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ARIPPA PERIODIC MEDIA NEWS – 3-3-25

(News clips from the previous month)

CFB, COAL REFUSE, ENERGY INDUSTRY

[Wind and solar surpassed coal, but CO2 is still climbing. Here's why.](#) - Renewable energy broke records last year, but so did gas generation. That's a climate problem.

[PJM board approves \\$6.7B transmission expansion plan](#) - The PJM Interconnection board approved \$5.9 billion in new transmission projects to bolster reliability across the grid operator's footprint, PJM said Wednesday.

[NAES, Gecko Robotics Launch \\$100M AI Partnership Amid Energy Crisis; Shapiro Questions PJM Future](#) - In a bid to stave off an escalating power crisis, NAES, one of the largest independent power plant operators in the U.S., and Gecko Robotics, a leader in AI-driven robotic inspection and predictive maintenance, have moved to champion a prominent role for the nation's existing fleet, launching a \$100 million strategic partnership to bolster their modernization and improve their efficiency.

[Planned retirements of U.S. coal-fired electric-generating capacity to increase in 2025](#) - Electricity generators plan to retire 12.3 gigawatts (GW) of capacity in 2025, a 65% increase in retirements compared with 2024.

[US governors press for infrastructure permitting reform](#) - The National Governors Association will press Congress this year to pass permitting reform legislation, the group said Friday.

[EIPC Files Comments on NERC Interregional Transfer Capability Study](#) - The following news release was issued Monday by the Eastern Interconnection Planning Collaborative, of which PJM Interconnection is a member.

[Constellation says restart of Three Mile Island reactor is ahead of schedule](#) - The company behind the planned restart of a shuttered nuclear reactor on Three Mile Island in Middletown said Wednesday that the project is currently running ahead of schedule and on track to hire hundreds of full-time employees.

[IEA expects global electricity demand to rise 4% annually through 2027](#) - Expanding industrial activity, greater use of air conditioning, accelerated electrification in transportation, and the rapid proliferation of data centers is fueling the global consumption of electricity, which will continue rising rapidly over the next few years, according to the International Energy Agency (IEA).

[Transformer supply bottleneck threatens power system stability as load grows](#) - The urgently needed modernization of the U.S. power system is being impeded by slow access to vital new electric transformers.

[FERC Accepts Two PJM Proposals To Expedite Supply Additions](#) - The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission on Tuesday approved two PJM proposals to help boost the supply of electricity as the grid operator continues to work on the longer-term challenge of growing the generation fleet to keep up with growing electricity demand.

[US power use to reach record highs in 2025 and 2026, EIA says](#) - U.S. power consumption will rise to record highs in 2025 and 2026, the U.S. Energy Information Administration said in its Short Term Energy Outlook on Tuesday.

[Existing US grid can handle 'significant' new flexible load: report](#) - The existing U.S. grid can handle significant new loads, such as data centers, factories and electric vehicles, as long as they can be curtailed when the electric system is stressed, according to a report released Tuesday by the Nicholas Institute for Energy, Environment & Sustainability at Duke University.

[Uncertainty clouds northern US grids amid Canada tariff threat](#) - Grid operators and energy system regulators in the northern United States say they are continuing to coordinate with Canadian counterparts to mitigate a 10% tariff on Canadian electricity imports that could take effect next month.

[Efforts to put carbon dioxide underground face less support in Trump's second term](#) - Putting carbon dioxide from power plants and industrial facilities underground where it won't contribute to global warming could see less federal support and enthusiasm under President Donald Trump.

[U.S. Coal Plants Get Reprieve as Market and Policies Change](#) - Several U.S. utilities in recent months have said they plan to keep coal-fired units in their generation fleets operating past their scheduled retirement dates, in most cases citing increased demand for electricity in their service areas.

[Utilities await clarity on DOE loans as decisive court battle looms](#) - In the waning days of the Biden administration, the U.S. Department of Energy's Loan Programs Office announced nearly \$23 billion in conditional loan commitments for eight utility generation, transmission and grid modernization initiatives spanning 12 states.

LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY ISSUES: FEDERAL

[Lawmakers relaunch Chesapeake Bay Task Force to bolster cleanup efforts](#) - A bipartisan group of U.S. House members has relaunched the Congressional Chesapeake Bay Watershed Task Force, which aims to strengthen efforts to restore the bay's health.

[Judge finds mass firings of federal probationary workers were likely unlawful](#) - A federal judge in San Francisco on Thursday found that the mass firings of probationary employees were likely unlawful, granting temporary relief to a coalition of labor unions and organizations that has sued to stop the Trump administration's massive dismantling of the federal workforce.

[The Trump administration sets the stage for large-scale federal worker layoffs in a new memo](#) - The U.S. government is facing a generational realignment as President Donald Trump directs federal agencies to develop plans for eliminating employee positions and consolidating programs.

[Electricity prices are spiking. That's a problem for Trump.](#) - The president vowed on the campaign trail to cut energy costs in half. They're now approaching levels not seen since the 1990s.

[Judge extends block on Trump administration's sweeping freeze on federal funding](#) - A federal judge agreed Tuesday to continue blocking President Donald Trump's administration from freezing grants and loans potentially totaling trillions of dollars.

[Zeldin begins remaking EPA amid workforce changes](#) - After a month of President Donald Trump's time in office, federal officials are beginning to make good on efforts to shrink the federal government.

[FERC launches colocation review, plus 6 other open meeting takeaways](#) - The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission on Thursday launched a review of issues related to collocating large loads, such as data centers, at power plants in the PJM Interconnection.

[FERC complies with major portions of Trump order on independent agencies: Christie](#) - A White House executive order setting requirements for the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and other independent agencies largely covers actions FERC already does, according to FERC Chairman Mark Christie.

[Senate Republicans approve budget framework, pushing past Democratic objections after all-night vote](#) - Republican senators pushed a \$340 billion budget framework to passage early Friday, chugging through an all-night session and Democratic opposition in a step toward unleashing money the Trump administration says it needs for mass deportations and border security that top their agenda.

[EPA gives West Virginia authority to approve carbon underground storage](#) - The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is giving the state of West Virginia the authority to approve projects that will store captured carbon dioxide deep underground.

[Trump creates council for 'energy dominance,' boosts natural gas exports and offshore drilling](#) - President Donald Trump on Friday signed an executive order formally creating a National Energy Dominance Council and directed it to move quickly to drive up already record-setting domestic oil and gas production.

[EPA fires nearly 400 workers after OPM order](#) - The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has fired nearly 400 employees after a directive from the Office of Personnel Management (OPM).

[Interior Department fires 2,300 employees after OPM directive](#) - The Interior Department is firing 2,300 employees after a directive from the Office of Personnel Management (OPM).

[Biden's EPA issued \\$20 billion in green grants. Now Trump's administration wants that money back](#) - In a major reversal, the new head of the Environmental Protection Agency said he will try to rescind \$20 billion in grants awarded by the Biden administration for climate and clean-energy projects.

[14 states sue DOGE, blasting Musk's 'unprecedented' power as unconstitutional](#) - Fourteen states have filed a federal lawsuit against President Donald Trump and Elon Musk, challenging Musk's role as head of the new Department of Government Efficiency and accusing him of being a "designated agent of chaos" whose "sweeping authority" is in violation of the U.S. Constitution.

[EPA Places 171 DEIA and Environmental Justice Employees on Administrative Leave](#) - Over the last week, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) began implementing President Trump's Ending Radical and Wasteful Government DEI Programs and Preferencing Executive Order and subsequent implementation memos.

[DOE to focus on expanding baseload generation: Secretary Wright](#) - The U.S. Department of Energy will focus on growing baseload and dispatchable generation to meet growing electricity demand, DOE Secretary Chris Wright said Wednesday in an order outlining the department's priorities under the Trump administration.

[EPA lifts spending freeze on some environmental funding](#) - The Environmental Protection Agency on Tuesday directed agency officials to allow the disbursement of funds from at least some programs under the bipartisan infrastructure law and Inflation Reduction Act that had been paused since Jan. 20, according to an internal memo viewed by POLITICO.

[New option for Trump: Repeal, but not replace, climate rules](#) - President Donald Trump's second term has included a lot of firsts. His approach to regulating power plant climate pollution could be one more.

LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY ISSUES: STATE

[Trump's federal funding freeze brought some abandoned mine cleanup in Pennsylvania to a standstill](#) - On a sunny afternoon in late February, Reed Johnson trudges through the slushy snow on his 33-acre property in central Pennsylvania.

[Uncertainty remains for programs in Pa. impacted by federal funding freeze, despite reversal](#) - "While we remain hopeful the situation will resolve itself favorably, we are facing a time constraint."

[Shapiro Administration Launches RISE PA Initiative to Create Energy Jobs, Cut Costs, Grow Pennsylvania's Energy & Manufacturing Industries, and Lower Toxic Air Pollution](#) - The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) opened the Reducing Industrial Sector Emissions in Pennsylvania (RISE PA) program today, accepting grant applications from companies that own industrial facilities, mines, and natural gas infrastructure for projects that will create up to 6,000 jobs and reduce air pollution in the industrial and manufacturing sectors.

[New revenue sources – and longstanding debates – dominate state budget talks](#) - Gov. Josh Shapiro's budget address provides an early glimpse of what to expect from negotiations over the next four months.

[Yaw Testifies Before House Policy Committee on Stopping New Energy Taxes](#) - State Sen. Gene Yaw (R-23) recently testified before the House Republican Policy Committee at a hearing focused on stopping new energy taxes.

[Republicans have a chance to transform the Pa. Supreme Court this year](#) - Control of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court is on the ballot this year, with three Democratic justices up for retention elections.

[Trump appoints Shapiro to bipartisan governors panel looking at federal/state partnerships](#) - Gov. Josh Shapiro was appointed Wednesday by President Donald Trump to serve on a little-known panel alongside other governors to strengthen partnerships between states and the federal government.

[Investigation reveals dozens of dangerous abandoned mines in Western Pennsylvania](#) - Elizabeth Pollard died in December after falling into a sinkhole at an abandoned mine in Unity Township, Westmoreland County.

[A closer look at Shapiro's carbon tax plan](#) - Gov. Josh Shapiro recently unveiled his asks for the coming state budget, and like many of his predecessors, some of his latest proposals are ones he couldn't get approved in years prior.

[3 takeaways from the IFO's new Pennsylvania budget projections](#) - Roughly a week after Gov. Josh Shapiro outlined his budget proposal for the next fiscal year, the state's Independent Fiscal Office has released new fiscal projections for Pennsylvania that show a growing structural deficit and a potential depletion of the state's Rainy Day Fund, which contains budgetary reserves for emergency purposes.

[No New Coal To Make Electricity, Utilities Tell State Lawmakers](#) - Coal generates nearly 90 percent of West Virginia's electricity, making it more dependent on that fuel than any other state.

[Keeping the electric grid humming is costing consumers more](#) - Pennsylvanians, along with a lot of other people, will see higher electric bills this summer. But don't blame your local power company just yet.

[IFO report shows state still is top electricity exporter](#) - Pennsylvania remained the top electricity export state while relative carbon emissions from electricity generation continued its long-term decline, according to a Feb. 3 research brief released by the Independent Fiscal Office (IFO).

[COMMENTARY: Ex-PUC chairmen say the 'new PPL' wants Pennsylvania to go backward](#) - Something has changed at PPL – and not for the better for competitive markets or consumers.

[Business, industry groups urge Shapiro against imposing new, higher energy taxes](#) - Ahead of the governor's budget address on Tuesday, the Stop New Energy Taxes Coalition urged Gov. Josh Shapiro and the Pennsylvania General Assembly to prioritize policies that support the state's energy sector and to avoid imposing new or increased energy taxes.

[Region's power grid presents a math problem for Pennsylvania](#) - Soon, as new energy guzzlers come online, there may not be enough generation on the grid to meet peak electricity demands.

[Darryl Lawrence Appointed to Serve as PA Interim Consumer Advocate](#) - Attorney General Dave Sunday announced that Darryl A. Lawrence will serve as Pennsylvania's Interim Consumer Advocate, representing Commonwealth consumers in public utility service quality and pricing matters, while the process to appoint and confirm a permanent Consumer Advocate continues.