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ARIPPA PERIODIC MEDIA NEWS – 4-1-25

(News clips from the previous month)

CFB, COAL REFUSE, ENERGY INDUSTRY

[US energy infrastructure gets a D+ from American Society of Civil Engineers](#) - Rapid energy demand growth in the U.S. is threatening an aging and fragile electric grid, says the American Society of Civil Engineers, resulting in the group dropping the energy sector's 2025 Infrastructure Report Card grade to a D+ from the C- they gave it in 2021.

[Ratepayer advocates urge FERC to reject proposed Constellation-Calpine deal](#) - As proposed, Constellation Energy's plan to buy Calpine would hurt competition in the PJM Interconnection's market and should be rejected, ratepayer advocates and the grid operator's market monitor told the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission on Tuesday.

[Coal Creeps Back as Gas Gets Pricey](#) - Coal-fired power generation in the United States jumped at the start of the year, but no thanks to President Donald Trump's push for "beautiful, clean" coal.

[Reliability Resource Initiative Draws 94 Applications](#) - PJM's Reliability Resource Initiative has attracted 94 applications totaling 26.6 GW of nameplate capacity.

[Homer City plant's implosion marks 'downfall of coal' as plans for natural gas plant remain on track](#) - Six and a half out of seven structures came toppling down Saturday morning as crews imploded four smokestacks and three cooling towers of the shuttered Homer City power plant in Indiana County.

[PJM Market Challenges Demand Bold Reforms, Experts Warn](#) - Energy experts have called for bold reforms—from transmission planning to permitting streamlining and faster interconnection approvals—to prevent further volatility and ensure PJM Interconnection meets its reliability mandate without disproportionately burdening consumers.

[Big Tech's data center boom poses new risk to US grid operators](#) - Data Center Alley, a 30-square-mile stretch outside Washington D.C. and home to more than 200 data centers, consumes roughly the same electricity as Boston. So power company officials were alarmed when a big chunk of those centers - 60 of them - suddenly dropped off the grid one day last summer and switched to on-site generators.

[Objections to PJM seeking to fast-track gas-fired power plants over renewables](#) - The Sierra Club and four other public interest organizations say that jumping the interconnection queue offers no guarantee of these resources coming online in time to meet what PJM describes as an urgent need.

[PJM's capacity 'price collar' proposal sparks market confidence concerns](#) - The PJM Interconnection's proposal to set a price cap and price floor for its next two capacity auctions — and the way the proposal was developed — may undermine confidence in the grid operator's markets, according to comments filed at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

[More electricity needed faster to further national energy security, says S&P Global report](#) - Rapid electricity demand will surge in the United States over the coming decade exposing a critical gap between the current energy supply and future needs, according to data released Monday by S&P Global Commodity Insights.

[East Liberty software firm acquired by Texas company to help solve electric grid demand issues](#) - With the U.S. struggling to balance an old electric grid with a barrage of new demands on the system, a Pittsburgh simulation software firm hopes to have a greater role in solving the problem with support from its new owner.

[Trump halts doubling of tariffs on Canadian metals after Ontario suspends electricity price hikes](#) - President Donald Trump's threat Tuesday to double his planned tariffs on steel and aluminum from 25% to 50% for Canada led the provincial government of Ontario to suspend its planned surcharges on electricity sold to the United States.

[US Supreme Court nixes challenge to state climate suits against oil firms](#) - The U.S. Supreme Court rejected on Monday a bid by 19 Republican-led states led by Alabama to block five Democratic-led states from pursuing lawsuits accusing major oil companies of deceiving the public about the role fossil fuels have played in causing climate change.

[CERAWeek: Energy reality shoves aside green transition](#) - The rhetorical whiplash between the climate-conscious Biden administration and President Donald Trump's pledges to ramp up fossil fuel production will take center stage this week as the world's energy leaders gather in Texas.

[Could Trump tariffs apply to electricity? Confusion reigns](#) - When President Donald Trump's administration announced on Monday that it was moving forward with sweeping tariffs on Mexican and Canadian goods, it ignited anger above the northern border and confusion below it among the organizations that manage the electric grid in parts of both countries.

[Will Trump tariffs delay utility transmission, power plant plans?](#) - FirstEnergy and other utilities warn they could be hurt by tariffs, but analysts see little immediate effect on utility capital expenditure plans.

[Canada Bitcoin Miner Acquiring Two Pennsylvania Coal Plants](#) - A Canada-based crypto mining company is acquiring two Pennsylvania coal-fired power plants as part of its purchase of a digital mining group.

[PJM Launches NextGen, a One-Stop Shop Planning Tool](#)

- PJM has launched the new NextGen planning tool, designed to be a one-stop shop for stakeholders and PJM planners that will further streamline the generation interconnection process.

[Executive: Not Even A Data Center Would Increase Coal Plant Use](#) - Members of a state Senate committee asked an Appalachian Power executive Tuesday what the company could do to burn more coal. The answer: not much.

[First Energy planning to replace coal plants in W.Va. with natural gas](#) - First Energy announced during their fourth quarter earnings presentation on Thursday, February 27, 2025, that there are plans to shut down 2 Mon Power coal plants in favor of natural gas.

[Virginia Tech-Led Team Expands Hunt for Critical Minerals](#) - A Virginia Tech-led team hopes to turn trash into treasure by finding valuable minerals in the waste products from mining and power plant operations.

LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY ISSUES: FEDERAL

[Deep fear in coal country: DOGE cuts put region's miners and families on edge](#) - For federal safety inspectors, the urgent call to their sprawling mining office near Pittsburgh was bleak: Man crushed in the rubble of an aging mine in the heart of coal country.

[EPA offers industrial polluters a way to avoid rules on mercury, arsenic and other toxic chemicals](#) - As part of a push to roll back dozens of environmental regulations, the Trump administration is offering coal-fired power plants and other industrial polluters a chance for exemptions from requirements to reduce emissions of toxic chemicals such as mercury, arsenic and benzene.

[Trump executive order threatens transmission, interconnection initiatives: former FERC commissioners](#) - A White House executive order claiming authority over federal agencies could delay two vital Federal Energy Regulatory Commission initiatives, former commissioners from both political parties agree.

[Trump admin considers killing big energy projects in Dem states](#) - A list circulating inside the Energy Department suggests cutting funding for the development of four hydrogen production hubs in mostly Democratic-leaning states while maintaining funding for three hubs spread across mostly red states, three people familiar with the plan said Wednesday.

[Democrats say EPA illegally canceled hundreds of grants aimed at boosting 'environmental justice'](#) - The Environmental Protection Agency illegally canceled grants worth more than \$1.5 billion focused on improving the environment in minority communities hit hard by pollution, Senate Democrats say.

[Trump says coal should make a comeback. At what price?](#) - In the tiny community of Orchard Beach on the western entrance to Baltimore Harbor, the dominant feature isn't the modern townhouses and modest bungalows or the cattails and bulrushes lining the creeks.

[FERC approves SPP's RTO West, plus 4 other open meeting takeaways](#) - The Southwest Power Pool will expand its regional transmission organization operations into the Western Interconnection as soon as early next year under its RTO West plan, which the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission approved on Thursday.

[EDF Files Lawsuit Challenging Trump EPA's Unlawful Delay of Climate Pollution Reporting](#) - Environmental Defense Fund is going to court to challenge the Trump administration's unlawful attempt to delay requirements for companies to disclose their climate pollution under EPA's Greenhouse Gas Reporting Program – a vital source of public information about pollution from some of the largest sources nationwide.

[Trump signs order on critical mineral production](#) - President Trump on Thursday signed an executive order intended to boost production of critical minerals in the United States and confirmed a deal to gain access to minerals in Ukraine was still on track.

[Judge blocks Trump administration from terminating \\$14 billion in 'green bank' grants](#) - A federal judge on Tuesday blocked the Trump administration from terminating \$14 billion in grants awarded to three climate groups by the Biden administration, saying the government's "vague and unsubstantiated assertions of fraud are insufficient."

[Trump Vows to Authorize Coal-Fired Power to Counter China](#) - US President Donald Trump said he would look to counter China's economic advantage from coal-based electricity by authorizing his administration to ramp up production of power from the fossil fuel.

[EPA to end environmental justice programs, monitoring tools](#) - The Trump administration announced Wednesday it will shut down all environmental justice offices and officially end other EJ-related initiatives, a move that will impact how waste and recycling industries measure and track their environmental impact on neighboring communities.

[Two judges in mass firings cases order Trump administration to rehire probationary workers for now](#) - Two federal judges handed down orders requiring President Donald Trump's administration to rehire thousands, if not tens of thousands, of probationary workers let go in mass firings across multiple agencies Thursday, slowing down for now the president's dramatic downsizing of the federal government.

[Reality check: Hurdles await EPA's deregulatory spree](#) - EPA's massive regulatory rollback may struggle to survive the scrutiny of the courts — but in its attempt to undercut environmental protections, the Trump administration may succeed in creating enough havoc to delay the nation's response to the urgent problem of climate change.

[EPA to steer environmental enforcement officers away from energy companies](#) - The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) indicated this week that it will steer its environmental enforcement officers away from energy companies.

[EPA aims to roll back power sector regulations in broad deregulatory push](#) - The Environmental Protection Agency on Wednesday said it would begin a sweeping rollback of environmental regulations, including air, water and waste rules that affect the power sector.

[DOE will prioritize fossil fuels, but it still expects strong growth from storage, solar, Wright says](#) - U.S. Department of Energy Secretary Chris Wright said Monday that the Trump administration will focus on increasing domestic fossil fuel production, and he dismissed the Biden administration's policy of focusing on renewable energy – though he said solar, storage and electric vehicles have their place in the Trump administration's energy policy approach.

[21 House Republicans oppose cutting clean energy credits to pay for tax cuts](#) - How House Republicans plan to pay for extensions of the 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act got more complicated Monday, when 21 GOP representatives came out to publicly oppose wholesale repeals of the Inflation Reduction Act's clean energy tax credits as part of the party's upcoming reconciliation bill.

[EPA Administrator Lee Zeldin Cancels 400+ Grants in 4th Round of Cuts with DOGE, Saving Americans More than \\$1.7B](#) - U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Lee Zeldin, with the assistance of the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE), identified and cancelled more than 400 additional grants across nine unnecessary programs totaling \$1.7 billion in savings for the American people.

[US should restart shuttered coal units, Interior Secretary tells Bloomberg](#) - The United States should restart shuttered coal-fired power plants under President Donald Trump's national energy emergency declaration, Interior Secretary Doug Burgum said in a video interview with Bloomberg News on Monday.

[Trump drops 3 agreements to get countries off coal](#) - The Trump administration has abandoned a multibillion-dollar initiative to help other countries shift their economies from coal to clean energy, raising questions about the program's ability to survive without American support.

[3 questions answered about NEPA under Trump](#) - For the first time in decades, the White House will no longer have National Environmental Policy Act rules. But it will take some time to see changes in how the bedrock environmental law is applied, legal experts say.

[Lawmakers Scrutinize Power Sector's Future as Surging Demand Raises Alarms](#) - In a hearing that underscored the mounting challenges facing the American power sector, industry leaders warned Congress that the nation's power infrastructure is approaching a precarious juncture as unprecedented demand growth collides with retiring baseload generation.

[Trump trumpets energy agenda, teases minerals plan](#) - President Donald Trump lampooned Democratic efforts to fight climate change early and often during his joint address to Congress on Tuesday while vowing to rapidly ramp up fossil fuel and mineral production in the United States.

[Supreme Court orders EPA to retool water permits as Trump guts the agency](#) - The Supreme Court on Tuesday struck down one of EPA's long-standing tools for ensuring sewage treatment plants and industrial sites do not degrade water quality.

[EPA Administrator Zeldin Travels to Maryland, New Jersey, Pennsylvania](#) - On Friday, February 28, 2025, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Lee Zeldin traveled to Annapolis, Maryland, to discuss the Chesapeake Bay Program at the Annapolis Maritime Museum and Living Shoreline.

[Trump Energy Policy Changes Signal Major Industry Shifts in 2025 and Beyond](#) - There has been significant outrage from the left around changes the Trump administration has made since taking office, including actions that specifically affect the power industry.

LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY ISSUES: STATE

[Senate Democratic Caucus Policy Chair Nick Miller and Senator Marty Flynn Host Hearing Examining Energy Affordability for Consumers](#) - Today, Senate Democratic Policy Committee Chair Nick Miller held a hearing to explore strategies for mitigating the impact of energy costs on residents along with legislative solutions aimed at delivering reliable, affordable energy for both now and in the future.

[Gov. Shapiro and Republicans appear headed for energy showdown](#) - On a chilly day when Gov. Josh Shapiro stood before a cow-filled barn to promote the concept of farmer groups buying and running manure-to-energy devices — just one sliver of Mr. Shapiro's multi-faceted energy plan — Sen. Gene Yaw sounded the energy alarm.

[Plugged In: Energy Bills on the Move in Charleston](#) - A bill passed Thursday by the West Virginia Senate and a bill set for passage next week in the House of Delegates have something in common: Both bills are aimed at increasing base-load power with the goal of limiting increases in power bills for residential customers.

[PUC Launches Review of Grid Impacts from Data Center Growth](#) - The Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (PUC) today voted 5-0 to approve a motion by Chairman Stephen M. DeFrank to convene a public hearing exploring the growing impact of large-scale electric customers — including data centers and other high-energy users — on the state’s electric grid.

[PUC Appoints Matt Homsher as Secretary of Commission](#) - The Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (PUC) today announced the appointment of Matthew L. Homsher, Esq., of Marietta, Lancaster County, as Secretary of the Commission. Homsher’s appointment takes effect April 19.

[State Republican hearing addresses negative impact of energy policies](#) - The state House Republican Policy Committee held a hearing on Friday called Stopping New Energy Taxes to analyze how unfavorable energy policies negatively impact consumers and businesses.

[Yaw Reintroduces Bill to Protect Consumers’ Energy Options](#) - State Sen. Gene Yaw (R-23), chairman of the Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee, has reintroduced legislation ensuring Pennsylvania residents have options when it comes to fuel availability.

[AG Sunday Nominates Darryl Lawrence to Permanent Post as Pennsylvania Consumer Advocate](#) - Attorney General Dave Sunday announced his nomination of Darryl Lawrence to serve as Pennsylvania’s Consumer Advocate.

[Data Center Bill Contains Provisions To Benefit Coal](#) - A bill to bring data centers to West Virginia also has provisions that could result in higher electricity rates.

[West Virginia Senate adopts Coal Renaissance Act](#) - The West Virginia Senate adopted Senate Concurrent Resolution 18 on Monday.

[Sierra Club, PSC Reach Settlement Over Coal Plant Operations](#) - The Sierra Club and the West Virginia Public Service Commission have settled their dispute over the commission’s 2021 order for Appalachian Power to operate its coal plants at a 69% capacity factor.

[Virginia Judge Pauses State’s Return To RGGI During Youngkin’s Appeal](#) - A judge in Floyd County Circuit Court ruled from the bench last week that Virginia does not need to return to the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, the carbon market known as RGGI, as the state appeals a November decision by the court saying the state must rejoin the interstate effort.

[At York Hydropower Plant, Governor Shapiro Launches Legislative Push for “Lightning Plan” to Build More Energy Projects](#) - Legislators are now circulating co-sponsorship memos on each piece of Governor Shapiro’s energy plan.

[Facing competition from Big Tech, states dangle incentives and loosen laws to attract power plants](#) - Facing projections of spiking energy demand, U.S. states are pressing for ways to build new power plants faster as policymakers increasingly worry about protecting their residents and economies from rising electric bills, power outages and other consequences of falling behind Big Tech in a race for electricity.

[State lawmakers grapple with energy demand for data centers](#) - Legislators in states where the U.S. data center boom is about to kick into higher gear are considering bills that could force developers to pony up to connect their power-hungry loads to the grid.

[PA Counties Unite to Lead Bold Transition to 100% Renewable Energy by 2035](#) - Four counties in Southeastern Pennsylvania—Chester, Bucks, Delaware, and Montgomery—are making significant strides in adopting renewable energy for county operations through their collective effort under the Sustainable Energy Partnership of Southeast PA (SEP).