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ARIPPA PERIODIC MEDIA NEWS – 7-1-25

(News clips from the previous month)

CFB, COAL REFUSE, ENERGY INDUSTRY

[State utility regulators urge FERC to slash ROE transmission incentive](#) - Utility regulators from about 35 states are urging the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to sharply limit a 0.5% return on equity incentive the agency gives to utilities that join regional transmission organizations.

[Electricity demand in the Eastern United States surged from heat wave](#) - Electricity demand in the PJM Interconnection and ISO New England (two regional grid operators covering the Northeast United States) reached multiyear highs on June 23 and June 24, respectively.

[Reclaimed Ash: Turning Domestic, Legacy Materials into Modern Infrastructure Solutions](#) - As government policies around energy transition continue to evolve, the pace of coal plant retirements in North America has shifted in some regions, slowing in a few cases due to energy reliability concerns.

[Who should pay to keep Michigan coal plant running past its retirement date?](#) - The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission should limit who pays for the U.S. Department of Energy's decision to keep a coal-fired power plant in Michigan operating past its planned retirement, according to comments filed at the agency on Friday.

[NERC upgrades MISO reliability risk after 'data mismatch' discovered](#) - After finding a "data mismatch," the North American Electric Reliability Corp. on Tuesday said the Midcontinent Independent System Operator's reliability risk wasn't as bad as reported by the grid watchdog in a December assessment.

['Shoulder season' reliability a growing concern in ERCOT, other ISOs: Aurora Energy Research](#) - Power generators and large customers should embrace flexibility as rising power demand increases the risk of load-shedding events — interruptions in the delivery of electricity — during the spring and fall, Aurora Energy Research said in a June 6 report.

[NRG, LS Power ask FERC to approve \\$12B gas-fired power plant, demand-response deal](#) - NRG Energy and LS Power on Thursday asked the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to approve a \$12 billion deal under which NRG would buy about 13 GW in gas-fired generation and CPower, a company with 6 GW in demand-response resources, from LS Power.

[Op-Ed: PJM Interconnection rejects blame for electricity price increases](#) - The increase in electricity prices facing New Jersey consumers deserves the attention it's getting. Paying a higher cost for any good or service, especially one so critical to everyday life, is never welcome.

[LCOE has 'significant limitations' and is overused, says CATF](#) - The popular levelized cost of electricity metric doesn't consider several key variables that are important for long-term system planning and deep decarbonization, according to a Tuesday report from the Clean Air Task Force.

[Gecko Robotics raises \\$125 million in deal valuing critical infrastructure startup over \\$1 billion](#) - Gecko Robotics announced on Thursday that it raised \$125 million in a Series D funding round, raising the AI and robotics company's valuation to \$1.25 billion.

[Decarbonization Whiplash Prompts a Power Sector Recalibration](#) - What happens when a political U-turn suddenly upends years of decarbonization strategy? As the U.S. House of Representatives moves to dismantle key clean energy tax credits, POWER examines how utilities and developers are rethinking timelines, technologies, and financing, while racing to keep the energy transition on track.

[Democrats Blame Grid Operator For Energy Crisis Of Their Own Making](#) - Several Democratic governors are railing against a power grid operator for skyrocketing utility costs that their policies helped spike as a potential reliability crisis looms large.

[PJM, NYISO Enhance Coordination With First Joint Operations Drill](#) - In a first-time joint exercise aimed for summer readiness, PJM and the New York Independent System Operator (NYISO) completed their first coordinated high-load simulator drill on May 20.

[In 2024, the United States produced more energy than ever before](#) - In 2024, the United States produced a record amount of energy, according to data in our Monthly Energy Review. U.S. total energy production was more than 103 quadrillion British thermal units in 2024, a 1% increase from the previous record set in 2023.

[Storms, AI demand and policy failures are upending US grid](#) - Ensuring the nation's power grids can reliably deliver electricity is clashing with the tech industry's voracious appetite for energy — pushing the risks of power outages to new highs, executives of regional power markets told federal regulators Wednesday.

[Diverse market regions highlight resource adequacy challenge at FERC conference](#) - Grid operators around the country face rapidly changing and highly particular resource adequacy challenges that mean a one-sized approach to reliability is not feasible, they told the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission on Wednesday.

[Mine pools reimaged](#) - Scientists, engineers, environmentalists and public officials convened Wednesday at Bucknell University's MacDonald Commons with a bold vision: Transform abandoned mine pools from environmental liabilities into assets for energy, infrastructure and ecology.

[PJM Generation Interconnection Reforms Continue To Produce Results](#) - Solar output reached an all-time high in the PJM region in April, and with the continued addition of new generation resources through PJM's streamlined process, we can expect to continue setting new solar records on a regular basis.

[Five charts on key US electricity and power generation trends](#) - U.S. power producers have lifted output from both fossil fuels and clean energy sources to new highs so far in 2025, on the back of steadily rising energy demand from data centers, businesses and households.

[Meta strikes 20-year nuclear power deal with Constellation Energy](#) - Facebook's parent company Meta locked in 20 years of nuclear power on Tuesday from Constellation Energy to help meet the tech giant's surging energy demand for artificial intelligence and its other power-intensive computing needs.

[Electricity consumer groups urge FERC to improve load forecasts](#) - A coalition of consumer-oriented groups is asking the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to lead an effort to improve electricity demand forecasts, which they say are riddled with "uncertainty and lack of transparency."

[Why Wind And Solar Make Grids More Vulnerable to Blackouts](#) - Renewable energy, like wind and solar, has become a larger part of the overall power supply, but the grid wasn't designed to handle it. WSJ asks a mechanical engineer for three ways to fix this.

LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY ISSUES: FEDERAL

[Senate proposes harsh tax on renewables](#) - After initially proposing a softened version of the Inflation Reduction Act cuts in the House's proposed budget legislation, the Senate's Republican leadership flip-flopped this weekend and proposed not only stiff IRA cuts but an outright excise tax on wind and solar projects.

[Coal A Big Winner After Marathon Senate Session on Big Beautiful Bill Act](#) - A dramatic marathon weekend session in the U.S. Senate elevated coal as a high priority among lawmakers who hammered out amendments to President Donald Trump's One Big Beautiful Bill Act.

[Energy Secretary Announces Updated NEPA Procedures to End Permitting Paralysis and Unleash American Energy](#) - As part of a government-wide effort to restore common sense to permitting, DOE published an interim final rule rescinding all NEPA regulations and published new NEPA guidance procedures for the Department of Energy.

[EPA Will Revise Wastewater Rules to Support Electric Energy Reliability and Unleash American Energy](#) - Today, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Lee Zeldin announced the agency's intent to update the 2024 Effluent Limitations Guidelines (ELGs) for Steam Electric Power Generating Units.

[EPA employees put names to 'declaration of dissent' over agency moves under Trump](#) - A group of Environmental Protection Agency employees on Monday published a declaration of dissent from the agency's policies under the Trump administration, saying they "undermine the EPA mission of protecting human health and the environment."

[Interior Announces Nearly \\$725 Million to Reclaim Abandoned Coal Mines](#) - As part of President Donald J. Trump's America First Energy Agenda, the Department of the Interior today announced the availability of nearly \$725 million in fiscal year 2025 funding to clean up abandoned coal mines and restore opportunity in America's historic coal communities.

[FERC's Christie calls for dispatchable resources after grid operators come 'close to the edge'](#) - The ability of Midcontinent and East Coast grid operators to narrowly handle this week's extreme heat and humidity without blackouts reflects the urgent need to ensure the United States has adequate power supplies, according to Mark Christie, chairman of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

[EPA and Army Wrap Up Initial Listening Sessions, Move Toward Proposal to Revise 2023 Definition of WOTUS](#) - The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and U.S. Department of the Army (Army) have completed a robust series of listening sessions intended to seek input from stakeholders on real-world and practical experience with Clean Water Act (CWA) programs and requirements that rely on the definition of "waters of the United States," or WOTUS.

[EPA proposes slashing power plant carbon, mercury emission limits](#) - The Environmental Protection Agency on Wednesday proposed eliminating greenhouse gas emissions limits for power plants as well as repealing a toughening of the mercury and air toxics standard for coal- and oil-fired generators.

[Sens. Fetterman, McCormick team up on bill to bring federal energy office to Pittsburgh](#) - U.S. Sens. John Fetterman and Dave McCormick have introduced bipartisan legislation to move a Department of Energy office to Pennsylvania.

[Prioritize 'impactful' power sources for interconnection: DOE's Wright](#) - Wind and solar power drives up the cost of electricity, partly because the intermittent resources cannot run all the time, U.S. Energy Department Secretary Chris Wright said Tuesday during a budget hearing held by a House Energy and Commerce Committee panel.

[Trump Administration Expands Investment in Coal Country to Fuel Jobs and Economic Growth](#) - The Department of the Interior today announced the availability of \$130 million in fiscal year 2025 funding through the Abandoned Mine Land Economic Revitalization Program—an initiative aimed at turning legacy coal mining sites into engines of economic growth.

[Interior Announces Over \\$119 Million to Reclaim Abandoned Coal Mines](#) - In support of President Trump's commitment to unleashing American energy and revitalizing coal country, the Department of the Interior today announced the availability of more than \$119 million in fiscal year 2025 abandoned mine land reclamation fee-based grants for eligible states and tribes.

[White House names energy attorney Swett to replace FERC's Christie](#) - The White House on Monday said it was nominating Laura Swett, an energy attorney at Vinson & Elkins, to take the seat held by Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Chairman Mark Christie.

[Trump Administration Issues Third Emergency Order to Prevent PJM Power Shortfall](#) - The Department of Energy (DOE) has issued its third Section 202(c) emergency order in the past two weeks, this time to bolster reliability in PJM Interconnection by compelling Constellation Energy to keep Units 3 and 4 of its dual-fuel Eddystone Generating Station in Pennsylvania open beyond their scheduled retirement date of May 31, 2025.

[Supreme Court hands big win to fossil fuels, agency power](#) - The Supreme Court last week reshaped how the federal government thinks about fossil fuel infrastructure.

LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY ISSUES: STATE

[The unknown costs of Amazon's \\$20B promise to build 2 data centers in Pennsylvania](#) - Amazon plans to spend \$20 billion to build two data centers in Pennsylvania, a move that state officials say will generate thousands of jobs over the next decade and stoke considerable economic activity.

[After years of investigating deaths and injuries of miners, Pa. mine safety center to close doors in August](#) - Months after the federal government pushed to shutter dozens of mine safety centers across the country, the Mount Pleasant office — the busiest in the nation — will close in August after years of carrying out death and injury investigations of coal workers, the Post-Gazette has learned.

[Fights over transit, skill games, and overall spending mean the Pa. budget will again be late](#) - Pennsylvania's state budget is going to be late for the fourth year in a row.

[DEP launches SPEED program to fast-track permit reviews](#) - The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is launching a program to fast-track stormwater and construction permits.

[Senate Republicans Moving Bill To Abolish DEP Climate Change, Recycling Fund, Coastal Zone Advisory Committees](#) - On June 24, Republicans on the Senate State Government Committee reported out Senate Bill 755 (Hutchinson-R-Venango) to abolish "inactive" boards and advisory committees, including DEP's Climate Change, Recycling Fund and Coastal Zone Committees, by a vote of 7 to 4-- Democrats opposing.

[State vs. Local Control Over Energy Siting Sparks Debate In Pennsylvania](#) - Where new electrical generating installations get built has created political controversy ever since Thomas Edison and George Westinghouse first thought of the idea of an electrical grid.

[Trump coming to Pittsburgh next month for energy, innovation summit](#) - President Donald J. Trump will be coming to Pittsburgh in July to a gathering of leaders in various fields who are meeting to discuss "Pennsylvania's incredible potential to power the AI revolution."

[Key Pa. senator says bipartisan energy bills on hold until contested climate program settled](#) - A group of bills aimed at boosting electricity production and regulating clean energy has rare, bipartisan support in Pennsylvania's divided legislature.

[West Virginia Coal Association applauds PSC order following Morrissey's microgrid bill](#) - Gov. Patrick Morrissey's bill aimed at incentivizing microgrid development in the Mountain State includes a provision requiring the West Virginia Public Service Commission to issue an order mandating utilities to update their long-term plans for providing a reasonably priced and reliable electricity supply.

[Darryl Lawrence Confirmed by Pa. Senate as Pennsylvania's Consumer Advocate](#) - Attorney General Dave Sunday announced today that the Pennsylvania Senate has unanimously confirmed the nomination of Darryl Lawrence to serve as Pennsylvania's Consumer Advocate.

[New Research Reveals Pennsylvania Electricity Customers Are Paying Less 30 Years After Introducing Competition](#) - A new analysis of Pennsylvania's competitive energy market reveals retail energy customers are seeing savings up to 67 percent on monthly electric bills 30 years after the Commonwealth ended utility monopolies and their control over power generation and energy supply.

[Shapiro's renewable energy plan advances as Trump administration keeps Pa. fossil fuel plant online](#) - Days before Pennsylvania lawmakers advanced Gov. Josh Shapiro's plan to expand the commonwealth's renewable energy resources, the Trump administration ordered a fossil fuel-fired power plant outside Philadelphia to keep running past its planned retirement date.