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ARIPPA PERIODIC MEDIA NEWS – 5-1-25

(News clips from the previous month)

CFB, COAL REFUSE, ENERGY INDUSTRY

[Renewables surpass coal on Mid-Atlantic electric grid](#) - The growth of solar has pushed renewables past coal in the regional grid that includes Pennsylvania and West Virginia.

[Northeast states to seek transmission proposals between PJM, ISO-NE, New York](#) - A group of nine Mid-Atlantic and Northeast states plans to issue a request for information to gauge the potential for building “no regrets” transmission projects between New England, New York and the PJM Interconnection, according to an action plan released on Monday.

[MISO summer capacity prices jump to \\$666.50/MW-day as power supplies shrink](#) - Capacity prices for the upcoming summer season jumped to \$666.50/MW-day from \$30/MW-day last year across the Midcontinent Independent System Operator’s footprint — driven in part by declining surplus capacity, according to the results of its latest planning resource auction released Monday.

[National Grid, Con Edison, other utilities urge FERC to consider gas pipeline reliability measures](#) - A group of electric and gas utilities on Friday urged the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to launch an inquiry to consider options for improving gas pipeline reliability.

[Big Tech’s soaring energy demands are making coal-fired power plant sites attractive](#) - Coal-fired power plants, long an increasingly money-losing proposition in the U.S., are becoming more valuable now that the suddenly strong demand for electricity to run Big Tech’s cloud computing and artificial intelligence applications has set off a full-on sprint to find new energy sources.

[FERC/NERC Report on January Grid Performance Shows Industry Progress](#) - U.S. grid operators performed reliably through arctic cold weather this winter, implementing lessons learned from recent extreme weather events, according to a new joint report from both the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and the North American Electric Reliability Corporation.

[Wyoming Power Plant May Be Proving Ground For Emissions-Free Coal Burning](#) - The Dave Johnston Power Plant near Glenrock is where PacifiCorp is trying to prove new tech that can achieve emissions-free coal burning. Some experts are optimistic about the prospect, while others wonder if it can be done and at what cost.

[U.S. Coal Production Continues Steady Decline as Generation Capacity Falls](#) - U.S. production of coal has continued to decline since peaking in 2008, according to a report from the U.S. Energy Information Administration.

[Calpine, Constellation, others seek settlement talks over PJM colocation rules](#) - Calpine, Constellation Energy Generation, LS Power and generator trade groups on Tuesday asked the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to order settlement talks to resolve issues surrounding the PJM Interconnection’s rules for collocating data centers at power plants.

[Grid Operator PJM Rejects Accusations It’s Slow-Rolling Renewable Power](#) - America’s largest power grid operator is hitting back hard over accusations that it has been slow-walking renewable energy projects.

[Environmental lawyers preparing for legal showdown over Trump energy deregulation](#) - U.S. environmental groups say they are hiring lawyers and preparing for a major legal showdown with President Donald Trump's administration over its rapid-fire and sweeping efforts to sidestep federal regulations on oil, gas and coal development.

[PJM Publishes Report Highlighting 2024 Planning Efforts](#) - PJM has published the 2024 edition of its Regional Transmission Expansion Plan Report, which highlights the transmission projects approved by the PJM Board of Managers throughout 2024 as well as PJM's ongoing planning efforts.

[EIA outlook points to more renewables, near-term decline in energy consumption](#) - Total energy consumption in the United States will decline through 2040 before beginning to increase again, the Energy Information Administration said Tuesday in its Annual Energy Outlook. Efficiency, and the report's methodology, both play a role in the decline.

[NEW REPORT: Shapiro Administration, Rep. Steele, and Keystone Energy Efficiency Alliance Join Evergreen to Highlight that Fixing PJM Can Lower Energy Costs and Create Jobs Across the Mid-Atlantic](#) - Reforming PJM's broken project approval process would cut household energy costs, create hundreds of thousands of jobs, and supercharge local economies, according to a new independent report from Synapse Energy Economics.

[FERC should order PJM to rerun last capacity auction: ratepayer advocates](#) - The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission should order the PJM Interconnection to rerun its last base capacity auction, a move that could lead to more than \$5 billion in consumer refunds, according to a complaint filed Monday at the agency by ratepayer advocates from Illinois, Maryland and New Jersey.

[Last coal stacks in Homer City demolished as power plant set to be converted](#) - The last remnants of the coal stacks at the former Homer City Generating Station were demolished on Sunday morning in preparation for a sweeping reinvention of the power plant.

[PJM, Google & Tapestry Join Forces To Apply AI To Enhance Regional Planning, Generation Interconnection](#) - PJM today announced a multiyear collaboration with Google and Tapestry to deploy AI-enhanced tools to further streamline PJM's planning process for connecting new generation resources to the nation's largest electrical grid.

[The grid needs more attention. A Westmoreland County facility is expanding to meet that demand.](#) - To hear Anthony Allard tell it, the companies that make equipment for the grid — things like high-voltage switchgear and circuit breakers — are in the middle of a "super cycle" that will last at least a decade or two.

[Wind and solar generation overtook coal in the US last year: report](#) - Wind and solar together generated more electricity than coal in the U.S. for the first time last year, and coal's share of the generation mix fell to an all-time low of under 15%, according to a Tuesday report from the think tank Ember.

[US electricity demand will grow 50% by 2050, electrical manufacturer study finds](#) - Driven by data centers and transportation electrification, U.S. electricity demand will increase 2% annually and 50% by 2050, the National Electrical Manufacturers Association said in a study published Monday.

[DOE offers 16 locations for possible data center, energy infrastructure development](#) - The U.S. Department of Energy has identified 16 federal locations for potential construction of data centers and associated energy resources.

[Nation's Power Operators Warn Congress of a Coming Reliability Shortfall](#) - Seven major U.S. grid operators have raised a unified alarm about an impending capacity crunch, warning that the pace and scale of explosive demand—including from data centers, manufacturing, and electrification—pose a precarious misalignment with accelerating generator retirements and transmission constraints.

[Homer City coal plant site to become AI data center with massive gas-fired power generator](#) - The site of the former coal-fired Homer City Generating Plant will be redeveloped into a \$10 billion artificial intelligence and data center with a huge on-site natural gas-fired power plant that would rank as one the largest capital projects in Pennsylvania history.

[Opinion: A market-based path to unlocking interconnection queues](#) - When a scarce resource like grid access is given away administratively rather than allocated based on economic value, the result is always the same: inefficiency, congestion and delays.

LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY ISSUES: FEDERAL

[What Trump's First 100 Days Have Meant to the Power Industry](#) - U.S. President Donald Trump was sworn into office for the second time on Jan. 20, 2025. That means April 30 marks his 100th day back in office.

[EPA Celebrates 100 Days with 100 Environmental Actions](#) - Today, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Lee Zeldin released a recap of 100 environmental actions taken by the agency during President Trump's First 100 Days in office, including the record Phase 1 hazardous materials clean up after the catastrophic Los Angeles wildfires, the announcement of major actions to combat PFAS contamination, redevelopment at 21 Superfund sites across 13 states and removal of all, or a portion of 4 sites from the National Priorities List, completion of 25 State Implementation Plans, 16 of which were backlogged from the previous Administration, and so much more.

["CDC Reinstates Workers Who Screen Coal Miners For Black Lung Disease"](#) - "The Trump administration temporarily rehired as many as 40 employees who screen coal miners for the deadly and incurable disease."

[US EPA Cancelling All Environmental Justice Grants, Washington Post Reports](#) - The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is in the process of canceling almost 800 grants, including all aimed at promoting environmental justice, the Washington Post reported on Tuesday, citing comments by an agency official in a court filing.

[Department of the Interior Implements Emergency Permitting Procedures to Strengthen Domestic Energy Supply](#) - In response to President Donald J. Trump's declaration of a National Energy Emergency, the U.S. Department of the Interior will implement emergency permitting procedures to accelerate the development of domestic energy resources and critical minerals.

[FERC approves PJM capacity auction price cap, floor](#) - The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission on Monday approved the PJM Interconnection's proposal to set a price cap and price floor for its next two capacity auctions, despite opposition from the grid operator's market monitor, LS Power and others.

[Zeldin claims media ignored 'evidence' against climate groups](#) - EPA Administrator Lee Zeldin excoriated news outlets Monday for reporting that EPA hasn't offered evidence to support his assertions that billions of dollars in climate grants are marked by waste, fraud and abuse.

[EPA Announces Appointment Of Amy Van Blarcom-Lackey As Region III Administrator](#) - On April 21, U. S. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Lee Zeldin announced that President Donald J. Trump appointed Amy Van Blarcom-Lackey as EPA's Mid-Atlantic (Region 3) Regional Administrator.

[Cold-weather grid performance improves, plus 4 other FERC open meeting takeaways](#) - The power grid performed well during extremely cold weather in January, a sign that steps taken since previous winter storms are paying off with improved electric reliability, according to a report released Thursday by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and the North American Electric Reliability Corp.

[FERC.gov Website Update Features Consumer Power Costs and Grid Reliability](#) - The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission announced new updates and features to its website that focus on the cost consumers pay for power as well as how reliable that power is.

[Trump exempts more than a third of US coal capacity from updated mercury, air toxics rule](#) - President Donald Trump gave more than a third of U.S. coal-fired capacity two-year exemptions from the Mercury and Air Toxics Standards rule, according to a list of affected power plants the Environmental Protection Agency appears to have released Monday.

[FERC upholds rejection of proposed interconnection agreement between AWS data center and Pennsylvania nuclear plant](#) - The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) has upheld its decision to block a revised Interconnection Service Agreement (ISA) that would have increased power usage at an Amazon Web Services (AWS) data center colocated next to the Talen Energy operated Susquehanna nuclear plant in Pennsylvania.

[Trump directs FERC, other agencies to add 5-year sunsets to energy-related regulations](#) - President Donald Trump on Wednesday directed the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, the Environmental Protection Agency and other agencies to add provisions to their energy-related regulations so they would expire within five years.

[DOE's Loan Programs Office Offers Game-Changing Possibilities](#) - As the presidential inauguration loomed on the horizon in January this year, the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE's) Loan Programs Office (LPO) published a "year-in-review" article, highlighting accomplishments from 2024 and looking ahead to the future.

[Trump designated coal as a mineral: What does that mean for the industry?](#) - President Donald Trump is looking to give coal a lift with executive orders he inked on Tuesday.

[Trump attack on state climate laws likely doomed, but attempts to yank funds may be next](#) - Experts and state policy groups said constitutional protections will blunt any effect the order would have on state operations.

[Conservatives worry federal agency's investment rules could thwart Trump's energy plans](#) - Conservatives are worried a federal agency's proposal to limit investment in public utilities could become a stumbling block for President Donald Trump's energy agenda.

[Trump aims to boost coal, in part by ordering power plants to stay open](#) - President Donald Trump signed four executive orders on Tuesday aimed at supporting coal mining and coal-fired power plants.

[Despite Trump's fossil fuel embrace, some moves rankle industry](#) - While President Trump has pledged to be a friend to the fossil fuel industry and taken steps intended to bolster it, several of his recent moves have garnered pushback from oil, gas and coal executives.

[Administrator Zeldin Moves Forward with Ensuring U.S. States Are Not Punished for Foreign Air](#) - While in Utah, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Lee Zeldin announced today that the agency is rescinding Guidance on the Preparation of Clean Air Act Section (CAA) 179B Demonstrations for Nonattainment Areas Affected by International Transport of Emissions.

[Things to know about the US Mine Safety and Health Administration and the coal industry](#) - The U.S. Mine Safety and Health Administration is among the federal agencies selected for spending cuts by the Department of Government Efficiency.

[FERC review of PJM colocation rules for data centers, large loads may extend past mid-year: analysts](#) - The PJM Interconnection's response to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's investigation into the grid operator's rules for colocated loads indicates FERC may not approve new regulations by mid-year, as some people initially thought, according to utility-sector analysts.

[Federal HHS layoffs hit NIOSH mine-safety research facility near Pittsburgh](#) - Federal workers in Pittsburgh's South Hills have apparently been caught up in nationwide layoffs involving 10,000 people, with staff at a federal facility focused on mine safety receiving lay-off notices Tuesday.

[Entire staff responsible for utility assistance included in HHS cuts, sources say](#) - The Trump administration on Tuesday eliminated the entire staff of a federal program that helps low-income households pay utility bills, sources said.

LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY ISSUES: STATE

[Legislators call for increased transparency with PJM](#) - Several states introduced bills this legislative session to require more transparency behind how utilities cast their PJM votes. Some bills passed, others failed, while the rest reside in limbo.

[PENNSYLVANIA PUC ACCEPTING COMMENT ABOUT GRID IMPACTS ON HIGH-DEMAND ENERGY GROWTH](#) - The Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission is welcoming comment from the public concerning grid impacts on high-demand energy growth.

[New testing data show PA DEP vastly overestimated water pollution in York County streams](#) - In 2019, the state Department of Environmental Protection reported that York County was the second-highest contributor to pollutants entering the Susquehanna River and the Chesapeake Bay.

[DEP Releases 2024 Climate Change Action Plan Update; 2024 Climate Impacts Assessment Report](#) - On April 25, the Department of Environmental Protection announced the release of the 2024 Climate Change Action Plan Update and 2024 Climate Impacts Assessment Report.

[Data centers' demand for electricity brings unprecedented opportunity and challenges](#) - Developers and electricity industry experts offered advice for Pa. regulators on the growing industry.

[Three PUC commissioners join appeal to keep LIHEAP going](#) - As an extended season nears an end for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program, three of five members of the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission are appealing to the state's congressional delegation to "take immediate action to ensure" that remaining LIHEAP funds for the 2024-25 heating season are distributed and that federal officials are "able to effectively administer LIHEAP now and in the future."

[Energy demand will outstrip supply in Virginia as data centers proliferate](#) - Virginia faces a power demand problem as data centers continue populating the commonwealth.

[Popular low-income energy assistance program still has funding, for now](#) - Pennsylvania residents who need help paying their heat and electric bills have a week left to apply for LIHEAP grants, as the future of the popular federal program faces uncertainty.

[DEP Reduces Permit Backlog From 2,400 To 300 Permits \(88%\); Already Reviewed More Than 9,000 Permits This Year](#) - On April 9, the Department of Environmental Protection announced it has reviewed and acted on more than 9,000 permit applications and ensured those permits were enforced properly by conducting more than 28,000 inspections of regulated facilities.

[Pa. mine safety, research offices targeted for closure as president touts coal](#) - The health and safety of coal miners could be in danger if the Trump administration eliminates mine safety employees, including those working at the Mine Safety and Health Administration office in Hempfield that oversees nine states, according to a union official.

[Environmental justice bill moves forward from committee](#) - In a party-line vote, Pennsylvania's House of Representatives' Environmental and Natural Resource Protection Committee moved forward a bill designed to take the cumulative impact of pollution into account when permitting new businesses.

[Experts: PA's permitting reforms could serve as efficiency model nationwide](#) - Efforts to expedite efficiently offer a blueprint for other states looking to streamline operations and improve service delivery, according to a fellow at the Institute for Responsive Government.

[Report: Pennsylvania energy affordability lagging](#) - Even as a natural gas haven, Pennsylvania ranks only 32nd in energy affordability in the Energy Affordability 2025 report from the American Legislative Exchange Council.

[Report says Pennsylvania poised to be geothermal energy leader](#) - Using some of the same drilling techniques and technologies that drove Pennsylvania's natural gas boom, the state could unleash a cleaner energy source with the potential of meeting most of its future energy needs: geothermal.