, in a historic bipartisan achievement two decades in the making, the U.S. House of Representatives passed the Good Samaritan Remediation of Abandoned Hardrock Mines Act (S.2781 / H.R.7779).

[Trump wants agencies on a short leash. What does that mean for FERC?](#) - One of President-elect Donald Trump's early campaign promises was to assert White House control over independent agencies.

[US supreme court hears oil railway case with environmental protections at stake](#) - The future of environmental safeguards protecting communities, wildlife and waterways from harm will be considered by the US supreme court on Tuesday, in a case about a proposed oil train that threatens to upend five decades of legal precedent.

[EPA hails 'revitalized' enforcement efforts as Biden administration heads to exit](#) - The Environmental Protection Agency enhanced enforcement efforts this year, doubling financial penalties issued to polluters and issuing the first-ever arrest for a climate change-related crime, the agency said in a report Thursday.

[Republicans plot energy-focused reconciliation package](#) - Senate Republicans are plotting an ambitious course in the first 30 days of the next Congress as they seek to pass a package expanding domestic energy production while potentially clawing back portions of the Democrats' 2022 climate law.

[Inflation Reduction Act changes "not a Day 1 priority" for Trump, Congress: Crux](#) - Though a full repeal of the 2022 climate law is unlikely, a Republican-controlled legislature could repeal or phase out some of its individual provisions beginning next year, policy experts said.

LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY ISSUES: STATE

[Pennsylvania's energy policy in 2024](#) - In 2024, the transition to renewable energy and its impact on power grid demand and reliability continued to challenge Pennsylvania lawmakers.

[Pennsylvania Files Lawsuit Against PJM to Prevent Energy Price Hikes](#) - Governor Josh Shapiro has filed a complaint with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) against PJM Interconnection, criticizing flaws in PJM's capacity auction design that threaten to impose significant new price increases.

[Lawmakers passed fewer laws than in other recent sessions, but leaders say quality is better than quantity](#) - The divided Pennsylvania legislature passed fewer laws and held fewer voting days over the past two years than in most sessions in recent history.

[The Trump admin could make Pennsylvania's clean energy projects less environmentally friendly](#) - As a new presidential administration prepares to take power, people involved in fledgling clean energy projects in Pennsylvania say they're watching closely for policy changes that could hamstring their funding or make the initiatives less environmentally friendly.

[Pennsylvania Supreme Court retention could be the next ugly political fight](#) - After a bruising Presidential election and a slew of fights over control of Congress and the state legislature, maybe you thought 2025 would at least be largely free of bitterly partisan election battles.

[PUC Celebrates Record-Breaking Year of Service and Accomplishments in 2024](#) - The Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (PUC) today highlighted a historic year of achievements during its final public meeting of 2024.

[DEP Awards \\$19.6 Million To Support 8 Local Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation Projects In 6 Counties](#) - On December 17, the Department of Environmental Protection announced the award of \$19,640,380 to support eight local abandoned mine lands reclamation and water restoration projects in six counties as part of the federally-funded Abandoned Mine Lands and Acid Mine Drainage Grant Program.

[PUC Reaffirms Commitment to Utility Consumer Protections](#) - The Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (PUC) today reaffirmed its commitment to protecting public utility customers by ensuring the continuation of essential consumer safeguards.

[IFO: Pennsylvania Budget Surplus Disappears Next Year](#) - The Pennsylvania government was issued another dire warning about its finances last month from the Independent Fiscal Office (IFO).

[Lawmakers make new bid to end PA ties to RGGI](#) - Two regional lawmakers are asking for support from their colleagues for legislation that would eliminate the regulation tying Pennsylvania to the Northeast Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative.

[Shapiro joins Moore, Youngkin in renewed commitment to Chesapeake Bay cleanup](#) - Top officials from all the Chesapeake Bay states and the federal government gathered in Annapolis Tuesday to reiterate their commitment to cleaning up the historically and economically critical estuary and strengthening the decade-long partnership that has helped improved the Bay's health — even if that progress hasn't been as swift and consistent as they might have hoped.

[Coal miner Randy Smith is up next to be West Virginia Senate president](#) - Randy Smith, a 64-year-old retired coal miner, is in line to be the next president of the West Virginia Senate.

[Coal, once king in Pennsylvania, leaves behind abandoned mines that pose concerns](#) - Coal mining's roots in the Pittsburgh area run deeper than the foundations of American democracy.

[When It Comes To Energy Policy, Pennsylvania Needs a Reset](#) - PJM is America's largest transmission organization that coordinates the movement of wholesale electricity across 13 states, of which Pennsylvania is one.

[Utility law will lapse after Pa. legislature deadlocks on expanding consumer protections](#) - State lawmakers ended the legislative session without reauthorizing a 20-year-old consumer protection law that bans companies from shutting off low-income customers' utilities during the winter.