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ARIPPA PERIODIC MEDIA NEWS – 8-1-25

(News clips from the previous month)

CFB, COAL REFUSE, ENERGY INDUSTRY

[PJM's Record-High Capacity Prices Spark Sector Reckoning as Market Signals, Policy Battles Intensify](#) - Capacity prices in PJM Interconnection's latest auction spiked to the market's price ceiling, hitting \$329.17/MW-day across the board for the 2026/2027 delivery year—the maximum allowed under new Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) rules.

[Fire up the AC: Sweltering US sets new electricity consumption record](#) - Americans cranking up their air conditioners, fans and swamp coolers over a single hour in late July consumed more electricity than ever before as sweltering heat spread from the Midwest to the East Coast.

[July 29 Hot Weather Update](#) - PJM has extended a Maximum Generation Alert and Load Management Alert to July 30 as hot weather conditions continue throughout the region PJM serves.

[Renewable energy projects facing increased litigation: report](#) - Since 2009, 95 legal cases have been launched globally claiming human rights harms caused by renewable energy projects, according to new research from the Business and Human Rights Resource Center.

[FERC approves \\$16.4B Constellation-Calpine deal](#) - The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Wednesday approved Constellation Energy's proposal to buy Calpine from Energy Capital Partners in a deal valued at \$16.4 billion, subject to conditions aimed at reducing the expanded company's ability to exert market power.

[FERC approves MISO, SPP fast-track interconnection reviews](#) - The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission on Monday approved fast-track interconnection processes proposed by the Midcontinent Independent System Operator and the Southwest Power Pool.

[Key US electricity price and output trends so far in 2025](#) - The first half of 2025 featured a slew of U.S. electricity and power milestones, with generation, demand and retail prices all scaling records during January to June.

[Wood Mackenzie sees extended 'sunset' for costly coal power](#) - Rising electricity demand and a slowdown in the buildout of alternative sources of power generation could extend the use of coal globally and displace 2,100 GW of gas and renewables by 2050, Wood Mackenzie said in a report earlier this month.

[New Fact Sheet Highlights Interconnection Process Reform Progress](#) - PJM has processed tens of thousands of megawatts in generation resources for interconnection as part of its transition to an improved interconnection process.

[Governors seek more influence over PJM amid 'crisis of confidence'](#) - Nine governors representing the majority of electric customers in the grid operator's footprint said they want a say in filling two vacant board seats.

[NETL Patents New Process for Extracting Critical Resources from Coal Fly Ash at High Quantities](#) - NETL researchers developed a new process for extracting economically and strategically vital rare earth elements (REE) and critical minerals (CM) from America's coal fly ash at high quantities and offers several advantages over other available technologies.

[A New Chapter for Coal: Commercialization Opportunities from DOE Labs](#) - When President Donald J. Trump signed the Executive Order "Reinvigorating America's Beautiful Clean Coal Industry" in April 2025, it marked more than a policy change.

[Maintaining Grid Reliability Through Highest Peaks in a Decade](#) - As June's extreme heat pushed PJM energy demand to the third- and fourth-highest all-time peak loads, PJM worked successfully with its generation and transmission owners to maintain the reliable flow of power to customers across 13 states and Washington, D.C.

[Most of the planned coal capacity retirements are in the Midwest or Mid-Atlantic regions](#) - Based on what power plant owners and operators have reported to EIA, the total operating capacity of U.S. coal-fired power plants is scheduled to fall from 172 gigawatts (GW) in May 2025 to 145 GW by the end of 2028, according to our Preliminary Monthly Electric Generator Inventory.

[US power sector ramps up fossil fuel investments; 106 GW planned for 197 sites](#) - The US power industry plans to add more than 106 GW of fossil fuel-fired generation to the grid over the next several years, although supply chain bottlenecks make some timelines uncertain.

[Judge halts demolition of Homer City plant over contract dispute](#) - Demolition at the site of a planned \$10 billion project with a 4.5-gigawatt natural gas-fired plant near Homer City that would power a data processing center has been halted.

[There aren't enough AI chips to support data center projections, report says](#) - Projections around U.S. data center growth and the electricity necessary to power AI are almost certainly overstated due to global constraints in semiconductor chip production, according to a new analysis completed by London Economics International for the Southern Environmental Law Center.

[US power use to reach record highs in 2025 and 2026, EIA says](#) - U.S. power consumption will hit record highs in 2025 and 2026, the U.S. Energy Information Administration said in its short-term energy outlook on Tuesday.

[Unlocking Power Plant Efficiency: How AI Models Are Revolutionizing Heat Rate Optimization](#) - Artificial intelligence (AI) is playing a huge role in heat rate optimization.

[Renewable Energy Surges, but Grid Crisis Looms as Demand Grows and Policies Shift](#) - The U.S. electric power sector is experiencing a surge in renewable energy deployment, yet the grid faces mounting pressure from skyrocketing demand and shifting federal policies.

LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY ISSUES: FEDERAL

[DOE's Fifth Emergency Order—for PJM—Caps Summer of Escalating Grid Risk](#) - The Department of Energy (DOE) has issued its fifth 202(c) emergency order this year, directing PJM Interconnection to override environmental limits and dispatch an oil-fired power generating unit in Maryland strictly as needed to avert possible blackouts in the Baltimore region.

[EPA's climate rollback plan adds to power sector instability](#) - The Trump administration's move to overturn a 16-year-old scientific finding may release U.S. utilities from greenhouse gas emissions rules, but it's unclear to what extent it will change the trajectory of the power sector.

[EPA aims to revoke 'endangerment finding' underpinning power, auto sector climate regs](#) - The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency plans to revoke its "endangerment finding" for greenhouse gas emissions, which underpins regulations that aim to cut those emissions from the power, auto, and oil and gas sectors, the EPA said Tuesday.

[Department of the Interior Curbs Preferential Treatment for Wind Energy](#) - Today, U.S. Secretary of the Interior Doug Burgum announced four policy measures to advance President Donald J. Trump's commonsense approach to affordable, reliable energy development in America.

[Trump's AI action plan calls for dispatchable resources and grid upgrades](#) - The White House published an artificial intelligence "action plan" last week that calls for cutting regulations and the construction of more data centers and energy assets to power them.

[FERC orders changes to PJM's grid interconnection process, plus 3 other open meeting takeaways](#) - The PJM Interconnection must make significant changes to its plan for meeting the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's grid interconnection requirements, the agency said in a decision released Thursday.

[EPA Extends Coal Ash Compliance Deadlines, Citing Utility, Contractor Strain](#) - Citing a mounting compliance crunch in America's coal-fired power sector, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has finalized new rules extending key deadlines for coal ash cleanup and management, while floating the prospect of a further 12-month delay.

[Trump is escalating his attacks on wind, solar](#) - In his first term, President Donald Trump promised to save coal, but he got a renewable energy boom instead. Now, six months into his second term, he's trying to avoid a repeat.

[EPA eliminates research and development office, begins layoffs](#) - The Environmental Protection Agency said Friday it is eliminating its research and development arm and reducing agency staff by thousands of employees.

[Trump taps Project 2025 contributor to fill vacant FERC seat](#) - The White House on Wednesday named David LaCerte, an official in the U.S. Office of Personnel Management, to fill a vacant seat at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

[House releases Energy-Water spending bill with deep cuts](#) - The House Appropriations Committee unveiled fiscal 2026 legislation Sunday with deep proposed cuts for the departments of Energy and Transportation.

[Misaligned interconnection, transmission planning could hurt competitive markets: FERC's Chang](#) - There is a "misalignment" in grid interconnection and transmission planning processes that could harm competitive power markets, according to Judy Chang, a member of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

[DOE plays out worst-case scenarios for US grid](#) - A Department of Energy report issued Monday warns that the United States will lose the race for leadership in artificial intelligence technology unless it slams the brakes on plans to close older coal- and gas-fired power plants and speeds up construction of new ones.

[Trump signs budget bill slashing clean energy tax credits](#) - President Donald Trump signed the Republican tax and policy bill into law in a July 4 ceremony, making significant cuts to the Inflation Reduction Act that are expected to have negative impacts for the wind and solar industries in particular.

[After last Chesapeake Bay cleanup plan fell short, new proposal aims to be flexible, data-driven](#) - When they last signed a Chesapeake Bay cleanup agreement in 2014, officials from seven jurisdictions set ambitious targets and a hard deadline of 2025.

[MSHA Proposes Major Rule Changes to Coal Mine Safety Plan Approvals](#) - The U.S. Department of Labor's Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) released three proposed rules on July 1 aimed at revising the criteria for approving safety plans in underground coal mines.

[Energy Secretary Chris Wright: Future of U.S. coal is 'long and bright'](#) - "The future for coal is long and bright," said U.S. Energy Secretary Chris Wright during a recent visit to Morgantown.

[EPA says Trump's big bill should help in its fight to take back billions in green bank funds](#) - The sprawling tax and policy bill that passed Congress repeals a multibillion-dollar green bank for financing climate-friendly projects, and the Trump administration should be allowed to freeze its funding and cancel related contracts with nonprofits, federal officials said in a court filing.

[Federal agencies, including FERC and DOE, revoke environmental review rules](#) - The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and other federal agencies on Monday revoked regulations governing their handling of environmental reviews of proposed projects under the National Environmental Policy Act.

[US Supreme Court dealt blows to EPA and environmental protections](#) - The U.S. Supreme Court delivered setbacks to environmental interests in a series of recent rulings including by further restricting the Environmental Protection Agency's authority and relaxing requirements for environmental impact studies for proposed projects.

LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY ISSUES: STATE

[Pennsylvania Doubles Solar Power Generation in Just 17 Months](#) - Surrounded by solar panels nestled within the Quaker Race Day Use Area at Gifford Pinchot State Park, leaders from the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (PUC), Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), and the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) gathered today to mark a major clean energy milestone — 2 gigawatts (GW) of installed solar generation now operating across the Commonwealth — just 17 months after reaching the 1GW milestone in late 2023.

[New bill will help boost lifespan of state's coal-fired plants](#) - A bill passed this year by the West Virginia Legislature that will help maintain and strengthen the state's coal industry went into effect this month and has been applauded by the WV Coal Association.

[Pennsylvania's budget is over 2 weeks late. We still don't know what's in it.](#) - Pennsylvania's state budget is more than two weeks late and — with the exception of perhaps a dozen people or fewer in a state of 13 million — almost no one can say what it currently includes.

[Yaw Proposes Overhaul of EDGE Tax Credit to Promote Reliable Energy Investment](#) - Sen. Gene Yaw (R-23), chair of the Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee, today announced plans to introduce legislation that would restructure the Pennsylvania Economic Development for a Growing Economy (EDGE) Tax Credit to prioritize and incentivize investment in baseload power generation.

[Regulators approve Dominion's energy plan, flag rising costs amid data center demand](#) - Virginia regulators have approved Dominion Energy's 2024 long-term energy plan but raised serious concerns about rising costs and whether new projects are truly needed to meet future electricity demand, particularly from the commonwealth's fast-growing data center industry.

[Trump promised to make Pennsylvania an AI hub, but how will it be powered?](#) - Some of the investments promised during the AI and energy summit on Tuesday at Carnegie Mellon University included AI data centers, which can require massive amounts of energy to run.

[FACT SHEET: MORE THAN \\$90 BILLION IN INVESTMENTS ANNOUNCED AT SENATOR MCCORMICK'S PENNSYLVANIA ENERGY AND INNOVATION SUMMIT](#) - Top executives in energy and AI, leading global investors, key representatives in labor and trade, and top government officials have joined Senator Dave McCormick and President Donald J. Trump at the inaugural Pennsylvania Energy and Innovation Summit in Pittsburgh on Tuesday, July 15, 2025.

[Getting Permitting Done: DEP Reduces Permit Backlog by 98% and Has Reviewed Nearly 20,000 Permit Applications So Far This Year](#) - During the first six months of 2025, the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has reviewed and acted on 19,977 permit applications between January 1 and June 30, 2025.

[As more data centers connect to Pennsylvania's electric grid, some worry prices will spike](#) - Massive computing centers proposed across Pennsylvania could be a huge draw on the power grid, causing worries that electric bills will rise for the rest of us.

[Shapiro reveals new source of energy coming to Pennsylvania](#) - Projections show that future supplies of energy are not going to meet future demands, but during a press conference Thursday, Pennsylvania Governor Josh Shapiro touted a new source coming to the commonwealth.

[PA House overwhelmingly votes to end secret votes by energy companies on rate hikes](#) - Legislation providing new transparency for how utility companies vote as members of the 13-state power grid operator that includes Pennsylvania, passed the Pennsylvania House of Representatives this week by a vote of 159-43, announced the bill's author state Rep. Chris Rabb.