



2015 Chestnut Street, Camp Hill, PA 17011 Phone: (717) 763-7635, Fax: (717) 763-7455, Email: office@arippa.org

ARIPPA PERIODIC MEDIA NEWS – 11-3-25

(News clips from the previous month)

CFB, COAL REFUSE, ENERGY INDUSTRY

[U.S. Utility Large Load Commitments Reach 160 GW Amid Unprecedented PJM Demand Surge: Report](#) - U.S. utility large load commitments have reached over 160 gigawatts (GW), equivalent to 22% of 2024 U.S. peak load, according to the analysis “Up, up and away” by Wood Mackenzie that incorporates the latest findings from PJM's Load Adjustment Request (LAR) process.

[Kentucky utility, AG challenge PJM's regional cost allocation plan for DOE 'emergency' orders](#) - East Kentucky Power Cooperative and Kentucky's attorney general are challenging the PJM Interconnection's plan to make utilities and other load-serving entities across its footprint pay costs related to power plants that run under U.S. Department of Energy emergency orders.

[PJM discusses large load planning at FERC conference](#) - Jason Connell, PJM Interconnection vice president – planning, outlined for the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) earlier this month the steps that the regional transmission organization, whose territory includes New Jersey, and its stakeholders are taking to meet the challenges of accurately forecasting the growing electricity demand from data centers and other large load customers.

[Wyoming, Basin Electric Take Step Toward First New Coal Plant In Over A Decade](#) - Wyoming and Basin Electric took a step Monday toward building the first new coal-fired power plant in more than a decade. Adding a second unit to the Dry Fork Station plant near Gillette “is clear proof coal is not dead,” said Gov. Mark Gordon.

[Surging load growth requires flexibility, new approaches: FERC's See](#) - In the face of surging load growth forecasts, Lindsay See, a Federal Energy Regulatory Commission commissioner, called for flexibility and new approaches to grid development during a meeting held Thursday by WIRES Group, a transmission trade group.

[NERC president warns of 'five-alarm fire' for grid reliability](#) - The issue of data centers — and how to ensure they can be safely added to the grid — was a key focus of a grid reliability conference held by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission on Tuesday.

[Residential electricity prices surge ahead of C&I rates: Berkeley Lab](#) - Residential electricity retail prices rose more rapidly than commercial and industrial prices from 2019 to 2024, according to a study released last week by the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory.

[Randall Atkins Appointed to Executive Committee of IEA's Coal Industry Advisory Board](#) - Ramaco is proud to announce that its Chairman and CEO, Randall W. Atkins, has been appointed to the Executive Committee of the International Energy Agency's (IEA) Coal Industry Advisory Board (CIAB).

[PJM's market monitor urges FERC to review Amazon data center's effect on costs, reliability](#) - The issue centers on an unprecedented agreement between PECO Energy and Amazon Data Services that aims to protect utility customers from costs related to a planned data center complex.

[PJM exit: A price solution or power move?](#) - Surging electricity demand, an aging grid, and generation sources retiring faster than new ones can be built have become some of the nation's most pressing challenges.

[Hyperscalers give PJM a counterproposal on load flexibility](#) - In August, the PJM Interconnection put out a “conceptual proposal” outlining potential new rules that would clear space on the nation’s largest grid by forcing large power users — namely, giant data centers — to cut back on electricity consumption during shortages.

[Investor-owned utilities call for ending ‘overreliance’ on PJM capacity market](#) - The Edison Electric Institute is calling for ending an “overreliance” on the PJM Interconnection’s capacity market, partly by giving states and utilities a more proactive role in procuring power supplies, according to a letter sent Tuesday by the trade group for investor-owned utilities to the grid operator.

[IEA cuts estimate of U.S. renewables capacity growth by about 50%](#) - The International Energy Agency expects global renewable power capacity will double by 2030, increasing by 4.6 TW, but anticipated U.S. deployments shrank by half since last year.

[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 Energy Information Administration said in its short-term energy outlook on Tuesday.

[Groups challenge MISO cost allocation plan for coal power plant](#) - Coalitions of large energy users and environmental groups on Monday urged federal regulators to reject the Midcontinent Independent System Operator’s proposal for paying for a coal-fired power plant that the U.S. Department of Energy ordered to run past its retirement date.

[PJM Proposes Simplified Connection Path for Distribution-Level Resources](#) - PJM filed proposed reforms with FERC Oct. 1 to simplify its rules for connecting generation resources at the distribution level across PJM’s footprint, a move that would enable PJM staff to reallocate time and resources to their work on transmission-level interconnections and provide greater clarity to project developers earlier in the interconnection process.

[Data centers ‘primary reason’ for high PJM capacity prices: market monitor](#) - Data center load drove up revenue in the PJM Interconnection’s last capacity auction by \$7.3 billion, or 82%, to \$16.1 billion, according to the grid operator’s market monitor.

[State frameworks are critical to addressing PJM affordability](#) - The U.S. energy landscape is undergoing major transformation as the power sector works to meet the increasing electricity demands of artificial intelligence and the digital economy.

[Hitachi Energy, Grid United Advance North Plains Connector to Link Eastern and Western Grids](#) - Hitachi Energy and high-voltage interregional infrastructure developer Grid United have launched the next phase of a collaboration to strengthen transmission capacity between three energy markets straddling the Eastern and Western grids in the U.S., formalizing an agreement for the North Plains Connector (NPC), a ±525 kV, 3-GW high-voltage direct-current (HVDC) line spanning roughly 420 miles between Montana and North Dakota.

[US added more coal capacity than wind in July: FERC](#) - The United States in July installed 18 MW of new coal capacity, 1.18 GW of solar, and 16 MW of wind — with the coal additions bucking an overall trend this year toward coal retirements, according to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission’s latest monthly infrastructure report.

[Customers in 7 PJM states paid \\$4.4B for data center transmission in 2024: report](#) - Utility customers in seven PJM Interconnection states are being charged \$4.4 billion for transmission upgrades approved last year needed to bring data centers online, with similar results expected this year, according to a report from the Union of Concerned Scientists.

LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY ISSUES: FEDERAL

[In ‘unusual’ move, DOE proposes rule to expand FERC’s authority over large loads](#) - The Department of Energy said in a late Thursday release that it is directing the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to initiate rulemaking it has proposed to give FERC jurisdiction over the interconnections of loads larger than 20 MW, to “rapidly accelerate” their addition to the grid.

[Trump taps Swett to lead FERC](#) - President Donald Trump has named Republican Laura Swett as the new head of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, the agency announced Friday.

[Lummis, Senate Republicans Introduce Resolution Designating This Week as “Coal Week”](#) - Senate Western Caucus Chair Cynthia Lummis (R-WY), alongside Senate Republican colleagues, today has introduced a resolution to officially designate the week of October 19, 2025, as “Coal Week” in the U.S. Senate.

[21 Democratic House members press PJM for interconnection reforms](#) - A group of 21 Democratic members of the U.S. House of Representatives on Wednesday urged the PJM Interconnection to make it easier to bring power supplies online, a move they said could help lower electricity costs.

[DOE’s \\$8B kill list hits major grid projects](#) - High on the list of this month’s Department of Energy grant funding cuts is money for five electricity transmission projects that would open new channels for Great Plains energy to flow into the central United States.

[Coal miners, advocates rally in Washington to protest delays on black lung and miner protections](#) - More than 80 coal miners and advocates joined together at the Department of Labor in Washington, D.C today to advocate for miner health protections.

[EPA Extends Steam-Electric Wastewater Deadlines to 2034, Citing Grid Reliability and Rising Power Demand](#) - The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has moved to shift capital planning and permitting timelines for the nation’s remaining coal-fired power units, acting on two measures targeting wastewater discharge under the Clean Water Act, and separately, air-quality visibility programs and the Clean Air Act.

[‘Trump is the emergency’: Dems eye second vote on energy order](#) - For months, Democrats have been blaming Republicans for rising energy prices. A Senate vote in the coming days will help make their case.

[DOE cancels \\$7.6B in clean energy awards in states that voted against Trump](#) - The U.S. Department of Energy on Thursday announced it has terminated \$7.56 billion in financial awards to 223 clean energy projects — all in states that voted for former Vice President Kamala Harris in the 2024 election.

[Fallout from shutdown could impact energy sector construction](#) - Contractors across the country are measuring the impact of a government shutdown that went into effect Wednesday.

LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY ISSUES: STATE

[All the major players in Pa.’s budget impasse met in person this week. Will a deal follow?](#) - Gov. Josh Shapiro and the leaders of all four legislative caucuses met in person several days this week amid a four-month budget impasse that is creating increasingly dire consequences across Pennsylvania.

[Maryland Leads Multistate Push to Shield Consumers from New Data Center Costs](#) - Tensions with PJM Interconnection have escalated after the grid operator dismissed legislators’ concerns about rising prices.

[Four Governors Whose States Rely on PJM Want Data Centers to Guarantee Their Own Power](#) - The governors are exploring fast track approval for data centers that agree to deliver dependable power to the grid as part of the connection process.

[How the Pa. Supreme Court retention race could impact environmental protection](#) - In the typically sleepy Supreme Court retention election, the focus is on voting rights and abortion. But the court also decides major environmental cases.

[Republican lawmakers from Pa., N.J., Va. and Md. weigh solutions to rising electricity bills](#) - Republican lawmakers want to see faster permitting and an end to the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative.

[Gov. Shapiro, Oklahoma Gov. Stitt Lead Bipartisan National Governors Assn. Group Recommending Energy Facility Permitting Reform To Address Nation’s Energy Crisis](#) - On October 28, Gov. Josh Shapiro and Oklahoma Governor Kevin Stitt led a bipartisan, multi-state response from the National Governors Association to the nation’s energy crisis by sending a series of recommendations for federal permitting reforms to committee chairmen and ranking members in the U.S. Senate and House to help speed the delivery of critical energy infrastructure projects without compromising environmental protections.

[What impact will data centers have on your electric bill? Pennsylvania's utility commissioner weighs in.](#) - As more plans for data centers are being proposed throughout Pennsylvania, many questions remain unanswered surrounding what impact those data centers could have on things like electric and utility bills.

[House considers shielding Pa. wallets from data centers' energy use](#) - Consumer advocates warned a panel of Pennsylvania House members on Wednesday that Commonwealth residents will continue to bear the burden of rising electricity costs unless policymakers take steps to regulate a growing number of new data centers.

[PA Senate passes permitting transparency bill](#) - A day after tensions flared during a debate over the state budget, Senate lawmakers voted in bipartisan fashion to approve legislation that would bring more transparency to the state's permitting processes.

[Pa. Department of Environmental Protection eliminates historic permit backlog](#) - The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has eliminated the historic permit backlog and reviewed and acted on 30,430 permit applications since the beginning of the year.

[PA lawmakers warn PJM Interconnection against favoring intermittent energy sources](#) - Seventeen Pennsylvania State legislators urged PJM Interconnection LLC to tread carefully before embracing proposals that they say could jeopardize energy reliability and affordability across the grid operator's region.

[How Josh Shapiro wants to reshape the region's power grid operator as prices rise](#) - As electricity prices rise in Pennsylvania and across the country, Gov. Josh Shapiro is publicly blaming the region's power grid operator and pushing for changes that would give the state more of a say in its governance.

[Pennsylvania wants to leave the biggest U.S. grid. It won't be easy](#) - When utilities from Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Maryland established what is today the largest US grid, they aimed to provide power at the lowest possible price. But nearly 70 years later, the cost of securing power has surged to record highs, prompting Pennsylvania Governor Josh Shapiro to threaten to leave the now-13-state network.

[PUC Chairman Stephen M. DeFrank Elected Vice President of Organization of PJM States, Inc.](#) - The Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (PUC) Chairman Stephen M. DeFrank has been elected Vice President of the Organization of PJM States, Inc. (OPSI) – the intergovernmental organization of utility regulatory agencies from 14 jurisdictions within the PJM regional transmission footprint.

[Pennsylvania unveils 10-year AI and energy roadmap](#) - Pennsylvania leaders have developed a 10-year roadmap to capitalize on the state's energy resources, developments in artificial intelligence (AI), and the growing need for data centers, while calling for the creation of up to five "innovation corridors" that could include central Pennsylvania and the Lehigh Valley.

[Gov. Shapiro announces \\$39M for energy redevelopment as data centers grow](#) - Gov. Josh Shapiro today recommitted to data center development in Pennsylvania with a multimillion-dollar state funding commitment for industrial projects across the commonwealth.

[Penn State selected to lead Pennsylvania's climate network](#) - Penn State has been selected by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to lead its climate network. Named Prepare PA, the program aims to equip Pennsylvanians with the knowledge, tools and resources they need to adapt, respond and thrive in the face of a changing climate and environmental uncertainty.

[Standing up for West Virginians, protecting coal and holding utilities accountable](#) - West Virginia has long powered America. Our coal-fired plants remain the backbone of reliable electricity, keeping costs stable and supporting thousands of jobs.